

this magazine belongs to:



Issue 186

# Bible Explorers

Love the LORD and learn!



This issue we'll be looking at fruits of  
the spirit: love

God's love

How we love  
each other

Jesus' love

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# Hi Bible Explorers

Welcome back! We're starting a **new series** with this edition, on the **fruits** of the **spirit**.

Over the next few magazines, we're going to look carefully at each of the fruits of the spirit that are listed for us in **Galatians**: who demonstrated them to us in the Bible, what they mean for us and how they should **affect** us in our daily lives.

As usual, we've got lots of games and **activities** for you to do along the way!

In this edition, we're going to look at the first 'fruit' – **love**. This isn't love like you get in cheesy films though: it's real, active, and **SO** important – as we're going to discover! So stay **focused**, and enjoy **exploring love** and what it means with us.

Loads of **LOVE**,  
Joel, Claire, and Phoebe

*P.S – as usual, all  
quotations are from the  
NKJV*

# Dear Diary

Hi again guys!

Anna here! So far, this Spring has been **amazing**, but really busy! Our meeting (In case you've forgotten, it's Cambridge) recently had a **campaign**. It was so much **fun**! There was a kids section and we did so much! We even went **swimming** and made **bread**!

We saw **lots** of visiting friends and playing with them was so fun! Having friends who also believe in God's word is such a **blessing**.



A couple of weeks later, my family and I went to Swanwick Bible Weekend. It was really enjoyable AND this year, I got to stay up for the whole Ceilidh! Our lessons were about Jesus in Jerusalem, accompanied by lots of craft.

I also had a fun trip to **France** last week, where we climbed the **Eiffel Tower** and stayed at a **Eurocamp** site. I love exploring different countries and trying out a new language.

The main thing I am looking forward to in the summer is the **East Anglia Family camp**. I know some of you reading will be going too! Now, time for a joke:

Why do **French** people eat **snails**?  
Because they don't like **fast food**!



God be with you, till next time!

Anna x

### 3 The Fruit of the Spirit

So, what do we mean when we're talking about the fruit of the spirit? You might already know them; they're listed in Galatians



5:22-23:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."

The lovely fruits are contrasted with the terrible things that have been listed in the previous verses. They're the characteristics that God wants us to show to other people in our lives.

**COMPETITION TIME!**  
There's fruit hidden all the way through this magazine – find them all, and check out the back page to fill in the secret message they are telling you! (the fruit on page 4 don't count!)



## Why are they called 'fruit'?

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There's lots of places in the Bible that God asks people, or us, to be 'fruitful' – even the commandment given to Adam and Eve is "be **FRUITFUL**, and multiply". It's a way that God is explaining to us how we become more like him.

There's roots, a trunk, branches, leaves, and fruit



Imagine a fruit tree:



Water and sun fuel the tree, and it grows – really slowly! But every year, it creates more fruit

God is asking us to be like trees in our lives – it takes our whole lives to grow to be like him, but he expects us to keep trying to be like him throughout our lives – to keep producing fruit, like a tree.

**EXPLORE MORE!**  
Look up Psalm 1. What does that say about trees?



# 5 Love

**Love** is the very first fruit listed. Some people suggest this is because it is the **most important** one – the one that all the other fruit lead on from. **Love in the Bible is something powerful, and deep – as we'll see.**

**In the New Testament, there's two Greek words for love:**

## agapae

**Agapae is deep, 'self-sacrificial' love. It's the type of love that Jesus showed us when he gave his life for us**

**e.g...**

**Matthew 22:37**

**John 13:34**

**John 3:16**

## philio

**Philio is affection – a friendship for each other. For example, we are naturally fond of our friends and family.**

**John 11:3**

**John 20:2**



U	E	S	L	P	E	A	C	E	E	F	S	S	G
S	O	A	G	A	P	A	E	E	I	A	I	C	N
E	T	G	T	I	U	R	F	N	E	I	D	T	I
L	G	S	T	S	U	S	E	J	V	T	L	R	R
F	S	O	O	R	T	S	P	C	O	H	G	E	E
C	J	A	O	N	T	L	E	H	L	F	A	E	F
O	T	E	S	D	U	N	N	S	I	U	S	S	F
N	I	C	S	I	N	U	C	D	G	L	N	A	U
T	R	N	A	C	O	E	N	I	G	N	I	U	S
R	I	E	N	D	J	I	S	O	A	E	T	O	G
O	P	I	T	V	O	O	P	S	I	S	G	Y	N
L	S	T	P	N	R	G	Y	V	E	S	I	I	O
E	T	A	K	I	N	D	N	E	S	S	K	S	L
N	O	P	C	G	E	N	T	L	E	N	E	S	S

fruit

joy

gentleness

patience

trees

peace

self control

goodness

spirit

long suffering

philio

Jesus

love

kindness

agapae

God

faithfulness

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## God's Love

God's love is the **foundation** of our beliefs, and the reason that we have an **understanding** of love.

