



# True Love

## Secondary (KS4) Mother's Day Assembly

### Resources

PowerPoint presentation

### Aim:

To think about the relationships we have with those closest to us and to reflect on how we can show love back to those who love and care for us.

It's important to note that Mother's Day may be a difficult time for those whose mothers are not around. We would advise liaising with the school to ensure appropriate language is used; it may be that 'parent or carer' is more appropriate for the group.

### Introduction

Introduce yourself and welcome the pupils to their Mother's Day assembly.

### Activity

To start with we're going to think about some of the different ways that people look after their children in different cultures. I'm going to show you a statement on the presentation and I want you to raise your hand to tell me if you think it is true or false.

Go through the slides and the answers. You might want to see if anyone got them all right.

### Challenge

Explain that there are so many different ways that people parent (care for, bring up) their kids. Some of you have mums that are completely different from your best friends' mums. Some of you might think your mum is fun and relaxed, others might think your mum too strict and uptight. Some of you can see how you are like your mum; others think you are the opposite of your mum. But one thing we all have in common is that we have all had someone who cared for us when we were born, someone to feed us, clothe us, change our nappies and show us love - none of us would be here otherwise!

Whatever you think of your mum, we can all be thankful that we've had someone there to love and look after us. They may not always be right, you might not agree with some of the things they do and say, but in their unique way they are the people who have helped you become the person that you are today.





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For some of you, there may be one person who has always been there for you. Others of you have lots of family that have cared for and supported you at different points. Whatever the situation and circumstances, we've all experienced love and support.

But what do you think are the most important attributes a parent should have? Show the pupils the slide with the attributes on and ask them which one they think is most important. (You could ask a few pupils to put up their hands and tell you which one and why, or you could read through them and ask pupils to put up their hands for the one they think is most important.) Afterwards explain that there is no right answer for this; there are lots of different ways to parent, and most people will probably show all of these things at different points.

But one thing is for certain - showing love to a child is important. Scientific evidence shows that love, attention and affection in the first years of life have a direct impact on a child's physical, mental, and emotional growth\*. It's not just a nice thing to do - it's what babies and children actually need to thrive.

\* [www.babycenter.com/0\\_what-every-baby-needs-to-thrive\\_6600.bc](http://www.babycenter.com/0_what-every-baby-needs-to-thrive_6600.bc)

But the need for love and affection doesn't stop when you're no longer a baby or a small child. The reality is that we may learn how to dress ourselves, how to go to the toilet, how to eat, and we may even be earning money to pay for our food and our clothes and our own place to live, but the need for love and affection is not something we grow out of. The need for community with others, for family, whether blood-related or not, is something everyone wants. We all want to be loved by others and to love them back; we all want to be needed by others as much as we need them. That's something we all must remember about those older people in our lives who have cared and continue to care for us. Even if they act as if they've got it all together, they still want to know that you love them back. Mother's Day is about showing them just that.

Love is a big deal in the Bible too. Here is a famous passage that explains a little bit more about love:

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV)

'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.'

Mother's Day is a time to love in this way - to forget all the things that you've disagreed on, forget anything you want from your parents or carers, forget anything they've done wrong, but just to be kind and patient with them today and show them that you love them.

The Salvation Army tries to be family to people who need one, those that don't have anyone looking out for them, no one showing them love. That's why we help people who are homeless find shelter and work. That's why we provide lunches and clubs for older people living on their own. That's why we help those battling addictions to go to rehab and have support when they've finished. But family isn't just about giving.





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Once people have been helped and begin to feel loved and have got into a better place, many of them go on to help and support us in lots of different ways; they volunteer with our projects and donate to our work and help raise funds. Family is about receiving and also about giving; it's about understanding that we are all interdependent on each other. All relationships involve putting other people first sometimes and then putting you first at other times. That's what community and family is.

### Reflection

Let's take a minute to think of one way we can show love today to our mums or those who care for us. Think of what you can do to show them that you're thankful for what they have done and continue to do for you. You may want to think of something you can do for others in your family, as we reflect on how it is important to give and receive and that that's what relationships are all about.

For some of you it may mean a gift - flowers, chocolates or something else. For others, you know that just spending some time with your mum tonight, rather than with your mates or on the computer, will be what they'll appreciate most. And that's so easy to do!

### Prayer

Dear Lord,  
Thank you for the people in our lives who love and support us. Thank you that you are love and you teach us what it is to love others around us. Guide us as we look for ways to show love to those around us, love that is without any selfish motives or self-interest. We pray for healthy loving relationships in our families.  
In Jesus' name,  
Amen