



Faith Adventures for Children Together



Free to use – please acknowledge when using beyond local church children's and youth work
so others can find and use the resource themselves.

*Committed to URC Children Together:
enabling everyone to grow more like Jesus
together in the home, church and beyond.*

For guidance on the purpose of the resource
and how to use it as a launch pad for your
engagement with children and families, please
use this link: www.bit.ly/FACT-how-to-sheet

Title: Psalm 57:10

Theme: Wise words of love – love is truth

Contents:

<u>Introduction</u>	1
<u>Together</u>	1
<u>Experience</u>	3
<u>Explore</u>	3
<u>Express</u>	5
<u>Handouts</u>	9

Introduction: What would be helpful to know in my planning?

Continuing our theme of 'Wise Words', this week we are looking at wise words in the psalms.

It is also the week in which Valentine's Day falls, so the passage on which we are focusing speaks to God's love and truth. The passage emphasises that God's love is universal – God loves all of us and we all benefit from God's love. We are encouraged to think about the ways in which God's love is similar to human love, and in which ways it differs.

We explore what 'truth' is – and what God's truth might be.

Together – prayer and games

How do I help my group to come together and get started with the theme?

Gathering prayer

Jesus, our friend

(use alternate index fingers to point and tap the middle of opposite palms)

Be with us today

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move up and down twice)

As we share together,

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move one forward and one back and alternate twice)

Pray together,

(hands together, palm against palm, as though praying)

Play together,

(hands to each side, palms up, make two small circles outwards)

And get to know you better,

(point up with one hand)

As children together in your family

(one hand out, palm down in front of you, move it sideways and up in three 'steps' as though to indicate children of three different heights)

AMEN

(Two thumbs up, and bring fists slowly together to meet in front of you)

OR

Thank you, God, for bringing us together today.

Help us to grow closer to you in all we do.

**Help us to speak and to listen, to learn and to grow together,
adventuring together with you wherever we may go.**

Amen

Active game – Love charades

"Your love is so great it reaches to the skies."

What does love look like? What can we do to show God's love to other people, and what does God do to show us that we are loved?

Invite members of your group to think about a 'love action' (e.g. sharing, hugging, smiling).

Invite a group member to act out the word they have chosen and see if other group members can work out what they are doing.

Quieter game – Blowing a tissue into the air

This week's passage discusses heavens and skies. This game is a fun way to introduce today's theme.

You will need:

- a tissue or piece of toilet paper for everyone

Everyone blows their tissue and tries to keep it up in the air. Who can blow it for the longest? Who can blow it the furthest? Who can blow it the highest?

Experience – Bible story and songs

Hear, watch and sing the Bible story

For this story we recommend using the International Children's version, Psalm 57:10

<https://bit.ly/Psalm5710>

Where can I find the story online?

Under-fives: What are Psalms? by Devotions for kids

<https://youtu.be/0Wik0wxoV6s?si=lTuEz0JQOL4U5iTq>

Five-to-elevens: God's story – Psalms by Crossroads Kids' Club (the short version from 3.35 minutes in)

<https://youtu.be/QwQ5FCJKWz4?si=ISxFKFomic1fnPaL>

Songs to support the story

Under-fives: His banner over me is love by Raising Up Champions

<https://youtu.be/4dKw6WnPOg8?si=9EqVmIH-bzPDDcA8>

Five-to-elevens: Sing Hosanna – Jesus loves me by Bible Songs for Kids

<https://youtu.be/KqghCEtITFo?si=KlbsrWXx6T1ZS61r>

Explore – ways into the theme

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

A new way to explore the theme

You will need:

- newspapers

Using newspapers, reflect on the news and pick out the stories that those in the group feel show love in action. Talk about how love was shown and what the outcomes might have been if love had not been shown, and whether it was easy to show love in the scenarios.

For younger children you could snip out some newspaper stories to edit what the children see, or you could use children's newspapers e.g. Could you create a collage of love stories?

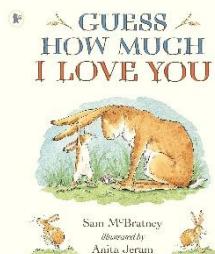
<https://www.firstnews.co.uk/sample-issue/>

<https://theweekjunior.co.uk/>

Modern parables

Jesus used stories to help people understand the things of God, even though they weren't necessarily overtly Christian stories. Lots of children's books can be used in a similar way

as a conversation starter on the week's theme. Examples are shared here but you may think of others too. If you are to use the modern parable, consider buying a copy or borrowing it from the library so children see the actual book and can explore the illustrations more (and support the author).



Guess How Much I Love You by Sam McBratney (2007: Walker Books)

https://youtu.be/1eGclfZEFDA?si=KI_inuAhC5FxT1TJ read by Sam McBratney

This book is a conversation about a mother and child both competing for who loves each other the most.

- How do you show others you love them?
- How do others show you that you are loved?

Talking together: How might we talk about the Bible story together?

- Which is the highest, the sky or the clouds?
- I wonder what truth the psalm is referring to.
- Is God's truth different from our truth?
- Where do you see love in action?

Wondering reflection on the theme

- I wonder how far your love reaches. Does it reach different places for different people?
- I wonder Is love greater than truth.
- Is God in all acts of love?

