

# GATHERING POINT 4

## GOD LOVES YOU



### SESSION SUPPLEMENTS

**The Pope teaches that our definition of love must start with Jesus on the cross. Why do you think he says this?**

Jesus' death on the cross was the ultimate expression of love - to give up our life for another is the furthest we can go to show our love. Jesus came to the world to show us how much God loves us, and we should do our very best to live up to His example.

**In what way is Jesus' death "love in its most radical form"?**

Death is a very extreme way to show love - it is the ending of one's existence in this life, totally selfless and giving of everything a person has. It is the complete sacrifice.

**In what ways are you asked to make sacrifices for Christian love?**

We are asked to die to ourselves every day - to deny ourselves things that we want in order to show love to others and to make them happy. Let the other person have the last slice of cake, give the poor person the last of your change, give time out of your busy day to help someone else. These are but small sacrifices compared to the sacrifice that Christ made for us on the cross.

**How can we ensure that the different dimensions of love are present in our lives, and that it is not a "caricature of love"?**

A caricature is an image which exaggerates the main, recognisable features of a person in order to make them comical. We should not do this with our expression of love - if we only exaggerate the surface things, the most visible things, but don't back them up with the substance under the surface, then the actions mean nothing - they are a joke, because we don't really mean it in love. When we act in love, we should ensure that the action truly comes from our hearts.

**Where do we find joy?**

What things in your life bring you joy? Spending time with people you love, playing games, reading books, shopping, sport?  
The greatest joy in the world comes from truly knowing and loving God.

**Do we see God in our suffering?**

As God should be present in our joy, He is also present in our suffering - for it is in our suffering that we have most need of Him. When we have nothing and no one else to turn to, He is there with open arms, waiting for us to lean on Him.

## What kinds of poverty do we see in our world today?

There are many kinds of poverty

## Who needs us to listen, hear and respond to the words of the Gospel?

Those who cannot do it for themselves, through lack of ability or opportunity

## Who are those who have no voice in our society?

- Those who are marginalised and shut out by the social constructs we have developed
- Those who have physical or mental disabilities who struggle to communicate
- Young children who must rely on those older and wiser than them, who are often let down
- Those with mental health issues who feel all alone

## How do you show responsibility for being a "master of the earth"?

By loving all things and taking care of all of God's creation - nature, animals and fellow people

## In what way does man show that God's work was "very good"?

Humans have done many wonderful things in the world, using the skills and the resources that God has given us. We have many ways of expressing love and doing good works, to give back to others and to God.

## Do you see Jesus in the people who you meet?

Jesus can be seen in those who show love to others, who are selfless and giving, and who have kindness and compassion even when they do not feel like it.

*In so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.*

## How does this scripture passage help you do understand the connection between how you live your life on earth and your eternal life with God?

When we show love to others on this earth, we are showing love to God, because each and every person is made in the image and likeness of God. Showing love to others is the easiest way in which we can show love to God.