1 John 4:19 says "**We love Him because He first loved us.**" John also says "God is love". He is **fundamentally**, completely, a loving being – and he **loves US!**

It's important to remember, though, that **we** have to love God – and show this through our **actions**. It's not **unconditional** – that means we can't just do **whatever we like** and expect God to continue to love us.

He will **always** be there for us to turn to him, but he expects us to **show** our love for him. That's because he has **already given** us so much in love – so it's our turn to show love back.

So **how** has God shown his love for us? Have a look at the **verses** below, and write down what they say about how God shows us his love and what he has **given** us:



1 JOHN 5V15



ROMANS 6 V 2-4



MATTHEW 6 V 25-31



JAMES 1 V 17-18



JOHN 14 V 27 PEACE

JOHN 3V16



ISAIAH 43V25

Wow – God has shown us so much love! Can you think of any other ways He shows His love? Why not write a quick prayer to thank God for His love.



A large, light orange rounded rectangular area provided for writing a prayer.

# The Prodigal Son



A father had two sons and one day his youngest son asked for his inheritance early so he could spend it how he wanted straight away.



The son left for a distant land where he spent his money on eating and drinking with new people and friends.



But soon his inheritance ran out and the people he thought were friends left him when they couldn't party with him any more.



With no money and no food, the younger son found himself in trouble. He ended up working on a farm, feeding pigs, and even wishing he could eat the pigs' food!



Whilst the younger son was caring for the pigs he realised his mistakes and that even his father's servants were fed much better than he was, looking after the pigs! So the son decided to return home hoping his father would let him work as a servant.



But as the son approached his home, his father saw him from afar, and filled with love and joy, the father ran to meet him, hugging and welcoming him back.



Not only that, but the father put his best clothes on the son and prepared a feast for the whole family to share!

We need to remember that God will always have his loving arms open to us – but we must be prepared to first come to him before he runs out to meet us, like this father did for his son!

# Showing Love

How do we show love to the people around us? Often, that's really **easy** – to love our friends is great! But in **Matthew 5:43**, Jesus tells us to even love our **enemies**... How do we actually do that?

Firstly, who is our '**enemy**'? We don't usually have literally enemies, so who is Jesus talking about?

It could really be anyone who we find it **difficult** to get on with.

That could be people at **school**, or even people at the **meeting**. No matter **what or who**, Jesus tells us to be loving towards them – and not just when they are around! He also tells us to "**pray for those who spitefully use you**" (v44). So even when we are on our **own in prayer** to God, we should pray for everyone to know God's love too.

## Time to Practice

Here are some suggestions for how to show love to the people around you – can you match them up and add any extras?

Children at school

Thank them for everything they do

Parents

Make some treats to share before your lesson

Siblings

Share toys

Children in Sunday School

Be patient and friendly

Someone difficult to get on with

Hold a door open

# The Good Samaritan <sup>12</sup>

You might already know the story of the **Good Samaritan** (if not, have a quick read – its in **Luke 10:25-37**). The man needed help – and the Samaritan gave him help, even though the **Jews** and the **Samaritans** were enemies at the time. This is how Jesus explained "**love your enemies**" to the people he taught.



How can we be 'Good Samaritans' to people around us?  
Fill in each finger of the 'helping hand' with your ideas.

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# Spot the Difference!



There are 10 differences! Can you find them all?

# Jesus' example of love 14

As well as teaching us with **parables**, Jesus showed us the ultimate example of love in his **actions**.

**Song of Solomon 5:16** describes Jesus as a \_\_\_\_\_  
|\_\_\_\_\_. This is how we want to be described!

The gospels tell us some of the things Jesus did that showed his love for the people around him. Have a look at the verses below and see if you can write down what Jesus does that is so loving.

Mark 1:41

\_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 9:36

\_\_\_\_\_

Luke 22:47-53

\_\_\_\_\_

John 13:5

Then there's the most important example Jesus showed us: he gave his life to save us and provide forgiveness of our sins through him. John 15:13 says:

