

Short Talk

(SHT144)

**Do we take the
people who love us
for granted?**

© Jane Hulme 2019

ALL AGE WORSHIP
RESOURCES.ORG



SHORT TALK: “Do we take the people who love us for granted?”

- Aim of Short talk:** To challenge people to show their appreciation to those who love them and to not take them for granted.
- 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:** Loving others, Gratitude, Mothering Sunday
- Biblical references:** Luke 15.1-3, 11b-32
- Lectionary:** Year C – The 4th Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday
- People:** This All Age talk includes a simple monologue given by either the person leading the talk or by someone else whom you need to prepare beforehand. The person giving the monologue needs to look like a man so if a woman is doing it they need to wear a man’s jacket and a cap.
- Props:** You need a Power Point slide (see Appendix) with the following pictures on it:
 1) a tap with water coming out of it,
 2) a bus and train,
 3) a lamp shining.
- Alternatively you could use a piece of card with the pictures either drawn on it, or stuck on it.

.....
 (Project Power Point slide or hold up card)

I wonder if any of you can tell me what these 3 pictures have in common?

- a picture of running water,
- transport,
- and electricity.

(Receive answers)

For most of us, these 3 things are things that we can easily take for granted;

- in other words we aren’t often grateful for them because we are used to having them around!
- It is only when they are taken away that we realise how important they are to us;

So if there is a water shortage and we cannot just turn on our taps we realise how important water is.

If there is a power cut and we have no electricity, we realise how wonderful electricity is,

- or if there is a bus or train strike we realise how much we rely on public transport to get to work or to school.

When we are used to things being there, we can take them for granted.

But it isn't simply things that we take for granted we can also take people for granted,

- especially the people who love us.

Jesus told a story about a young man who took his family for granted. Let's hear what He has to say: *(Enter person giving monologue or service leader turns around, puts on a coat or other article of clothing to give the monologue and then turns back to the congregation to speak. You could either use the headings below to improvise, or the full version of monologue below)*

Family

I lived at home with my dad and older brother, but after a while I got really fed up and decided that I wanted my freedom to go and enjoy the world. So I said to my dad: "Father, give me my share of the estate."

Now normally you didn't get your dad's money until after he had died, but I didn't want to wait – I wanted to enjoy his money now.

Freedom!

Amazingly my dad divided his property between me and my brother. I quickly packed up, left home and went to live in another country.

At first I had a fantastic time living the high life on my dad's money; parties, drinks, girls, more parties, fun, fun, fun. I was free to do what I wanted to do when I wanted to do it.

Famine

But then my money ran out. To make things worse the crops failed in the country I was living in so I had no food to eat. I managed to get a job but it was the lowest job of all – feeding pigs. I was so hungry I even wanted to eat what the pigs were eating.

Father

As I was feeding the pigs one day my mind went back to my dad. He was such a kind and loving dad and so generous. I knew that the people he hired to work for him were fed really well; so well in fact that there was food to spare. I realised that I wanted to go home again, but how could I go home as a son after treating him so badly? I would ask him to hire me after I had said I was so sorry for the way that I had treated him.

Forgiveness

*So I headed back home. Can you imagine my surprise when on getting near to home, my father came rushing out of the door, threw his arms around me and kissed me. I said to him: "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But my father instead of rejecting me forgave me. He wrapped me in the best robe and put a ring on my finger and sandals on my feet. He killed the fattened calf so that there would be a feast in my honour saying: "this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." *(Exit person giving monologue but if it is the service leader – they turn around, remove their coat and turn back again)**

In Jesus' story the young man took his father's love for granted didn't he?

- When he lived at home he didn't appreciate the love and kindness of his father.
- He didn't appreciate all that his father did for him and all that he provided for him.
- It wasn't until it was all taken away that the young man suddenly realised what he had lost.

It is easy for us to take Father God's love for granted too isn't it?

- Taking for granted His care for us,
- His kindness, generosity and goodness.
- Let's make sure that we never do that.

Today it is Mothering Sunday, so it is also a good time to recognise how precious and valuable our mothers are.

It is so easy to take our mums love for granted isn't it?

- We tend to assume that they will always be there doing things for us,
- helping us and looking after us.
- As a result we can often forget to say "thank you mum" or be grateful to them.

How about after church today you say to your mum something like:

"Thank you mum for loving me."

- You might like to show how grateful you are by doing something to help your mum,
- or by giving her a gift.

Whatever you do, let's never take those who love us for granted, but stay grateful for who they are and what they have done for us.

Appendix – Pictures for Power Point slide

Running Water



Transport



Electricity

