

Children and family talk for Sunday 15th May 2022

Good morning!

Today we are going to hear about a very special commandment that Jesus gave to his followers, a commandment is when someone tells you to do something and it's really important that you do it, like an instruction that you must follow if you want things to go well. Let's find out what it was by reading from the bible;

John chapter 13, verses 33 to 35.

³³ Jesus said, "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me. And what I told the Jews, I tell you now: Where I am going you cannot come.

³⁴ "I give you a new command: Love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you. ³⁵ All people will know that you are my followers if you love each other."

When we talk about love, we often use a heart like this as a picture:



This is because our heart is the organ in our body that keeps us alive. It beats regularly if we are well, pushing the blood around our body and that keeps our body working well. Without the heart we wouldn't be able to survive.

Love is like this because we all need to feel love as that keeps us feeling wanted and happy. We also need to love in return, it gives us a purpose and hope.

Love is a very powerful thing; it can make us feel and do things that we wouldn't normally do. If you love someone, you can feel as if you would do anything to keep them happy and safe.

When Jesus gave his followers this new command, "Love each other", it was a serious business, he wanted them not only to get on with each other as friends, but to be ready to do anything to help and look after each other, to love each other like brothers. With this kind of close bond, they would be stronger and more ready to face all the difficult times ahead which would come. Also, by showing the love they had for each other, they would be showing God's love and proving that they were Jesus' followers to others.

This command is for us too. As Christians we are a part of the big family of God that spreads around the world, and we should love each other as family. It is a wonderful thing to know you are a part of such a big loving family!

Let's talk to God now;

Dear God,

Thankyou that we are all a part of your big family,

Help us to show love to others we meet, by our actions, and words,

And to show to others that we are a part of your family loving each other and showing that we care. Thankyou for your never-ending love for us.

Amen.

Let's finish by saying the grace together:

And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out your hands as if receiving a present)

The Love of God (Cross your hands over your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (hold hands together)

Be with us all, now and for evermore, Amen. (Bring thumbs together).

Here is a link for an action song: Our God is a great big God' with lyrics and you can dance along and join in if you want to! <https://youtu.be/xlqEDBPIBVo>