

# What is Love Anyway?

## Overview

To teach the children what the bible tell us about Christ-like love in 1 Corinthians 13

## Ages

4-11

## Time

20 Minutes

## Learning Objectives

- Children talk about what they learned about Paul's description of love.
- Children think about ways this kind of love can be lived out in our lives.

## Material Needed

- Bible: 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8
- Visual Aid: Large sheet of paper and markers

## Introduction

This is a great topic to discuss because even the younger children will understand something about what love is and be able to share their ideas. Start a discussion with the children about love using questions such as:

- What is love?
- Who do you love?
- Why do you love them?
- What do you **say** to show someone you love them? (e.g. I love you, kind and encouraging words)
- What do you **do** to show someone you love them? (e.g. your mum, your friend, a girl or boy you like- do you do different things for different people?)

The bible says a lot about love and today we are going to read what Paul says love is like.

## 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Living Bible (TLB)

<sup>4</sup> Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, <sup>5</sup> never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong. <sup>6</sup> It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. <sup>7</sup> If you love someone, you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him.

<sup>8</sup> All the special gifts and powers from God will someday come to an end, but love goes on forever.

## Response

To encourage active listening, divide the children into two groups and ask one half to listen for what the passage tells us that love is and the other half to listen to what love is not. After reading the passage, write up some ideas that come from the children to reinforce what has been said.

## Love is

*Patient, kind, overlooks wrongs (forgiving) rejoices at the truth, loyal, expects the best, defends, believes in (trusts), will never die*

## Love is not

*Jealous, envious, boastful, proud, haughty, selfish, rude, demanding of its own way, irritable, touchy, holding on to grudges, glad about injustice*

## Scenarios

Listen to the following situations and try to think of yourself in that situation. Are you being loving or unloving and what words from the list of what love is and is not fit with each scene? How would you react in real life?

You are at the supermarket shopping with your mum. She is taking a really long time and you are getting bored. You see that your mum is looking a bit tired and stressed so you give her a hand finding the groceries and you both get home quicker. (*patient*)

Your friend got the new iphone and you would love one yourself. He keeps showing it to everyone and you feel really annoyed with him. (*jealous, envious*)

You are in town at the weekend with your family and you see someone from your class at school. She isn't very popular – no one likes her really. You stick your nose in the air and walk past her without saying hello. (*rude, haughty*)

Someone in your class is having a birthday party and even though most of the class is invited, you didn't get an invite. You are feeling a bit hurt, but you decide it isn't the end of the world. The next day in school you are friendly ask how the party went. (*forgiving*)

It's your brother's turn to set the table but he's studying for an exam so your mum asks you to do it. Even though you did it last night, you do it again without complaining. (*kind*)

Your friend got you into trouble one day in class. He was the one talking but the teacher thought it was you and kept you in at break and lunch time. Your friend didn't tell the truth and let you take the punishment. He is now your "ex-friend" - you haven't spoken to him since then and that was 6 months ago. (*holding a grudge*)

You usually pick what game you will all play in the playground at lunchtime and everyone thinks your games are really cool. Today someone else makes a good suggestion for a game, but you insist on playing your game. (*demanding own way*)

## Prayer

Encourage the children to pray using the words written up about love and starting with "Lord Jesus help me to be...." or "Lord Jesus help me not to be....."