

Short Talk

(SHT088)

At the Heart of Love is Giving

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ALL AGE WORSHIP
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SHORT TALK: “At the Heart of Love is Giving”

- Aim of Short talk:** To encourage people to show their love for others by giving in different ways; inspired by God showing us His love by giving us the gift of His Son.
- Use of Short talk:** This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.
- Main themes:** Love, Giving, Jesus, Mothering Sunday
- Biblical references:** John 3:14-21
- Lectionary:** Year B – The fourth Sunday of Lent, Mothering Sunday
- Props:** You will need the following props: A box of chocolates gift wrapped, a clock, a mobile phone, a wooden spoon, a “hug emoji” on a piece of A4 paper (see Appendix), a piece of paper (which says at the top, “Record of wrongs” and then things written on it like, “Andy hit me,” “Andy lied to me...” etc.)

Many of us on this Mothering Sunday will find a way to show our mums that we love them.

- Who would like to share what they have given or done for their mum today? *(Receive responses from different people; young and older)*

All the different things that you have done today to show your mum that you love her have been about giving.

- You see at the very heart of love isn't something slushy and sentimental.
- At the very heart of love is giving.

Let's have a look at some of the different ways that we can give love.

- I need 6 volunteers *(Receive 6 volunteers and stand them in a line)*

One way that we can give love is fairly obvious.....

- the **giving of a gift.** *(Give the box of chocolates to your 1st volunteer to hold)*
- Many of you will be giving chocolates or flowers to your mums today,
- but of course whenever we want to show someone love, we can give them a carefully chosen gift.

Another way that we can give love is by **giving someone time.** *(Give the clock to your 2nd volunteer to hold)*

- Time is a very precious gift that we all have.
- When we choose to give our time to someone else, that person can feel really loved.
- Of course, that means putting away the mobile phone, and really giving your attention to that other person; listening to them if they want to talk,
- or doing something together, like playing a game or taking a walk.

A third way of giving love is **speaking encouraging words** to someone. (*Give the mobile phone to your 3rd volunteer to hold*)

- The words that we speak are very powerful,
- and they can be used for building someone up or tearing them down,
- so think carefully about the words that you speak as you send texts, emails, go on Facebook, or speak face to face with other people.

Another way of giving love is to **serve someone**. (*Give the spoon to your 4th volunteer to hold*)

- Our mothers over the years will probably do much for us.
- Maybe they wash and iron our clothes or buy and prepare our food.
- Some mums may even have to tidy up after we have made a mess!

They do this because they love us and we can show our love for them by doing simple acts of service like emptying the bin, or feeding the dog, or cutting the lawn.

Some people amongst their families and friends show their love by **giving a hug**. (*Give the "Hug emoji" picture to your 5th volunteer to hold*)

And finally another way of giving love is to **forgive someone** who has hurt us. (*Give the "Record of wrongs" paper to your 6th volunteer to hold*)

- That person may have lied about us or said horrid things about us or done something else to upset us.
- Whatever they have done, Father God wants us to choose to forgive them and let go of the "record of wrongs" that we are holding in our head. (*Take the "record of wrongs" paper, rip it into 2 and drop the bits onto the floor*)

Forgiveness is not at all easy but our Heavenly Father wants us to learn to give forgiveness to others because not only is holding onto unforgiveness bad for us,

- but our relationships are the most precious things that we have.

So you can see from our examples today that at the very heart of love is giving, whether we:

- give a gift,
- or give time,
- or speak encouraging words,
- or serve,
- or give a hug
- or forgive when we have been hurt.

God, our Heavenly Father, has shown us His love in the most wonderful way...listen to this:

- *"For God so loved the world that **he gave** his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* (John 3:16)

God showed you and me His love by giving us the gift of His Son;

- given to be our Saviour so that we can have eternal life.
- His gift to us is the greatest gift that has ever been given.

So on this Mothering Sunday, let God's love for you inspire you and fill you so that you too can show love to others by giving in the different ways that we have talked about.

- Take a few moments to think of something that you can do today to show someone that they are loved. PAUSE.
- Don't forget to go and do it!

Appendix – “Hug Emoji”

