

Key Vocabulary	
Unconditional Love	Unconditional love is known as love without any limitations.
Prodigal	Spending money or using resources recklessly/wastefully.
Mercy	Compassion or forgiveness for others.
Reconciliation	One of the seven sacraments in which the faithful are forgiven for their sins.
Parable	A simple story used to illustrate a moral or lesson.
Forgiveness	To forgive someone who has done something wrong.

Link to Baptism	Christian Beliefs	Prayers/Hymns
When a person is baptised, they are initiated into and become part of God's Family. God is a loving father who will always care for his people even in difficult times.	<p>God loves us despite our faults. God's love is unconditional and eternal.</p> <p>Jesus told many stories to help his friends understand difficult things. His parables still have meaning for people today.</p> <p>Giving of ourselves for others' is an essential part of unconditional love.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalms and Litanies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Father • Bishop as a Shepherd of the Diocese <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Let There Be Love Shared Among Us</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>This Is My Body</i> • <i>Though the Mountains May Fall</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Kingdom of Heaven</i> • <i>Love Changes Everything</i> • <i>Love is All Around</i>


Key Questions

Does love last forever or does it have limits?

Do you have to earn love?

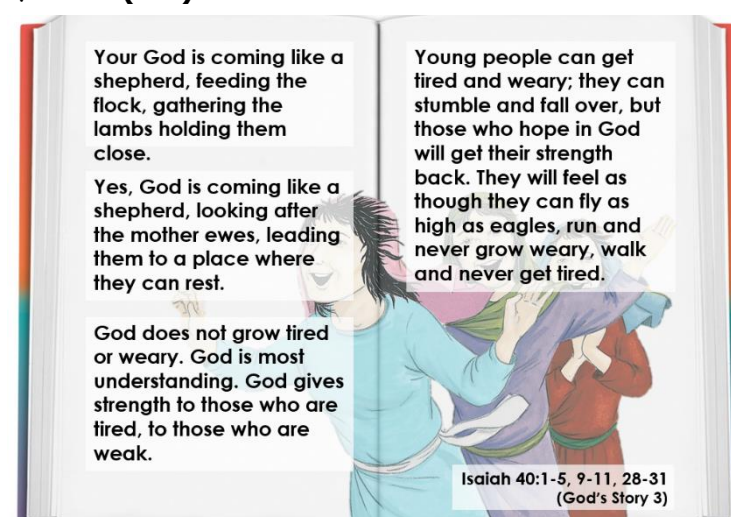
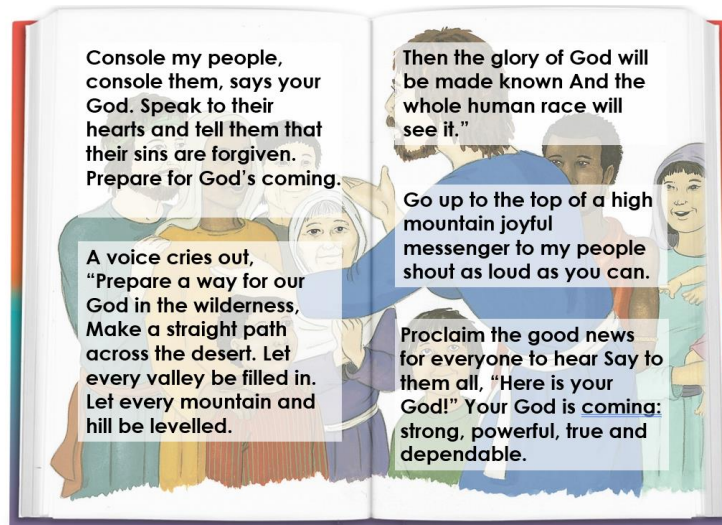
How can I love people I don't like?



The Parable of the Prodigal Son Luke 15: 11-32 (LF3)	God's Love	The Beatitudes
<p>This parable is really more about the father than the younger son. Through this story, Jesus is telling us what God our Father is like. It seems that in this particular parable, Jesus is telling people that God loves us recklessly, extravagantly, even wastefully.</p> 	<p>Psalm 23 speaks of God as a shepherd looking after his sheep.</p> <p>Psalm 136 speaks about how God will look after us.</p> <p>Notice and identify in each of these readings the difficulties that we sometimes encounter in life and the ways in which God helps us. God will never abandon us.</p>	<p>Near the beginning of Jesus' ministry, a large crowd had gathered to hear his words, to be encouraged and to learn how to shape their lives in a more loving way. This teaching is called the <i>Sermon on the Mount</i> because Jesus went up a hill so everyone could see and hear him. It is also called the <i>Beatitudes</i> - in some translations the word blessed is used and in other versions the word happy is used.</p>

Scripture

Isaiah 40: 1-5,9-11,28-31 (LF1)



Scripture

Psalm 23 (LF1)

God cares for me just like a shepherd cares for his sheep. I have all that I need.

God, you give me green meadows where I can lie down.
You lead me to tranquil streams of fresh water where I find new strength.

You guide me along safe paths. You are true to your name.
Even if I should walk in deep darkness I would not be afraid. For you would be close to me, protecting me from harm.

