

love



● **Love your neighbour** * Luke 10:25-37

For the Jews listening to this story it would have been a surprise for the Samaritan to help the injured man. Why (John 4:9)?



Are there needy people in your community whom no-one else helps whom you could show love to? How could you set about it?

● **Love your enemy** * Luke 6:27-36 * Romans 12:9-21

What should we do for our enemies?



Do you have enemies? Who are they? How can you show love to them (Prov 24:17)?

● **Love for Jesus**

* John 13:36-38 * John 18:15-27 * John 21:15-17

How many times did Peter deny knowing Jesus? _____

How many times did Jesus ask Peter if he loved him? _____



Even after Peter's failure, Jesus graciously drew Peter back to himself. Peter proved his love for Jesus by his life of bold witness and service.

As a Christian, how much do you love Jesus? Is he your first love?

love

extra thought and discussion

• **Love and trust**

Love should not be confused with trust. Although we are commanded to love everybody, we are not commanded to trust everybody. Some people who we love dearly we may never be able to trust. In fact

the Bible warns us against trusting in people too much because we will be disappointed (Jer 17:5, Ps 146:3-4). Jesus loved everybody he met but he did not always trust them (John 2:23-25).

We need to seek to become trustworthy people. Trust can be earned through our love, honesty and reliability. Good two-way human relationships need a high degree of trust in order to operate effectively.

God is 100% loving, honest, reliable and trustworthy and we are encouraged many times in the Bible to put our trust in him (Ps 118:8, Ps 125:1, Prov 3:5).

● **God is love**

* 1 John 4:16

Love is an essential part of God's nature and is the basis of relationships within God himself.

God's love

Look up the verses and write words in this box to describe God's love.

- * Exodus 15:13
- * Exodus 34:6
- * Deuteronomy 7:9
- * 1 Chronicles 16:34
- * Psalm 31:21
- * Psalm 36:5
- * Psalm 36:7
- * Psalm 89:24
- * Psalm 108:4
- * Psalm 145:8
- * Jeremiah 31:3
- * Lamentations 3:22

* John 3:16 * Romans 5:8

How has God shown his love to all human beings?

Love is giving yourself for someone else even if they don't deserve it. This is what God did for us in Jesus. This is the main message of the Bible.



* Romans 8:37-39 * 1 John 3:1

Do you know the love of God deep in your heart? Are you secure in the knowledge that you are a child of your Father God, that he will care for you throughout your life and that you will spend eternity with him?

● **Greatest commandments**

* **Mark 12:28-33**

What is the greatest commandment?

What is the second greatest commandment?

* **John 13:34-35**

How should people know that we are Christians?

* **John 14:15-24**

See how our relationship with Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit are closely connected with our level of love.

What is the proof that we really love Jesus and our Father?

* **John 15:9-17**

What is the greatest proof of our love for others?

● **Love one another**



* **1 John 3:11-24**

How can we know that we have passed from death to life (v 14)?

How should our love be shown (v 16-18)?

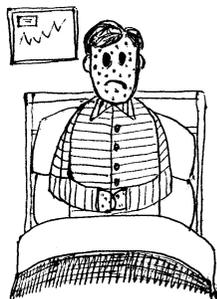
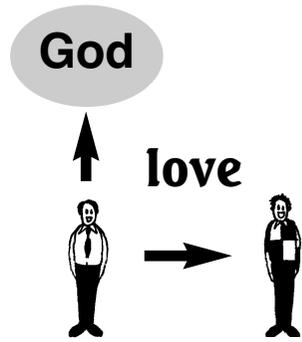
What are God's commands (v 23)?

1) _____

2) _____

* **1 John 4:7-21**

How did God show his love for us (v 9-10)?



How can you live in God and God live in you (v 15-16)?

1) _____

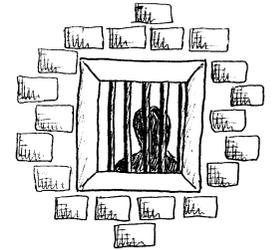
2) _____

What is the test that we truly love God (v 19-20)?



* **Matthew 25:31-46**

What practical things can you do to love God and other people?



● **Love defined**

* **1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

This is probably the most well-known passage in the Bible about love. It illustrates how love is so fundamental to the Christian life that without it even powerful and dramatic gifts are useless. Verses 4-7 form a definition of love. Give your love a score from 1 (poor) to 5 (good). Circle the number.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 2 3 4 5 is patient | 1 2 3 4 5 is kind |
| 1 2 3 4 5 does not envy | 1 2 3 4 5 does not boast |
| 1 2 3 4 5 is not proud | 1 2 3 4 5 is not rude |
| 1 2 3 4 5 is not self-seeking | 1 2 3 4 5 is not easily angered |
| 1 2 3 4 5 keeps no record of wrongs | 1 2 3 4 5 does not delight in evil |
| 1 2 3 4 5 rejoices in the truth | 1 2 3 4 5 always protects |
| 1 2 3 4 5 always trusts | 1 2 3 4 5 always hopes |
| 1 2 3 4 5 always perseveres | 1 2 3 4 5 never fails |

* **Philippians 2:1-8**

What aspects of love are highlighted here?



* **Colossians 3:12-14** * **1 Peter 3:8-9**

Consider your love for your Christian brothers and sisters. Are there things you can change in your attitudes or actions to express God's love more fully to Christian friends?