



Creative Worship Ideas

Interactive ideas for prayer, worship and mission

1. Trick quiz

The Pharisees tried to trap Jesus with their questions. Jesus was able to see through their desire to entrap him and gave a wise answer. Can you do the same?

- Get four volunteers and put them in two teams. The first person to put their hand up and answer correctly will get the point and the team with the most points wins.
- Build suspense by saying things such as: 'Question One is a maths question. Are any of you good at maths?'
- Question one: If it took eight men ten hours to build a wall, how long would it take four men to build it? (Receive first answer and then give the correct answer.)
Answer: No time at all, because it is already built.
- Question two: Let's test your spelling! If you spell 'sit all day in the bath' as 'S-O-A-K', soak, and you spell 'a funny story' as 'J-O-K-E', joke, how do you spell 'the white of an egg'? (Receive first answer, which is often someone spelling 'Y-O-L-K' and then give the correct answer)
Answer: 'A-L-B-U-M-E-N, albumen, or 'E-G-G-W-H-I-T-E', egg white.
- Question Three is a physics question. How can you lift an elephant with one hand? (Receive first answer and then give the correct answer)
- The answer is: It is not a problem, since you will never find an elephant with one hand.

<https://www.allageworshipresources.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/SHT068-Trick-questions-1.pdf>

2. 'Everything' cooking

What would cookies taste like if we made them using only some of the ingredients?

- Create several DIFFERENT recipes for the same cookie, each with one ingredient left out, and see if any volunteers can guess which ingredient was left out of their cookie. Leave out things like sugar in one recipe and flour in another. Add something bad tasting like extra bicarb. This should be a very interesting taste-testing and opportunity to talk about giving God your all.

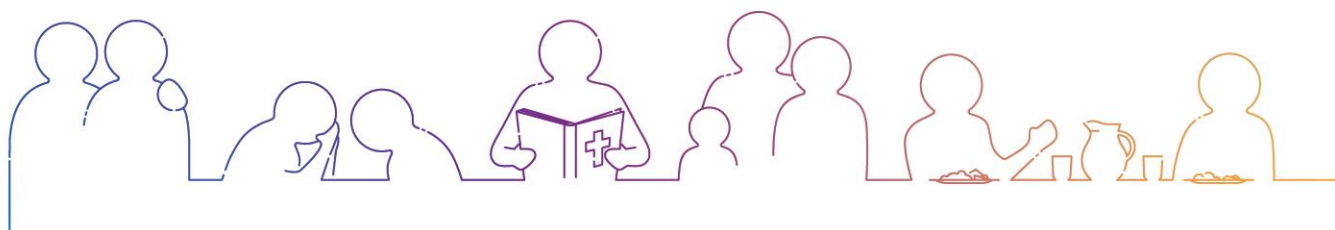
3. A heart full of love

This can be done visually whilst talking to a large group of people, interactively with small groups around tables or virtually.

Visually

If you are using this for a large group of people you will need to create a PowerPoint presentation.

- *Slide 1* A template of a large empty heart
Ask the question - What is your heart full of on a daily basis?



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- *Slide 2* The empty heart and around it the following words and phrases: Family, friends, kindness, patience, self-worth, loneliness, grief, longing, happiness, social media, inadequacy, work, jealousy, a need to help, a want to do more, escapism, television, gossiping, inappropriate comments, inappropriate language (add your own ideas)

Start moving words and phrases from the list into the heart as you ask the congregation if their heart is full of any of these. Certain things on the list may be more applicable to your group than others, and you may want to add your own.

Ask the group to consider what their heart is full of today and whether this changes depending on where they are and who they are with.

Do your friendship groups influence how you live your life? Do you behave differently when you are with other people?

'Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."' (1 Corinthians 15:33)

Does your heart on a Sunday differ from your heart on a Monday or perhaps later in the week?

Do weekly activities in the corps help to keep you thinking about God's love and living that out?

- *Slide 3* 'Love the Lord your God with ALL your heart.' (Matthew 22:37)
With this in mind, what should your heart look like on a daily basis?
- *Slide 4* Heart template.

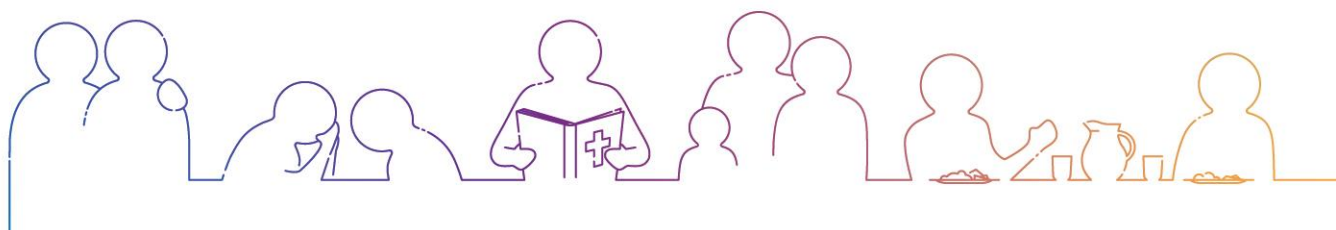
Start to move phrases into the heart showing what a heart would look like if it was full of Godly things, if we 'loved the Lord our God with all of our heart'.

