

## **Prayer Space Themed Activities**

### **Theme: Love (Primary & Secondary)**

*Suggested 'Love' themed activities*

*Choose 4 activities for Primary School prayer spaces and 7-8 for Secondary School prayer spaces*

**Primary Activities:** *What is Love?, Father's Love, Jesus' Love, Holy Spirit (1), Love for Others, Creation, Pass it On, Love Your Neighbour, Loving Service, Compassion Challenge and Heart of Community (these could also be adapted for Secondary)*

**Secondary Activities:** *Holy Spirit (2), Agape, Phileo, Storge and Koinoia*

#### **1) What is Love?**

Christians believe that God is love, that this is where love comes from. Real love needs a relationship, for sharing and helping. Christians see this in the never-ending friendship between God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Christians also believe that when Jesus was on Earth, his friends and enemies rejected him. But Jesus loved them equally, choosing to forgive, even when it meant he was hurt.

Think about what love means to you. How and when can you show love?

**Decorate a piece of string with pens. As you use different colours for different people, think about how you could show love to people around you. Then tie a knot in the string and follow the circle with your finger, to remind you that real love is never-ending.**

#### **2) Father's Love**

Christians believe that God is our Father and that he loves us and cares for us.

When we're troubled, he can help us.

When we're worried, he can comfort us.

When we're scared, he can reassure us.

Christians believe that God looks after us. Perhaps there's something on your mind? Something you're troubled, worried or scared about?

**If you would like to, write down a prayer or thought about something you would like help with onto a heart-shaped post-it note and stick it onto the bubble tube.**

#### **3) Jesus' Love**

Christians believe that God loves us so much that he sent his own son, Jesus, to earth to die on the cross.

When Christians do stuff wrong, they say sorry to God and believe that God will help them to do better next time.

All of us have done things we regret, or wish we could change and have a fresh start with no mistakes.

**If you would like to, write the word 'sorry' in the sand and think about one of those things. Wipe it away and either think or pray that next time you are in that situation that you would act differently.**

**OR**

**If you would like to, write the word 'sorry' on the magnadoodle and think about one of those things. When you're ready, wipe it away and pray or think about being forgiven and having this fresh start.**

#### **4) Holy Spirit (1)**

When do you need courage?

Christians believe that God showed his love by sending the Holy Spirit after Jesus went back to heaven. In the Bible the Holy Spirit is called the 'comforter' or the 'helper'.

They also believe that the Holy Spirit can help in everything they do by filling them with God's power, and that the Holy Spirit can comfort us when times are hard.

**Take this moment to relax and be still. If you would like to, pick up one of the pots. As you do so, think about something that you would like the courage to do; this could be something new or something that needs changing. Fill your pot slowly with the coloured rice and as it fills up, pray or think about what steps you could take to do this, or you could ask the Holy Spirit for His help.**

#### **Holy Spirit (2)**

Christians believe that God showed his love by sending the Holy Spirit after Jesus went back to heaven. In the Bible the Holy Spirit is called the 'comforter' or the 'helper'.

They also believe that the Holy Spirit can help in everything they do by filling them with God's power, and that the Holy Spirit can comfort us when times are hard.

**Take this moment to just sit or lie down; relax and be still. If you would like to, pick up one of the 'calm jars' and listen to the MP3 track. Perhaps you could ask the Holy Spirit to help you with one of the situations on your mind?**

### **5) Love for Others**

Christians believe that we can share God's love with each other. Lots of people are around us; some people we see every day or every week, like our friends and family, others we might see only once a year, or perhaps even once in our lifetime. Some people we might never meet but hear about from others or on the news.

Look at the map and think about all of the people in the world. Think about people you've met and situations you've heard about recently.

**If you would like to, write or draw a prayer or thought for someone you know or for something that is happening in the world onto a post-it note and stick it onto the map.**

### **6) Creation**

Christians believe that one way that God has shown his love to us was by creating the world in which we live.

Think about the world; think about all of the places you've been, think about all of the people you've met and all of the experiences you've had. There are many wonderful things to be thankful for.

What are you thankful for?

**If you would like to, make something you are thankful for out of the play dough as a prayer or reflection.**

**OR**

**If you would like to, make something you are thankful for out of a pipe cleaner as a prayer or reflection.**

### **7) Pass it on**

Love isn't just a feeling, it is an action. Christians believe that God calls them to act in love towards others, whether they know them or not.

Have a think about when someone has done something for you. How did it make you feel? Did that feeling help you to be kind to someone else? Think of something small that you could do for someone that shows love to them. It could be as simple as a smile or a kind word, or something that takes more time.

