



Daily Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation  
 Weekly worship song, reflection and small group questions

## THIS WEEK AND UPCOMING WEEKS:

Lectionary year B – Easter to Pentecost – 4 April to 29 May

- Week 6:** Sunday 9 May – Love each other
- May 13 – ASCENSION DAY
- Week 7: Sunday 16 May – Jesus prays for His disciples.
- Week 8: Sunday 23 May – PENTECOST – The work of the Holy Spirit
- Week 9: Sunday 30 May - Trinity Sunday – Jesus teaches Nicodemus



## WEEK 6: 9 MAY

  
 Love each other

DAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
Sixth Sunday of Easter	Acts 10:44-48	Psalm 98	I John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17



John 15:9-17 New International Version – UK

### Love each other

<sup>9</sup> 'As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> My command is this: love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup> I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: love each other.

## WORSHIP

<https://youtu.be/licJi3dPtPk> Lutsha Yolelo - Ndiphe Oluthando

## FOR REFLECTION:

### DAILY DEVOTIONS, REFLECTIONS AND SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS WRITTEN BY LOCAL PREACHER MISS SIYATHOKOZA MESATYWA

God loved us in a manner so unimanagable and gave us His only son. Whilst God is not asking us to give such a sacrifice, there are other ways we could show our sacrificial love to others . In the times we are living in, everyone around us needs to be shown love in some kind of way. Offer that. People are going through all sorts of things, loss through death, loss of jobs, loss of what they had possibly always thought of as a support system through friends and family. People are depressed because of various circumstances that they find themselves in. Be kind. Show love. Love one another. You never know what that smile, that offer for a lift home from church, shopping centre and/or work, or that offer for a meal could do to the next person. Check on your people, even those who are not close to you, that lady from the grocery store who is always in a chirpy mood might be going through something but manages to hide it so well, they hide their tears because they have to be friendly to customers. Walk up to them, and say something encouraging. Sacrifice your time for someone else as an act of love, as time is a gift that once gone can never return. Do this without ever expecting anything in return. Check on that one person who is always taking care of everyone else, who seems to have it all under control. They might be going through the most but because they are always the strongest, they will have a difficult time coming out to say “hey! I am not okay.” – give them your time as they need it too.



**Challenge:** try to be kind this week, each day when you leave the house, take with you a clothing item you no longer need, or food and share it with the one on the street corner by the robots who needs it more.

**Prayer:** Dear God – even during a period filled with so much turmoil and uncertainty, help me to find the time to show love to those around me.

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. What is the one thing you find difficult to sacrifice in order to help another?
2. When last did you show an act of love / sacrificial love towards somebody else who you are not close to?
3. What is the one act of love that took the most out of you? Would you do it again? And how did it make the other person feel?
4. Stop to think about how it would make you feel to have another act in sacrificial love towards you?



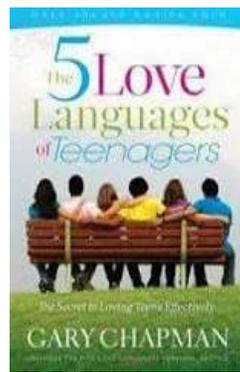
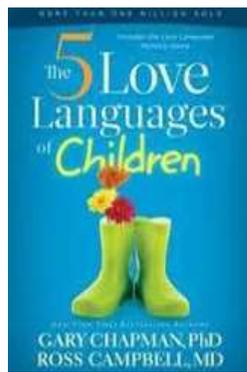
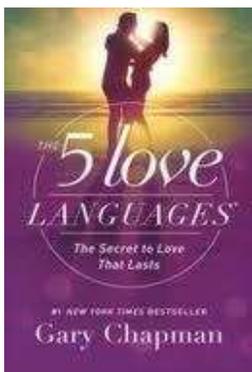
It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

**BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN'S PASTOR**  
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### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May

**Pray daily:** Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

**Scripture Reading:** [John 15:9-17](#) Allow children/teens to read out loud for the family.



### Activity/Family Moment:

God has commanded us to love each other. Just like there are many languages there are also many ways to show or communicate love, known as the 5 Love Languages. Maybe we clash with a family member because we do not understand how each of us wants to be loved and shows their love. Below is a chart of the 5 Love Languages. As a family you can try figure out what each of you love language is or you can follow this link and take a test:

<https://www.5lovelanguages.com/quizzes/>

LOVE LANGUAGE			
WHICH LOVE LANGUAGE?	HOW TO COMMUNICATE	ACTIONS TO TAKE	THINGS TO AVOID
 WORDS OF AFFIRMATION	Encourage, affirm, appreciate and listen actively.	Send an unexpected note, text, or card.	Not recognizing or appreciating effort.
 PHYSICAL TOUCH	Non-verbal use of body language and touch to show love.	Hugs, kisses, cuddling.	Physical neglect or abuse.
 RECEIVING GIFTS	Thoughtfulness, make your Spouse a priority.	Give thoughtful gifts and gestures. Express gratitude when receiving gifts.	Unenthusiastic gift receiving, forgetting special occasions.
 QUALITY TIME	Uninterrupted and focused conversations. One on one time is important.	Create special moments, take walks and do small things with your partner.	Distractions when spending time together. Long time without one-on-one time.
 ACTS OF SERVICE	Let them know you are wanting to help, to lighten their load.	Make them breakfast or dinner. Go out of your way to help with chores.	Lacking follow-through on small and large tasks.

START YOUR DAY WITH  
*Devotionals Daily*

**Monday, May 10, 2021:** [Psalm 93](#); [Deuteronomy 7:1-11](#); [1 Timothy 6:11-12](#)

**Memory Verse:** Deuteronomy 7:7 The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples.

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for choosing me amongst many, a sinner that I am undeserving of your grace & yet you call me your own. May your grace O God and mercy continue to lead, guide & protect me.

**Tuesday, May 11, 2021:** [Psalm 93](#); [Deuteronomy 11:1-17](#); [1 Timothy 6:13-16](#)

**Memory Verse:** 1 Tim 6:14 Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

**Prayer:** Lord, I ask that I may be able to keep the commandment you have given us to love one another, and that I may be able to live by it.

**Wednesday, May 12, 2021:** [Psalm 93](#); [Deuteronomy 11:18-21](#); [Mark 16:19-20](#)

**Memory Verse:** Mark 16:20 Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

**Prayer:** Dear God, help us to serve without question, doubt or fear, just as Christ served.

**Thursday**

**Memory Verse:** Acts 1:7

He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

DAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
Ascension of the Lord	*Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53

**Prayer:** Lord, may we be patient and learn to wait on you, trusting you and your promises

**Friday, May 14, 2021:** [Psalm 47](#); [Exodus 24:15-18](#); [Revelation 1:9-18](#)

**Memory Verse:** Revelation 1:18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

**Prayer:** Dear God, May Your glory prevail during these trying times. May we remember that we are freed from the bondages of sin because Christ holds the keys to the grave.

**Saturday, May 15, 2021:** [Psalm 47](#); [Deuteronomy 34:1-7](#); [John 16:4-11](#)

**Memory Verse:** John 16:1 'All this I have told you so that you will not fall away.

**Prayer:** Lord, help me to always stand firm in my faith, remembering that the Holy Spirit remains in me.