How far from this is your heart this morning?

Listen to the song 'To be like Jesus' whilst asking them to reflect on this.

Small groups or virtual groups

- Those who are taking part will need their own large cut-out heart and a variety of cards taken from the list above.
- The structure and content of the session is the same as above but the individuals get to fill their own heart with words that are personal to them rather than the general PowerPoint presentation.





- You can involve the individuals by asking for examples of what they have put into their heart, things that are important to them.
- You can also encourage discussion and answers to the questions in the above section rather than them being rhetorical or topics to think about.

Prayer

O Lord,

I am sorry for the times when my heart is full of things that don't reflect your beauty and goodness and for the times that I let you down. Dear Lord, help me to love you with all of my heart so that others may see your beauty and grace radiate through me in my day-to-day life.

Amen.

4. Who is my neighbour anyway?

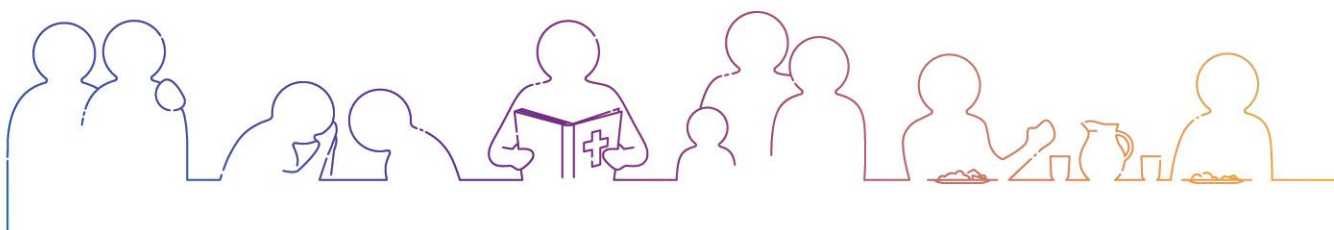
- This activity includes a poem and questions taken from the poem to discuss. It includes a video performance of the poem that you can show.
- If you have small groups, you can print off the poem as well as showing the video. You can also print off the questions and ask them to discuss them in their small groups and then report back together as a whole.
- If you are using it during Sunday worship you may want to play the video and then come back to it later with the questions that form part of a thought.

Love thy neighbour

Love thy neighbour, the Bible says,
But what exactly does that mean?
Do I *have* to love the homeless guy
Or just the rich one who drives a limousine?

It's easy if I can pick and choose
To whom I must be nice.
And I guess that's what I sometimes do
Just to get an easy life.

You see, Mrs Bee at number Three
I tend to try to give a wide berth,
For she'd keep me there all day if she could
And tell me nothing of worth!



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Mr Bore at number Four,
He lives up to his name.
If I see him then I run a mile.
But wouldn't you do the same?

Now number Five, her I like,
The salt of the earth some would say.
And I know if I say I'm in a rush
She won't keep me talking all day.

Some neighbours I guess are OK
And so it's easy to show them love.
To call and chat or do their shop
It's no bother at all - well kind of!

I don't get to choose who lives in my postcode
And why should numbers and letters decide.
Maybe I should look that little bit further -
Could my neighbours live far and wide?

Now there's a thought! I like that idea.
Maybe I could pick and choose
The best from lots of postcodes;
That way I just can't lose!

But I'm still just *choosing* who to love,
And that's not what the Bible's about.
I should have patience and kindness and time for all,
Of this I now have no doubt.

For God's love has no boundaries,
Geography means nothing to God.
He loves the person next door, numbers Three and Four,
The perfect and those who are odd.

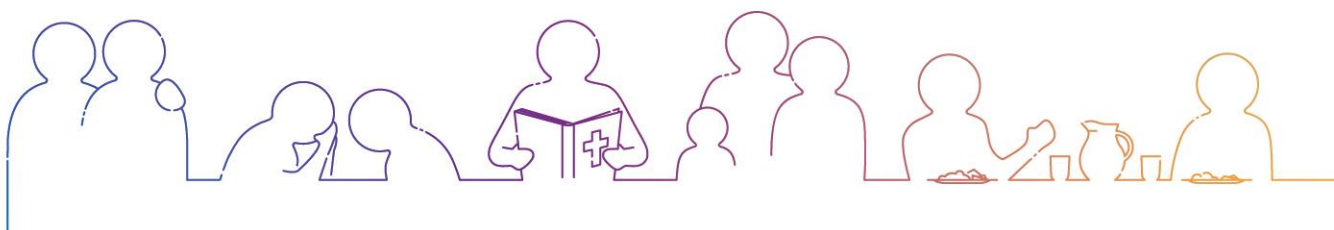
I guess I should be more like Jesus
And to everyone give my love and time,
Whether they live on the other side of the world
Or this wonderful street of mine!

