

# LOVE IS WHAT YOU GIVE

## INTRODUCTION

We all like to receive gifts and to receive words of kindness from others; it makes us feel loved, cared for and special. In the same way, it makes us feel good to give to others and to share kindness.

Our thoughts in the coming weeks particularly turn to sharing as we approach Harvest, and the goodness that God provides for us and in turn how we share that goodness with others.

Throughout this month you may like to use some of the ideas to share with others, or you may choose some of your own to help people feel extra special and loved.

## PREPARATION

+ Ensure you have been given *Bible Verses* focusing on sharing.

## BIBLE READING/THOUGHT

Throughout Scripture we can read many verses that focus on sharing and the importance that God puts on it. God himself shared the ultimate gift with us in his Son Jesus, and we see through the gift of Jesus God's love in action.

The challenge for us is to look at how we share the love that God has given us. It may be through the way we speak, how we live our life or the actions that we take.

Spend some time looking over the *Bible Verses* you have been given. Take time to reflect alone, but also share and talk with each other about what these verses say to you and what they mean for yourself.

Spend some time as family talking about how you can individually and together show God's love to others.

Share the lyrics of the song 'Love is What You Give' by Suzy Smale and Simon Fenner – [www.weareworship.com/uk/songs/song-library/showsong/1900](http://www.weareworship.com/uk/songs/song-library/showsong/1900)



## FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Here are some ideas to help you think about sharing and how you can do that as an individual and/or as family.

### HELP

Is there something that you can see needs doing, either in church or someone's home or garden that you could help with? Ideas could be:

- \* Walk a dog
- \* Clean a car
- \* Mow the lawn
- \* Fix something that is broken
- \* Tidy up a room or cupboards
- \* Wash the dishes
- \* Go to the shops
- \* Sort toys for a charity shop

### TIME

Share your time with someone – just sitting and listening is a real gift to give.



## FRUIT

You may have seen that supermarkets have now started to share free fruit for children whilst you shop, to enable those with children to make their shopping experience a little easier. Is fruit something that you could share with others, while maybe thinking about the Fruits of the Spirit and sharing fruit that represents those gifts? You may like to say the words: 'I bless you with the gift of...' when sharing the fruit. Or put together a small basket of fruit and share each and every gift.

- ▶ Apple – Share the gift of Joy
- ▶ Orange – Share the gift of Peace
- ▶ Pear – Share the gift of Love
- ▶ Apricot – Share the gift of Patience
- ▶ Banana – Share the gift of Kindness
- ▶ Grapes – Share the gift of Goodness
- ▶ Strawberries – Share the gift of Faithfulness
- ▶ Raspberries – Share the gift of Gentleness
- ▶ Kiwi – Share the gift of Self-control

## TEACH ME

Ask someone to teach you to do something new. Not only do you share together and learn a new skill this way, but it can also help others to feel good and needed.



## HOME

Share your home by inviting someone to share a meal with you.

## TEA BAG

Why not take a couple of tea bags to someone who lives alone and ask if you could share a drink with them.

## SMILE

Set a family challenge to see how many people you can make smile by sharing a smile as you pass by.

## BAKE

Share some time with each other baking a simple cake or biscuits, and then share them with others.

## BIBLE VERSE

Choose a Bible Verse from the sheet that really speaks to you. Write it out and decorate it and put it in a special place. While you are doing this, listen to some worship music and consider all the good things God has shared with us.

## SONG TIME

Spend time listening to, reflecting with, or singing along to...

- 🎵 'My Best Friend' by Amy McMillan
- 🎵 'The Call of the Gospel' by Martin Cordner
- 🎵 'Just where he needs me' by Miriam Richards/ Andrew Mair

Visit [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/faith-at-home](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/faith-at-home)

## REFLECT

- 🗣️ How has sharing made a difference to others? How has sharing made a difference to you? How has sharing made others feel? How has sharing made you feel?
- 🗣️ What was the best part about sharing? What worried you? Or did anything surprise you?
- 🗣️ Is this something that you can make an everyday part of your life?

## SHARE

Share your favourite way of sharing with others, both as a family and as an individual. Share these things also with the person who gave your family the Faith@Home Challenge. Discuss with others who are using this month's challenge and see if there are any other ideas that you could use.

