

## A New Rule

*John 13 : 34*

*"I give you a new command: love one another. You must love each other as I have loved you."*

### Choose the most appropriate starter

#### Starter 1

Try to describe what love is.

#### Starter 2

Using improvised role play, act out some of the different aspects of love in pairs.

#### Think about

God's love is, patient, kind, not jealous, doesn't boast, isn't proud. His love isn't rude, isn't selfish, doesn't get angry with others, and doesn't count up wrongs. His love hates evil things but loves the truth, accepts all things. It always trusts, always hopes, and always remains strong. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

Could we ever love someone as God loves us? On my own I know that I couldn't. I try to love people because when God made the new agreement with us He took away all of the old rules and the only thing He asked us to do was to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and mind and soul" and "Love other people" (Matthew 22:36-39). But I have two general issues. Firstly, to love God with everything takes a lot of effort and doesn't really come naturally. Secondly, some people are really irritating, and then there are really evil people, surely they don't deserve to be loved? But God says just get on with it and do it. He goes even further and says that if you judge other people unlovable, He will judge you the same.

I am so glad that God knows how bad I am at keeping rules because He does help us out. Firstly He does give us the Holy Spirit. This is the bit inside of me that encourages me to think about and do what God wants me to do. He can give you the strength to you to help you do what God wants you to do. Even with all of that sometimes I ignore what I am supposed to do and let myself get really impatient and angry with someone or judge someone on how they smell or what they say. Fortunately, if I come to God and say I am truly sorry and I will try to love this person more in the future, He forgives me.

None of us deserve to be loved by a perfect God but we are. If we have received love even when we don't deserve it, shouldn't we show it to other people?

### About You

Is there someone who gets on your nerves? How could you show love to them this week? The people at work, school, college, uni. How could you show love to them this week? Your family and friends. How can you show love to them this week?

Remember everyday you receive love that you don't deserve so give some out to those around you.