What's in the box (for under-fives)

Use the special box or bag and sing, "What's in the box/bag? What's in the box/bag? Let's see, let's see, what's in the box/bag" (to the tune of The Farmer's in the Dell). Pull out the things one by one and then let the children play with them, talking about the theme or the story in simple terms.

This week's box could include:

- Paper cut out of a cloud – talk about where the clouds are, how high they are.
- Kite – talk about how a kite travels up from the ground into the sky.
- Heart, Jammie Dodger, Love hearts – talk about how a heart is a symbol of love.
- Rolos – talk about the Rolo advert, which says the last Rolo is saved for someone you love.
- A tactile cross of wood or fabric (a cross shape reminds us of Jesus. Jesus/God loves us and it's always in the box because Jesus/God always loves us!).
- A set of play people to act out the story or random shapes/bits you can move around to make pictures from the story as you tell it (e.g. stones, felt, twigs etc).

Express – prayer and creative activities

Praying together: enabling your group to respond spiritually

Prayerful activity

Write or draw prayers of love on a piece of paper, then fold it into a paper aeroplane. How far can the prayers fly? We can reach others with our love and our loving words.



Spoken prayer

Under-fives:

Dear God,
your love is big and bright and true,
it reaches up to skies so blue!
Your truth goes higher than the clouds.
It makes us happy, strong, and proud.
Thank you, God, for loving me,
as wide and tall as love can be!
Amen.

5-11s

Dear God,
your love is greater than the skies above,
and your truth reaches higher than the clouds.
Thank you that your love never ends
and that we can always trust you.
Help us to show your love to others
in the things we say and do each day.
Amen.

Responding together

Here are some suggested crafts and activities, and there is a colouring sheet at the end of this resource. You could also use small play toys and/or have a basket of resources available so children can choose their own way to respond.

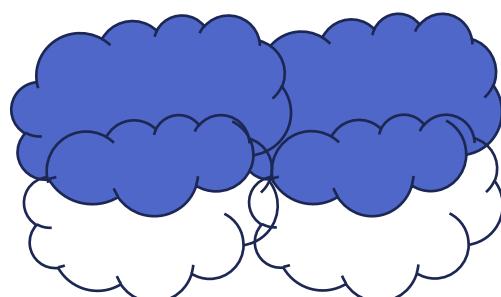
With an online group, plan whether to deliver any resources in advance or how you will encourage the children to use what they've got to hand in their response.

However you do it, it is good for the adults to engage in the response too, and all chat together.

Psalm mobiles

You will need:

- card
- scissors
- string or ribbon



- tape and or glue
- writing pens and colouring pencils/pens

What you do:

Use the card to create 10 cloud shapes, colour 5 of them blue to represent the sky, the other five represent the clouds. Create one large cloud, white one side and blue the other. Write on the white side the first line of the Psalm which talks about God's love. On the blue side write the rest of the Psalm. On the blue clouds write words that represent God's love for us, or how we love each other. Attach the smaller clouds to the string or ribbon, so that the small clouds dangle from the larger cloud. On the white clouds write words or phrases that talk about God's truth and truthfulness. Then glue the clouds onto the reverse of the already attached clouds, to create a double sided mobile.

Everyday with Jesus – Walking the Way

What could we do this week to carry on what we've learned? Maybe members of the group could come up with a suggestion. If not, get them to choose from these two challenges:

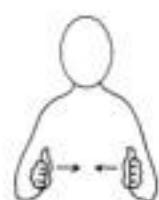
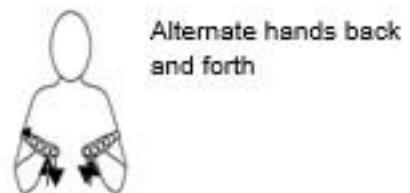
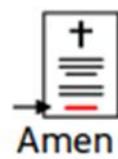
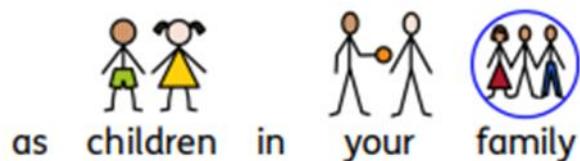
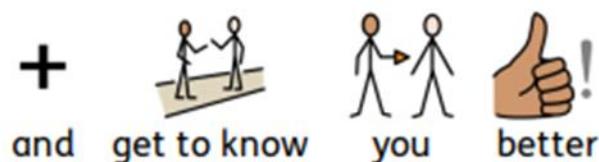
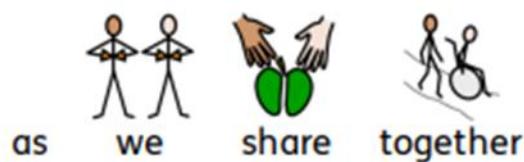
- Talk to someone older or younger than you and ask them to tell you something about love, especially God's love.
- How could you show love in your community? Could you write or draw a picture demonstrating love that you have witnessed?

We hope you enjoyed exploring the **Psalm** with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing
sharon.lloyd@urc.org.uk

Please join the Faith Adventures Facebook Group **bit.ly/FACT_FB**
Why not have a look at next week's resource on **Jethro and Moses**







The Lord's Prayer



Our Father, who art in heaven,





hallowed be thy name.





Thy kingdom come,





thy will be done






on earth as it is in heaven.






Give us this day our daily bread






and forgive us our sins As we






forgive those who sin against us






Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil







For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory





For ever and ever Amen