**"Greater love has no man than this, than a man lay down his life for his friends"**

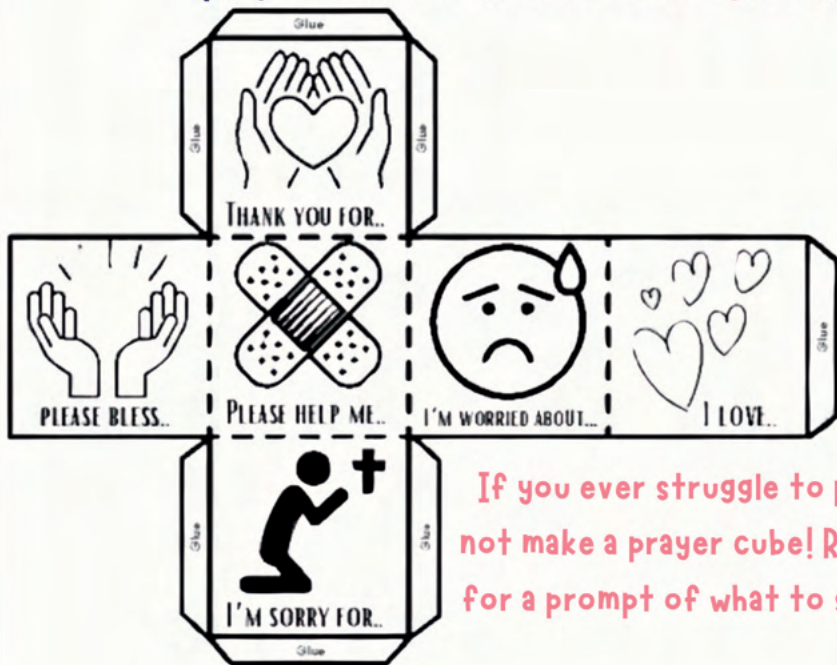
# 15 Loving God



We know it's important to love God – but how do we **show** that? **1 John 4:20** says that to show love to God, we have to show love to the people around us – we simply can't love God but still be **mean** to others!

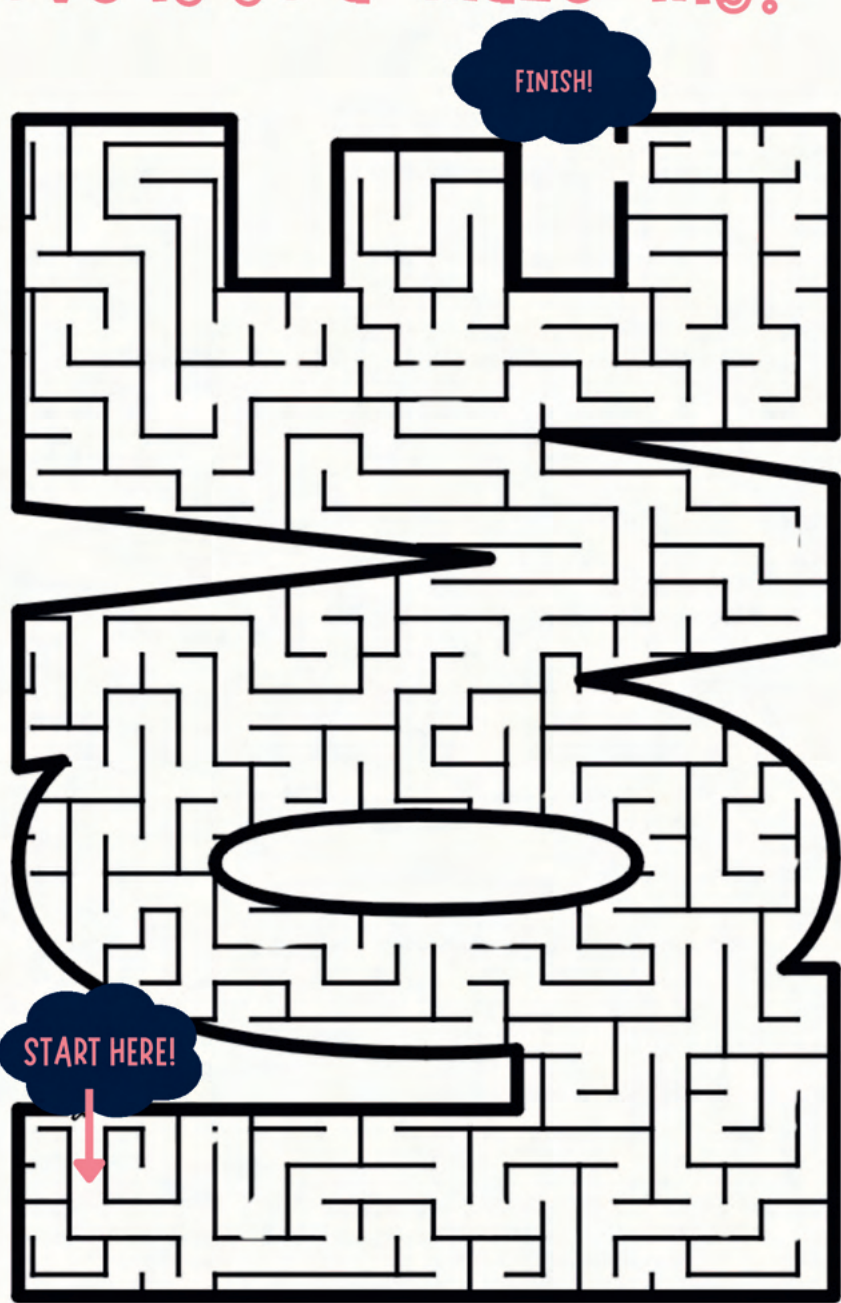
We've already explored how to love each other, and the people around us – just like Jesus did.

