

## Jesus loves the church

<p><b>1. From the start of the talk who or what was it that you really love? How do you show you love them?</b></p>	<p><b>2. Who is the church?</b></p> <p>(a) The building (b) The people</p>
<p><b>3. Jesus L_____ the C_____</b> How did/does Jesus do this? (see Ephesians 5:25-27)</p>	<p><b>4. Why should we love the church? What are some of the ways we can love the church?</b></p>

### Suggestions for prayer:

**Thank You** – that you love each of us and you especially love the church. Thank you that we are part of a church that loves each other.

**Sorry** – that we don't love one another in the church as we should, please forgive us and help us change.

**Please** – help us love each other sacrificially each and every day with our time, talents and treasure.

## Notes to help the grown-ups

Here are some notes to go with the first page of the worksheet. The aim of the questions is to see if the children have followed what was said if they understand the meaning too. Please do encourage them to have a Bible open in front of them as they try to answer the questions. Don't worry if the children only manage to answer some of the questions. They are designed to help prompt further conversations about things they've heard today.

### **1. From the start of the talk who or what was it that you really love? How do you show you love them?**

This simple question should help the children get talking about what they love and how they show their love. This might then help them think further about the kind of love that Jesus shows to us and how he shows it.

### **2. Who is the church?**

I hope the answer is obvious, the church is the **PEOPLE**. Throughout the Bible the word used for the church is the word used for a "gathering" of people. We see it used of God's Old Testament people and then of his New Testament people, believers in our Lord Jesus.

### **3. Can you finish the heading: "Jesus Loves the Church". How did/does Jesus do this?**

Jesus shows his love for us in the PAST and in the PRESENT. In the **PAST** we see that Jesus loved the church (all the people who would come to put their faith in him) by dying on the cross (Ephesians 5:25). Amazingly he did this before we had done anything to deserve it. It is undeserved love. It is grace! In the PRESENT Jesus shows his love for us by making us more like him. He does this by washing us clean with his living and active word (Ephesians 5:26-27). Even though we often let him down Jesus keeps on speaking to us so we might become more like him. This is the work of his Holy Spirit.

### **4. Why should we love the church? What are some of the ways we can love the church?**

Why should we love the church?

