

# Short Talk

(SHT122)

## Learning to Love

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ALL AGE WORSHIP  
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## SHORT TALK: “Learning to Love”

<b>Aim of Short talk:</b>	To teach that according to Jesus, the most important thing that we need to do in life is learn to love.
<b>Use of Short talk:</b>	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.
<b>Main themes:</b>	Love
<b>Biblical references:</b>	Mark 12:28-34
<b>Lectionary:</b>	Year B – The 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday before Advent

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For the next few minutes we are going to think about some of the different things that we learn to do as we go through our lives.

- One of the first things that we might learn to do when we are very young is how to walk.

As we get a little older we learn how to say simple words and what different colours and shapes are called.

- Before we go to school many of us have learnt how to write our name and what different numbers mean.
- Some of us may have even learnt how to swim or how to ride a bicycle.

When we go to school we learn how to do many more things.

- Who can tell me something that they learnt to do at school? *(Receive answers)*

One day many of us leave school and move away from home to either start work or to go on to higher education.

- No longer do we have someone to look after us.
- What sorts of things do you think we have to learn when we first live away from home? *(Receive answers)*

All through our lives there are many different things for us to learn how to do aren't there?

Now not all of us can learn how to walk or talk, write our names or ride a bicycle.

- A very tiny number of us will be able to learn how to run fast enough to win an Olympic medal or how to bake a cake well enough to win Bake-off,
- however there is one thing that every single one of us can learn how to do.
- Jesus said it is the most important thing of all. Listen to this.

*“One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most*

important?” “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:28-31)

Who can tell me what the **most important** thing is that we need to learn to do in our lives?  
(Receive answers)

- That’s right.....according to Jesus the most important thing we need to learn to do in life is learn how to love;
- both God and other people.

So let’s think about how we learn to love God.

- One of the best ways is by spending time with Him;
- sitting quietly talking and listening to Him,
- getting to know Him as we read our Bibles.

Another way that we learn how to love God is by obeying Him;

- doing the things that He asks us to do,
- and making Him the most important person in our lives.

Learning how to love other people is about wanting the best for them.

- That will often mean us needing to give to that person in some way.

So loving a teacher would mean that we choose to give that teacher respect, instead of being rude!

Loving another child we see in the playground who is upset would mean that we choose to give that child our time and comfort, instead of ignoring them.

Loving a person we see on the television who has no food to eat would mean that we choose to give our money to an aid organisation, rather than spending it all on ourselves.

Every single day we will all be given many different opportunities to learn how to love both God and other people.

- So let me encourage you to learn the most important thing of all,
- how to love.

[You may like to end by singing the song: “God is love” (alternative title – “Love the Lord with all your heart”) by Becky and Nick Drake © 2011 Thankyou Music)