Part of loving God is also by **talking** to him; its no good telling someone you love them and then **ignoring** them. God has given us a **beautiful** gift of prayer, and we should use prayer to talk to God about **everything!**



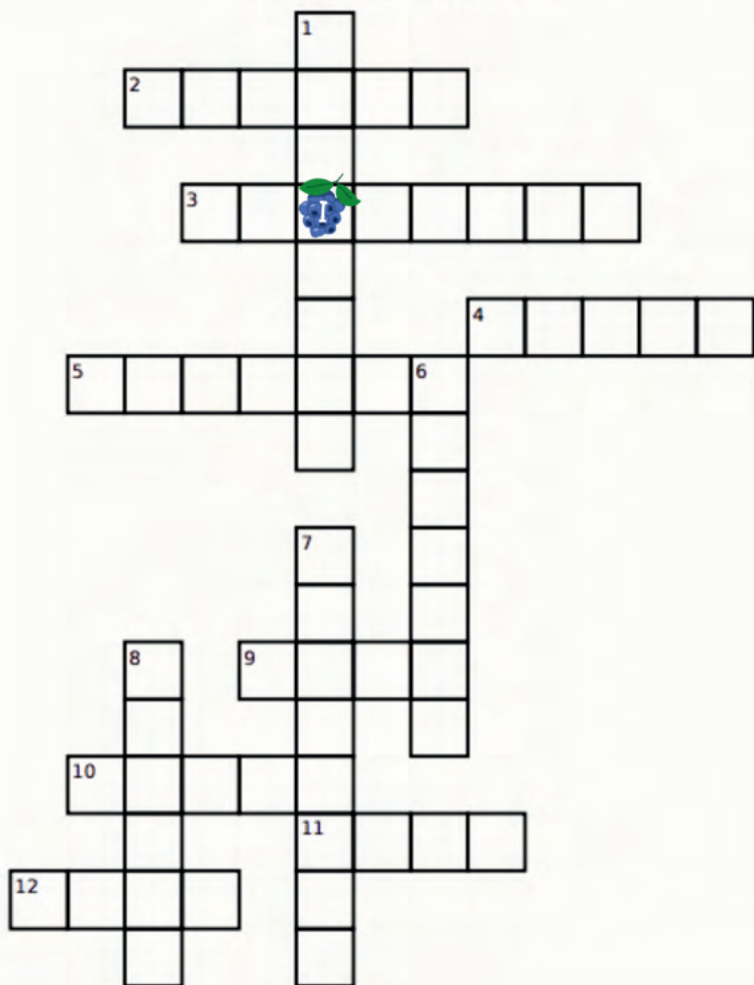
If you ever struggle to pray – why not make a prayer cube! Roll the dice for a prompt of what to say to God.

Love is so a-maze-ing!



# 1 Corinthians 13

1 Corinthians 13 is known as the 'love' chapter, telling us how important love is, and what love should look like. You could read v4-6 and substitute 'love' with your name – does it stack up? This can be a good way to figure out what you need to do to be more loving in your life.



## Down:

1 bears all things, \_\_\_\_\_ all things, hopes all things...

6. though I speak with the \_\_\_\_\_ of men and of angels

7. though I have the gift of \_\_\_\_\_

8. now we see in a \_\_\_\_\_, dimly, but then face to face

## Across:

2. does not behave \_\_\_\_\_

3. when I became a man, I put away \_\_\_\_\_ things

4. love never \_\_\_\_\_

5. but when that which is \_\_\_\_\_ has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

9. the greatest of these is \_\_\_\_\_

10. does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the \_\_\_\_\_

11. love does not e\_\_\_\_\_

12. I shall \_\_\_\_\_ just as I also am known

Key verse:

"Greater love has no man than this, than a man lay down his life for his friends"

John 15:13



**Competition time!**



**Did you find the secret message?**



Send your answers by email to  
[phoebe.jefferies@icloud.com](mailto:phoebe.jefferies@icloud.com)

Or post to  
65 School Street  
Wolston  
Coventry  
CV8 3HG

