

Children and family talk for 25th July 2021

Hello everyone, it's good to have you with me as we explore more of the Bible together and praise God.

And today we're going to look at a part of a letter that Paul wrote to the Christians in Ephesus.

Our Bible reading today is from **Ephesians chapter 3 verses 14 to 21**. **Paul writes;**

“When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to God, the creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from God’s glorious unlimited resources you will be empowered with inner strength through the Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep God’s love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Now all glory to God, who is able, through mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to God in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.”

Now let's sing; **Jesus' love is very wonderful**

Jesus' love is very wonderful, X3

Oh wonderful Love!

So high you can't get over it

So low you can't get under it,

So wide you can't get round it

Oh wonderful Love!

Let's talk about our Bible verses

I love growing things, do you?

I love to see things that I have planted start to push up through the soil, and I eagerly await the time when they will be big enough to plant out into my garden and produce fruit or flowers. How exciting it is to see the first tender leaves push through the ground. (As long as they don't get eaten by all the snails and slugs!)

Here's something I have been growing – it's just a little bud at the moment, but I'm going to look after it, give it plenty of water, and sunlight and see what happens.

I think God likes growing things too, and seeing things develop. I think God loves to see us grow and develop as we learn more about Jesus and read our bibles.

In our bible reading today, Paul, who was one of the early Christians, is writing a letter to some new Christians who lived in Ephesus. He had to write a letter because he couldn't go to see them, he was in prison! He had been put under house arrest by people who didn't want to hear him telling others about Jesus. It was a hard time to be a Christian!

But Paul isn't grumbling about prison food, or the lack of freedom – he is writing about God's love and how wonderful God is. I'm not sure I could do that if I was in prison!

Anyway, Paul's message is a beautiful one – he wants the Christians to be filled with God's Spirit and love, so deep within that, like a plant secures its roots into soil, they will have roots that go down into God's love that keep them strong in faith. And just like the song we sang; they may know how wide and long and deep God's love is. I hope you too can know God's wonderful love as you grow your faith in Jesus Christ.

Let's talk to God now:

Dear God,

Your love is so wonderful, we want to grow into it, to be filled up with your Spirit and to know the wonderful feeling that your love can bring. Help us to have faith in you and grow to be more like Jesus every day.

In your name we pray, Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out hands as if expecting a present)

And the love of God (Put your hands on your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands)

Be with us all now and for ever. Amen! (raise hands together on the Amen)

The activity sheet from roots: [activity-sheet-25-july-2021.pdf \(rootsontheweb.com\)](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/activity-sheet-25-july-2021.pdf)