You prepare a great feast for me.

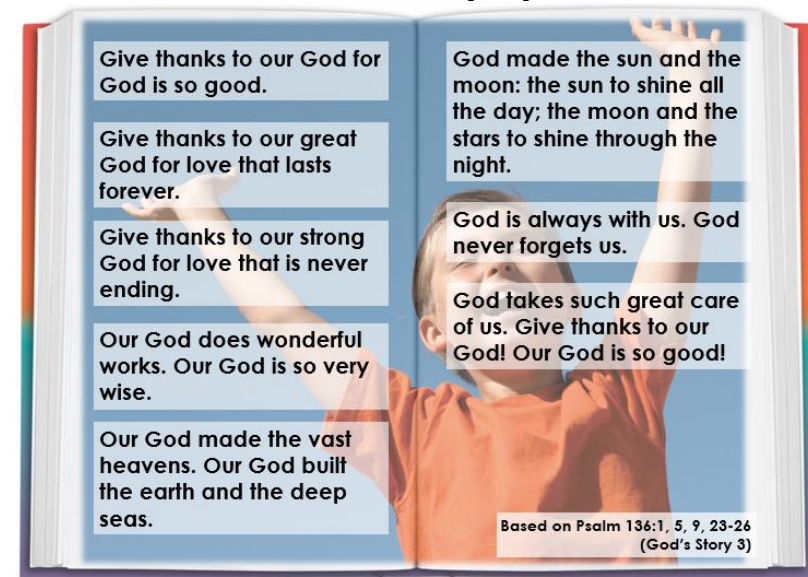
You welcome me and anoint my forehead with oil.

You fill my cup to overflowing.

I am sure your love and goodness will be with me every day of my life.

Your house will be my home for ever and ever.

Psalm 136 (LF1)



Titus 3: 2-8 (LF2)

Tell them not to speak evil of anyone, but to be peaceful and friendly, and always to show a gentle attitude toward everyone. For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, and wrong. We were slaves to passions and pleasures of all kinds. We spent our lives in malice and envy; others hated us and we hated them. But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour was revealed, he saved us.

It was not because of any good deeds that we ourselves had done, but because of his own mercy that he saved us, through the Holy Spirit, who gives us new birth and new life by washing us.

God poured out the Holy Spirit abundantly on us through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that by his grace we might be put right with God and come into possession of the eternal life we hope for.

This is a true saying. I want you to give special emphasis to these matters, so that those who believe in God may be concerned with giving their time to doing good deeds, which are good and useful for everyone.

Matthew 5: 44-48 (LF5)

But now I tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may become the children of your Father in heaven.

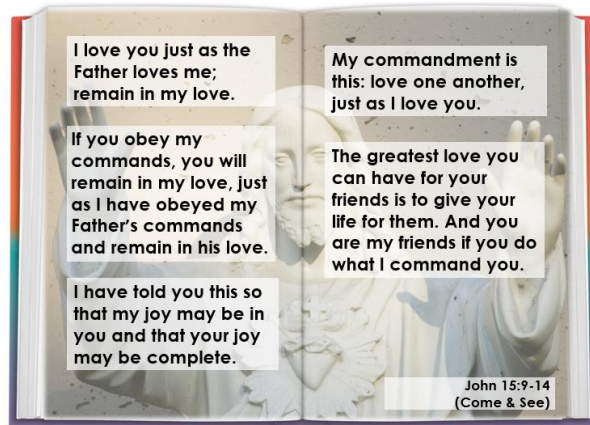
For he makes his sun to shine on bad and good people alike, and gives rain to those who do good and to those who do evil.

Why should God reward you if you love only the people who love you? Even the tax collectors do that!

And if you speak only to your friends, have you done anything out of the ordinary?

Even the pagans do that! You must be perfect – just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

John 15: 9-14 (LF6)



Matthew 5: 1-12 (LF5)

THE BEATITUDES

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT,
FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN,
FOR THEY WILL BE COMFORTED.

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK,
FOR THEY WILL INHERIT THE EARTH.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS,
FOR THEY WILL BE FILLED.

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL,
FOR THEY WILL BE SHOWN MERCY.

BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART,
FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD.

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS,
FOR THEY WILL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED BECAUSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,
FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

BLESSED ARE YOU WHEN PEOPLE INSULT YOU, PERSECUTE YOU AND FALSELY SAY ALL KINDS OF EVIL AGAINST YOU BECAUSE OF ME. REJOICE AND BE GLAD, BECAUSE GREAT IS YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN, FOR IN THE SAME WAY THEY PERSECUTED THE PROPHETS WHO WERE BEFORE YOU.

MATTHEW 5:3-12

Ephesians 4:26, 31-32 (LF6)

Even if you feel very angry, don't break God's law of love. Never let the sun go down, never go to bed still feeling very angry with one another. Always do your best to sort out quarrels, grudges and resentments from the very beginning. If you don't, they will grow and will destroy not only other people and your life together, but yourself as well. Be generous, understanding, sympathetic and forgiving. Forgive each other as quickly and generously as God forgives you.



LOVING - DO YOU HAVE TO EARN LOVE?