

Week 4- 'Love'

Watch or listen to 'Love' word study from The Bible Project.

<https://bit.ly/Love-Advent>



Reflection.

"Do to others what you would want them to do to you" is the golden rule, did you notice that it is a choice about the actions rather than the feelings towards others? Not only is it a golden rule but is described as the meaning of life! For the early church the redefinition of the concept of love (Agape) was based on both the teachings and the actions of Jesus. Jesus was himself the embodiment of God's Love for the world, God's love for you, given, so that you could have life (1 John 4:9). This love that the life of Jesus demonstrates is a generous love that reflects the heartbeat of God, particularly for those other's labelled as sinners or outsiders or even enemies. Jesus was generous in his love without any expectation of a repayment or return on that generosity. Jesus invites us to make the same choice and create an "ecosystem of others-focused, self-giving love".

Questions.

I wonder...

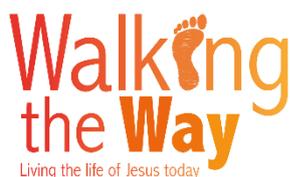
I wonder..

How would you define the concept of love ("AGAPE")?

Which story from Jesus' life best demonstrates this love to you?

On a scale of 1-10, how easy do you find it to love someone you dislike? Why?

The Christmas story illustrates the love of God in action. How do you put that love into action with those you care for?



Walking the Way Challenge/Activity.

("AGAPE") love can mean to give generously to others without the expectation of reward. This week choose three people to secretly give generously to without expecting anything in return. If you want to really challenge yourself, make sure one of those people is someone you dislike. Keep it a secret so that there is no expectation of them repaying your generosity.