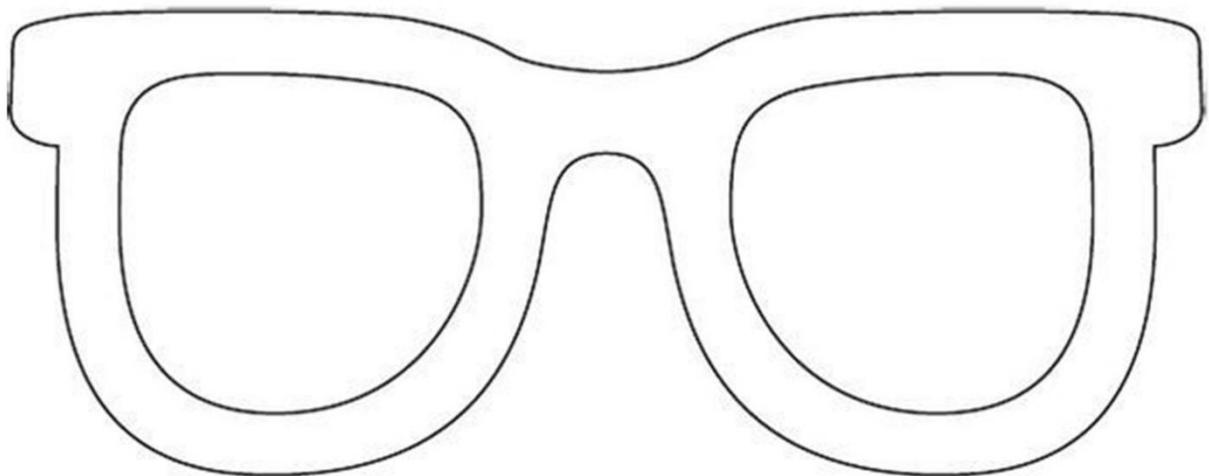
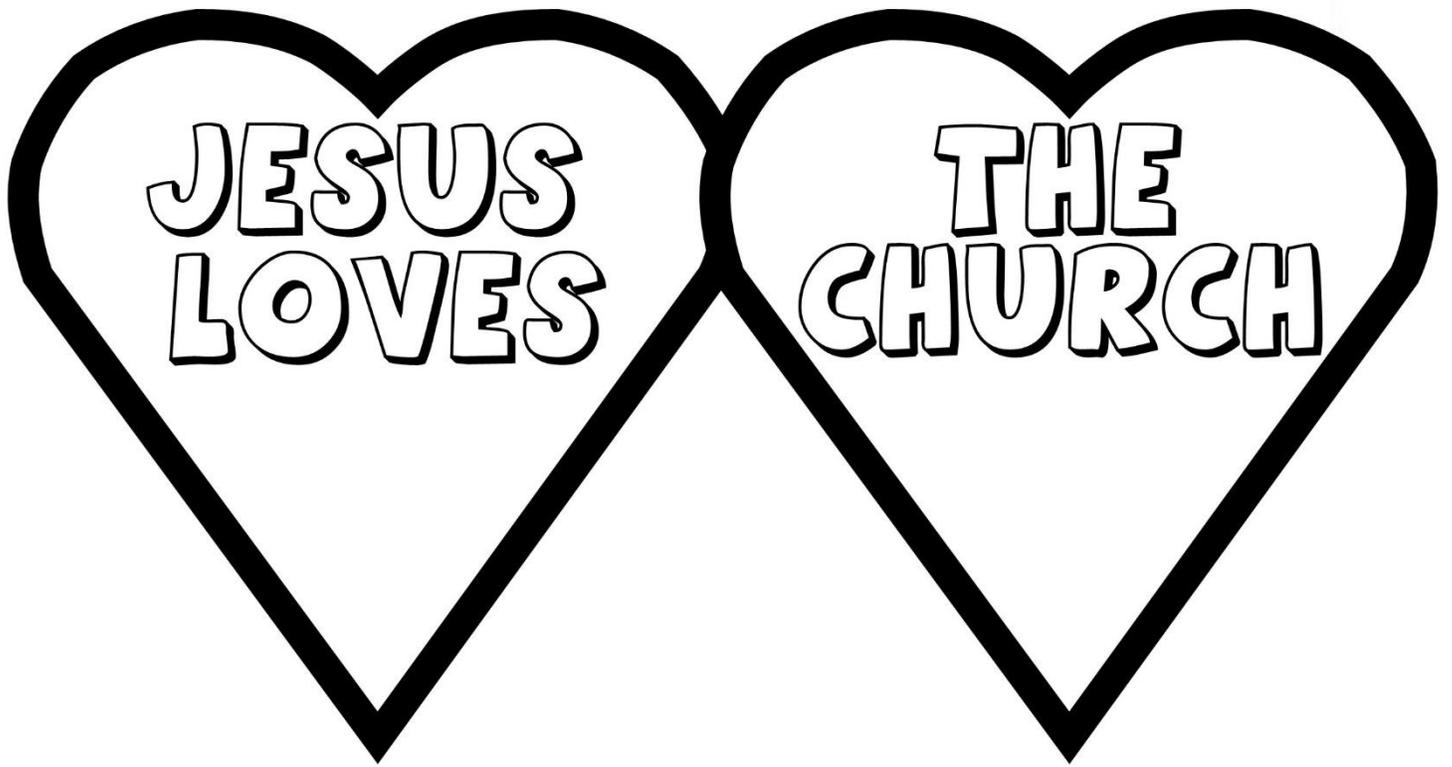
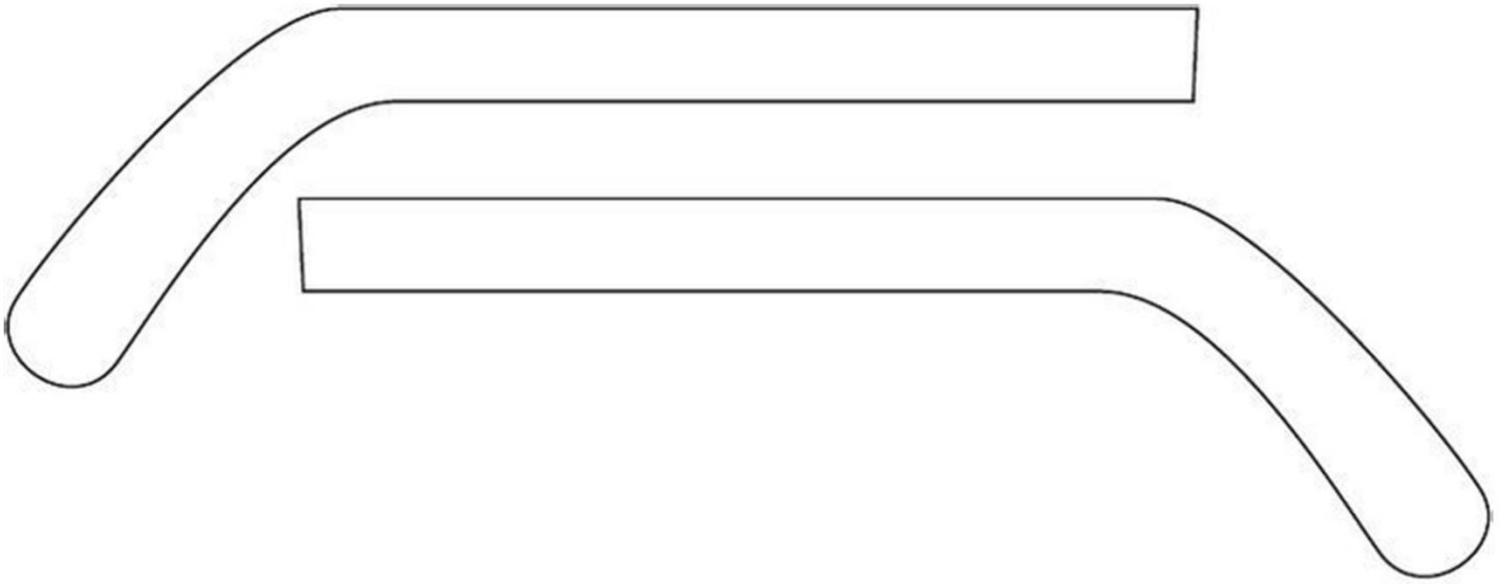
If we love the Lord Jesus we will love what he loves. It's clear from our passage that Jesus loves the church, so we will want to love the church too. In fact, living a life of love is really important.

*Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children<sup>2</sup> and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.  
**Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV 2011)***

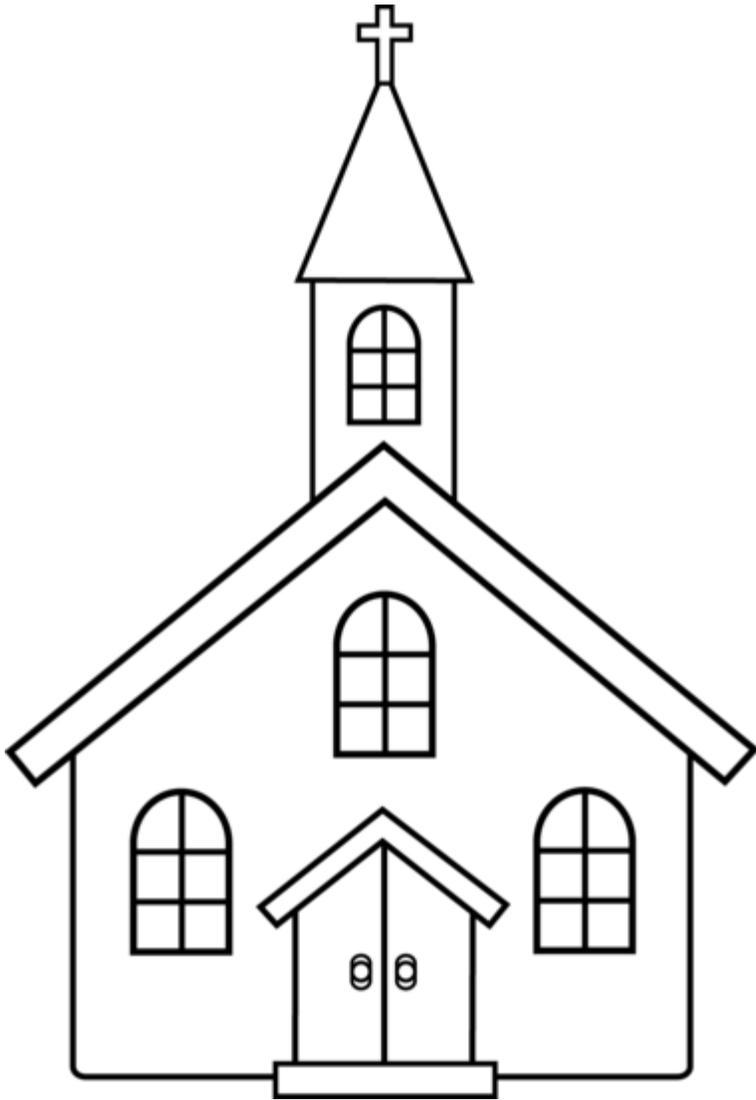
*What are some of the ways we can love the church?*

