

Explore It FOR LEADERS



SHOWING LOVE TO THE WORLD

James 2:14-17 Faith and Good Works

Each child will need:

→ Pens/pencils and paper

You will need:

→ PowerPoint slide with words from James 2:14-17 – see Tell It section

As Christians, everything we do is because God loves us and we love God. We can strengthen our faith in Jesus by reading our Bible, and by praying and spending time with other people who love Jesus too. Jesus said that love is the most important thing – to love God, to love others and to love ourselves (Matthew 22:36-40).

Over the past few *Explore It* sessions we have been thinking about creation and the fact that God loves everything he has made. When we think about showing love to others, that doesn't only mean people, it can mean all living things.

Start It

Play a game based on 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 to get the group thinking about how we can show love to our world.

Screen share: 'Love is' Picker Wheel <https://pickerwheel.com/pw?id=8NgTZ>

Click the 'spin' button to randomly select a 'Love is/does' statement from the Bible for each person in the group, one by one. Whatever it lands on, ask them to share an example of how we can show love in that way. Select 'Hide choice' after each spin to make sure you get to see all of the responses.

Sing It

Jesus is the best example of love we have. In the way he lived his life on Earth, he showed us how to love people. We can read in the Bible about lots of times where Jesus:

- showed love to people that no one else was kind to (Matthew 8:1-4)
- fed people who were hungry (Matthew 14:13-21)
- forgave people who did wrong (Luke 19:1-10)
- spoke up when he saw unfair things happening (Matthew 21:12-13)

If we choose to follow Jesus in our everyday lives, his love and light can be seen in us. The way we act and treat other people will be an example to others about what it means to be a follower of Jesus, to be a Christian.

'This little light of mine' by Listener Kids (3mins 30secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKkblZtqhyQ>

Tell It

Read James 2:14-17 – invite a few children to ‘act out’ the paraphrase:

Person 1: My friends, if someone says they have faith, but do nothing, their faith is worth nothing. Can faith like that save them? Imagine if a friend came to you and said:

Person 2: Please help me, I need clothes and food.

Person 1: But you just said:

Person 3: God be with you! I hope you stay warm and get plenty to eat.

Person 1: Is that enough? If you say this, but do not give that person the things they need, your words are worth nothing. It is the same with faith. If faith does nothing, then that faith is dead, because it is alone.

💬 **Say:** It is important to show our love to God and develop our faith. We can do this by:

- ➔ reading our Bible, so we can learn more about him and how he wants to live our lives,
- ➔ praying, so we can have a relationship with God and talk to him about all of the things we care about, are happy about or are worried about, and
- ➔ spending time in community with others, so we can share God’s love with them and make the world better for everyone who lives in it.

💬 **Say:** The verses in James show us that it is not enough only to think about the justice issues, we also need to act.

Action It

The Great Big Green Week is taking place from 18-26 September and is a brilliant opportunity to connect with others in your local community. It may be that there are already a lot of activities that you can take part in, or perhaps there are others who want to take collective action but are not sure where to start.

Could your group work together during The Great Big Green Week to raise awareness about the importance of caring for creation, and take action to address the climate crisis?

There are already hundreds of events planned as part of The Great Big Green Week such as art events, family fun days, nature walks, webinars and local theatre shows.

Visit the website to find events near you, or become inspired to organise your own –

<https://greatbiggreenweek.com>

There are also lots of things we can do as individuals and as a church to care for creation such as:

- ➔ Find out who your MP is and write to them to ask what they are doing to address climate change
- ➔ Calculate your own or your family’s carbon footprint - climatestewards.org/offset
- ➔ Speak to your corps leader about your group taking part in or even leading a Sunday meeting one day soon – consider making it a ‘Climate Sunday’
- ➔ Speak to your corps leaders about signing up as an Eco Church

Pray It

Our Father, who art in Heaven ...

You are also at home in the air, the soil, the forests and the oceans.

Hallowed be your name ...

by the care we take of your creation.

Your Kingdom come ...

all that you see is good.

Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven ...
Your will to till and care.

Give us this day our daily bread ...
that all may have sufficient to live life in fullness.

Forgive us our trespasses ...
our greed, our exploitation, our lack of concern for other species and for future generations.

...as we forgive those who trespass against us ...
by reconciliation with justice and peace.

Lead us not into temptation ...
the temptation to equate dominion with exploitation.

And deliver us from evil ...
the evil of destroying your gift of creation.

For yours is the Kingdom ...
Yours, Lord, not ours.

The power and the glory ...
in the cross and the resurrection

For ever and ever ...
And so be it.

Amen.

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to share with your group, for them to do at home.

FOR ME



Serve

Do a litter pick in the streets around your home/school/church. This is a practical way that you can serve your local community and help the environment. Be sure to wear gloves and use litter pickers so you stay safe – contact your local council as many have litter picking equipment that you can borrow.

TOGETHER



Investigate

Learn about COP26 and why it is an important opportunity for countries to address the global climate emergency. Start here:

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/science/nature/what-is-cop26-glasgow>