

Love – Week number 5 – What Does Love Look Like?

Connect and review	
<p>Welcome any newcomers and ensure everyone knows everyone else's name. Encourage everyone to share something they learnt from last week.</p>	<p>Brief recap on last week. Sharing about personal reflections on last week's suggested activities, namely, 'Find a way tomorrow to show love for someone in a different way from your usually activity'.</p>
Inspire and engage	
<p>There is no set way to present material, just go the way that suits you. Try to use most of the Bible verses.</p>	<p>Recap that love is a choice and is shown by the decisions we make, the words we speak and the actions we take. All of us are personally responsible for our choices and cannot blame others for our choices: no-one makes us do anything – we choose. Love is the key distinctive of the Christian life – John 13:35. But in practice what does this love look like? How can we recognise it? See 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a. This passage gives the definitive explanation of "love in action". See also: 1 Peter 4:8; 1 John 4:8; 1 Corinthians 16:14. The Greek word "pragma" refers to an act of love which has been committed or demonstrated, usually over time, i.e., a couple who have been married for some time so that their love is enduring love. Example – Abraham & Sarah, who although married for many years, endured in their love and eventually were blessed with a son: see Genesis 21:7.</p>
Explore and apply	
<p>Attempt one exercise at a time and only use them all if time allows. Try to encourage Q & A and discussion but avoid personal/private answers. Re David's response: not jealous nor did he seek his own advantage at Saul's expense; he showed humility, meekness [not weakness] and respect for authority/anointing. Examples: Jonathan putting David's claim to the throne above his own; Moses interceding for Israel [Exodus 32:30-33]; Joseph's mercy towards his brothers who sold him into slavery</p>	<p>Explore</p> <p>1. David's response to Saul's behaviour - see 1 Samuel chapters 24+26.</p> <p>Apply</p> <p>1. What other examples can you find in the Bible of love in action?</p>
Reflect and review	
<p>This helps to show what has been learned and what may need to be reinforced.</p>	<p><i>Personal reflection:</i></p> <p>1. What qualities of love will you need to show to handle being treated unfairly? 2. How will you respond to another Christian who treats you unfairly?</p> <p><i>Suggested activity</i></p> <p>Identify 2 or 3 qualities of love found in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a and then find ways to show these in the coming week.</p>