In my talk I explain that we aren't to simply love with feelings but with sacrifice – denying ourselves things we might enjoy, in order to do other people good. We might sacrifice our **TIME**, our **TALENTS** or our **TREASURE** to demonstrate love to other people.

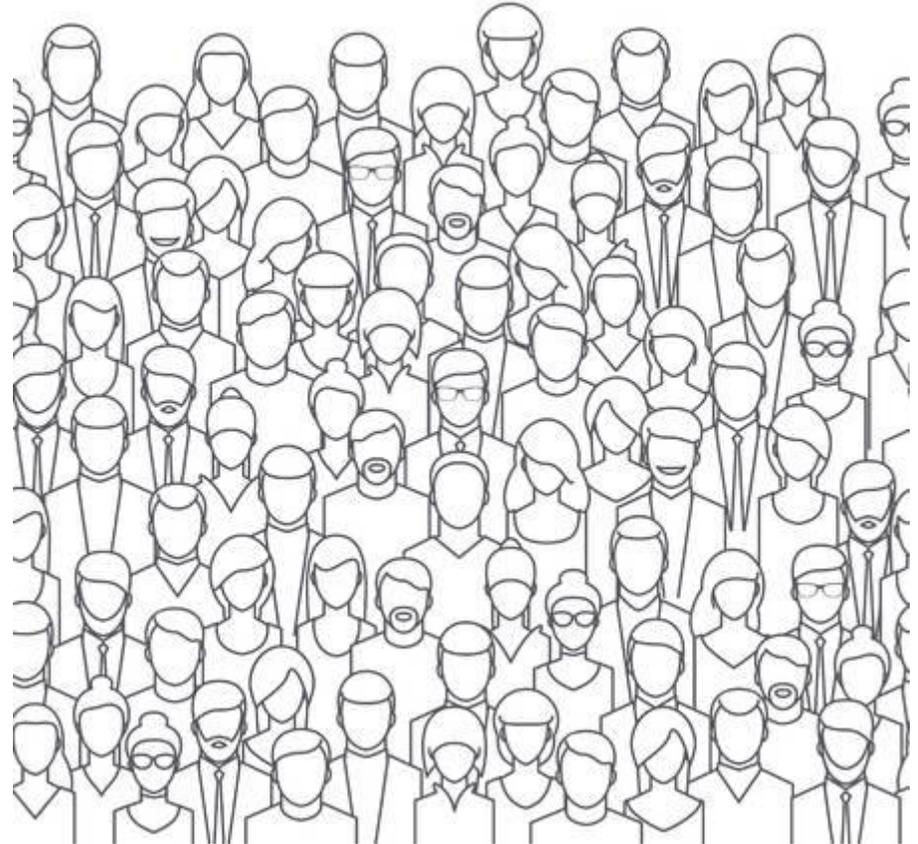
It would be a good thing to talk with your children about one or two people that you could demonstrate sacrificial love to today or next week. Try and think of one practical and concrete way of showing love. You might want to copy Ben's example and do some colouring in and send it to someone else in church along with a little note.



# WHO IS THE CHURCH?



**NOT THE BUILDING**



**BUT THE PEOPLE**

# WORDSEARCH

J	I	I	T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E	A
E	D	E	D	I	R	B	F	Z	U	W	M
L	Z	G	S	N	A	I	S	E	H	P	E
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Z	A	K	A	Q	B	S	B	Y	W	E	S
O	S	M	T	C	H	A	S	X	C	A	S

church

people

building

Jesus

loves

sacrifice

feelings

time

talents

treasure

bride

Ephesians