**If you would like to, take a heart shape, fold it and cut out the middle. Then unfold it and around the edge, write a thought or a prayer to help you to show love to somebody. Then cut a straight line into the heart and connect it to the chain of hearts, showing that when we show love, this can inspire others to do the same and help love to grow.**

### **8) Love Your Neighbour**

Jesus says that everyone is your neighbour, not just the people who live near you, and not just your friends. People you don't know, even people you don't like are your neighbours too. And Jesus says that we should love our neighbours like we love ourselves.

**Think of someone...in your class, or your street, or your town. If you want to, write or draw a thought or prayer for them onto a heart, and stick it with the others.**

### **9) Loving Service**

Who do you know that is in need?

Serving others is at the very heart of a Christian's life. They seek to follow Jesus' example by standing out and blessing others through their words and actions, even those they don't get on with. They could say a kind word or do something helpful for someone. Prayer can help us to notice what other people need.

**Pray, or think about what needs other people have. When you're ready, choose a leaf and draw or write about how you could meet their needs and attach it to the tree, as a promise you would like to keep.**

### **10) Compassion Challenge**

Another word for love is 'compassion'. There are many examples in the Bible of Jesus showing compassion to others, taking time to talk to people or to help them with something they were struggling with, or time spent making friendships.

You can make a difference to the people around you too.

**Pick a challenge out of the jar. Read it but keep it a secret. See if you can complete that challenge and spread some compassion to others. Keep the slip of paper as a reminder. You can also write on a coloured piece of paper how would you like someone to treat you and add it to the paper chain.**

### **11) Heart of Community**

Each one of us is special. Together, we are all part of communities, whether they are friendships, in school, where we live, in teams...there are so many! Our words and actions affect other people.

We have a choice to make...will you make a positive or a negative effect on other people?

**Think about all the communities that you belong to: your family, the school, the city or town, the UK, even the whole world! Choose a heart shape and think of people you could love by encouraging or helping them. Add a sticker to the heart for each person. If you like, you can write names or kind things you will do for people. Then tie some string to the heart and it to the large heart made of push pins, to show that you are working with others in the community to look after each other.**

### **12) Agape**

'Agape' is the Greek word for 'self-less and unconditional' love. Christians believe that because God first loved us by sending Jesus to die on the cross, enabling us to freely ask God for forgiveness, they can say sorry and know they are forgiven. We all do and say things wrong, things that we regret and wish we hadn't.

Have you done something that you regret? How can you move on?

**If you want to, you can write or draw a sorry prayer onto a post-it note and pin it to the cross, leaving the burden of this behind and begin again with a fresh start.**

***'This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.'***

**1 John ch4 v9-10**

### **13) Phileo**

'Phileo' is the Greek word for 'brotherly love, love for others'.

Sometimes, things go wrong with our friendships and we fall out. We often make an effort to repair our friendships because we like our friends and spending time with them. What about those who aren't our friends?

**Think about someone you think of as your 'enemy'; maybe this is someone that has hurt you. Write their name on a stone. As you hold this in your hand, think of a prayer or thought asking God to bless or forgive that person. Then wash the stone and allow that grudge to be washed away.**

**If you would like to, you can repeat this with a name of someone that you have hurt.**

***'But I (Jesus) say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, (and to those who you hate), bless those who curse you (and those who you curse), pray for those who mistreat you (and those who you mistreat).'***

**Luke ch6 v27-28**

### **14) Storge**

'Storge' is the Greek word for 'compassionate and concerned' love. Christians believe that we can share God's love with each other. We come into contact with so many people; some people we see every day or every week, like our friends and family, others we might see only once a year, or perhaps even once in our lifetime. Some people we might never meet but hear about from others or on the news.

Look at the map and think about all of the people in the world. Think about people you've met and situations you've heard about recently.

**If you would like to, write or draw a prayer or thought for someone you know or for something that is happening in the world onto a post-it note and stick it onto the map.**

***'Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.'* Matthew ch9 v35-36**

### **15) Koinonia**

'Koinonia' is the Greek word for 'giving and sharing' love. Often when others share things with us it inspires us to share with others, especially when it is a surprise gift!

Think about the last time that someone gave something to you or shared with you...how did it feel?

**Reflect on things that other people have done for you and blessed you. Write these down on a red strip of paper. Think about how this made you feel and write these on an orange strip of paper. Then think about how you could bless others, this could be by doing something really small, such as holding a door open for someone, or something bigger, like offering friendship to someone new. Write these ideas down on green paper. As you do so, think or pray about having the courage to do these things. When you're ready, attach these to the paper chain and staple the edges, to show love growing as it is shared. *'All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.'* Acts ch4 v32**