

Come and See 2024: Caring for the environment Schools and families Lent course 2024

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Hi, welcome to video six of the Come and See series for 2024, my name is Laura-Anne and I'm the children's leader here at All Saints Church in Marlow. Over the last 6 weeks we've been looking at love. Did you know that the word love is mentioned over 300 times in the Bible? So, it's a really important topic to talk about. We've heard that God's love is unconditional and we are recipients of his boundless love, which enables us to love others.

Christians believe that God loved each of us so much, that he sent his only son Jesus to Earth to die for each of us... but what does it mean to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength? How can we love our neighbour in service to God's command and the importance of caring and loving for the world God created? So, for our final week we are looking at the importance of sharing our faith and the good news of God's love with others. Besides the people living near you, who else could be considered your neighbour, in a broader sense of the world? Can you think of examples in your own life?

The dictionary definition is a person living next door to or very near to the person referred to, but a neighbour in the context of the Commandment love your neighbour as yourself as Jesus told us in Mark 12:31, is that a neighbour is anyone who needs our help or kindness. So, I would like you to have a think, what are some creative ways you can show love to your neighbours, both near and far? How might these actions make a difference in their lives and in yours? So we could help them with shopping, make a meal for them, help with chores, look out for them and their property, there are so many things we can do that will practically help and I'm sure you all came up with lots of fantastic ideas.

But the biggest thing we can do is share our faith with them. Christians believe that they are commanded by Jesus to spread the good news in Matthew 28: 19-20 Jesus said therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you and surely I am with you always to the very end of the age. Christians believe that they will be blessed by God when we tell others about him and how much he loves each and every person and how life with God in it is forever.

But what does that look like in today's world? To share faith, it can be very scary to tell our friends and especially those we don't know well about our faith, the thoughts that can go through our heads about sharing faith can be very negative and worrying. We might find ourselves anxious and frightened of judgment but Christians believe that we can ask God to give us the courage and the strength to share our faith. Christians believe sharing faith doesn't have to mean standing on a table and shouting "I'm a Christian", it can be walking away when friends are gossiping, seeing that someone is stood alone and going and saying hello to them. It's forgiving those that have hurt you, it's showing kindness, it's sharing the excitement in your life, it's not judging others and it's showing Jesus's love through our actions every day.

It doesn't seem as daunting when we think of it as just going about our daily activities, but the best way to share our faith is to show our faith daily. Christians believe God has enough love for everyone

in this world so it's really important for us to share our faith with others so that they can also get to know God.

So, I invite you to share your faith with someone this coming week, for Christians this means showing Jesus's love through your actions, telling them the good news that Jesus died for them, that God loves them and wants to have a relationship with them, but don't worry if this feels like a massive task.

Pray, ask God to give you courage and situations to share your faith, opportunities to show Jesus's love through you and remember Christians believe God is always with us, to help us in these situations. You are not alone, and he will help you. So how can sharing your faith or beliefs with others be a form of showing love? What are some sensitive and respectful ways for you to do this?

Thank you so much for joining us for the past six weeks on our Come and See journey, we hope this series has been really helpful to you in your life, in your studies and your schoolwork, in your relationships and particularly with your faith.