Stephanie Lamplough



Love God
Love Others

COVENANT
SUNDAY 2022





Reflection

- Do you subconsciously choose who you show patience and kindness to?
- Do you hurry past when you see someone who isn't easy to talk to?
- Could you give more time to those who want to talk, who may be lonely, who may not see anyone else that day, or do you cut them short because you have somewhere else to be?
- Think about the line 'God's love has no boundaries'.
- His love is limitless. Is ours? He doesn't care for anyone more or less because of where they come from and neither should we.
- How much do we know of and support the international work of The Salvation Army? Aren't those who live in poverty in Africa or suffer in Syria also our neighbours?

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

I want to thank you that your love is limitless, that it knows no boundaries, that you love me despite my shortcomings and that you have enough love for everyone.

Help me to show unlimited love, to show patience and kindness to all and to remember that everyone is my neighbour and loved by you.

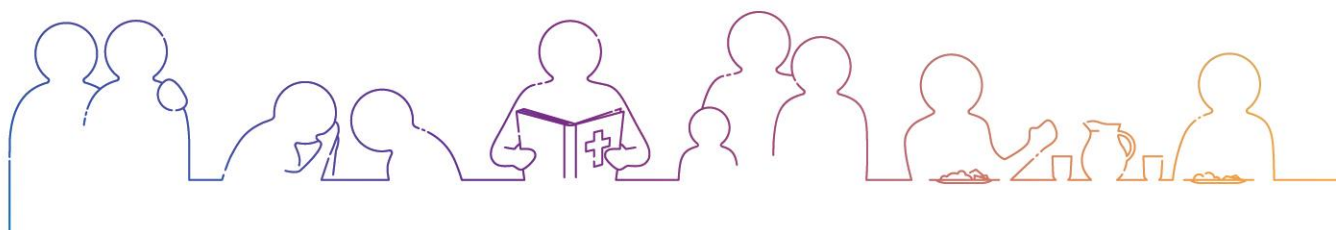
Amen.

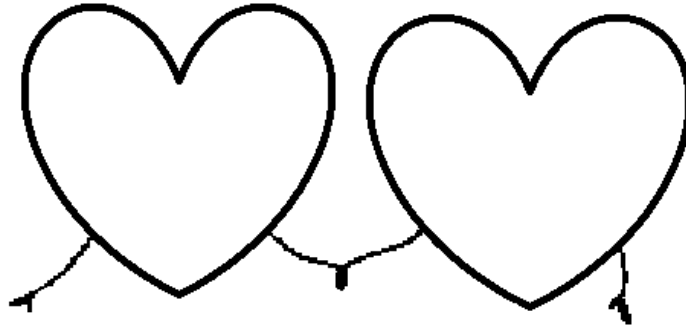
5. The heart of worship (Matt Redman)

- Listen to [this song](#) without singing it and pay attention to every single word and its meaning.
- Listen the song again without singing, but this time pray and ask God to show you the condition of your heart and ask him 'Am I truthful and honest when I sing this song? Are the words which I am singing in this song a reality in my own relationship with you, Jesus?'
- According to God's response to your prayer, you can either go ahead and sing with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, OR repent and ask God to change your heart, so that you can sing it without being a hypocrite.

6. Love and action go hand in hand

- Cut out two connected paper hearts. Write in the first heart all the words which we use to express our love to one another. And then explain that only words are not enough. For example, you can programme your computer or mobile phone in such a way that when you open it, it would say, 'I love you.' Would you feel loved by it? Maybe for few days, but after some time it may even start to be annoying.
- We need to do more. And so in the other heart, they should write down all the practical things which should make all the words meaningful all the time.
- At the end of the session explain that both sides of our expression of love are important. And when it goes hand in hand, then we really love with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.





7. Love languages quiz

- Give everyone the opportunity to complete the [Love Languages quiz](#).

Illustrations

1. Rag Doll

- When Rosemary, my youngest child, was three, she was given a little rag doll, which quickly became an inseparable companion. She had other toys that were intrinsically far more valuable, but none that she loved as she loved the rag doll. Soon the rag doll became more and more rag and less and less doll. It also became more and more dirty. If you tried to clean the rag doll, it became more ragged still. And if you didn't try to clean the rag doll, it became dirtier still.
- The sensible thing to do was to trash the rag doll. But that was unthinkable for anyone who loved my child. If you loved Rosemary, you loved the rag doll - it was part of the package. 'If anyone says "I love God" and hates his brother or sister, he is a liar,' (1 John 4:20 ESV). 'Love me, love my rag dolls,' says God, 'including the one you see when you look in the mirror. This is the first and greatest commandment.'

C. Spurgeon, from a book by Ian Pitt-Watson.

2. Put God first

- Hold up a large clear jar, and invite people to place one large rock and several small marbles inside. If the small items go in first, the rock won't fit. You have to put the biggest item in before the smaller ones, just as we need to put God before other things.
- When we focus on loving God and loving his people, other things will fall into place.

