**[ 1 ] WEEK ONE - THREAD: LEA Value: love**

**KEY TEXT**: John 15:9-11 Abide in love

(adore, worship, care for, devotion to, fidelity, kindness, peace, trust, resilience, happiness, have esteem for, honour ...)

For Christians, the expression of love is always a response to God's love. It is way of being that leads to inner peace. Love flows from the heart and manifests itself in caring, kind and respectful thoughts, words and actions.

Other verses to look up:- Psalm 136, John 15:12-13, John 3:16, 1 Corinthians 13, Ephesians 5:1-2, 1 John 3:18, Philippians 2:12-13, Romans 12:9-11 ...

**BIBLE TEXT:**

*"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*

**TEACHING FOR TEACHERS:**

This is a wonderful passage that celebrates a life given over to unconditional love. Jesus makes it clear that this is God’s way: that we love as God has loved us. Reflect for a moment on how God shows love to humankind. God sends rain on the “just and the unjust”. God maintains the earth despite our destroying activities. Ultimately, God loved the world so much, that he sent his only son, so that whoever believes in him would not perish but have eternal life. God loves us graciously without expecting that we return. God does not love us because we are lovable or because we took the first step towards God.

**DISCUSS**

This word LOVE is always more than romance or just sex. According to Christian faith, “Loving people” is about asking the question: Who needs me to show love and care to them? There are people out there who need us. A young person is immensely wealthy in time and talents that can be used to help others. Also, in the 21st century, many young people have a significant amount of personal financial wealth that can be used to help others. A class group or PCG is a good place to build a deeper understanding of “Love” as a feeling to be learned. Which people around us need our help? Who is close by to us? What can we do to lend a helping hand? The possibilities are as endless as are the number of charity groups out there. We can help with organisations, and we can help individuals; the younger students; the elderly neighbour; the new class mate. How can a class or PCG get very involved in the particular charity focus of the College? So many young people are very willing to help, but need advice and direction on how to do it successfully. Caring for others is at the heart of the Gospel. The well-known Bible passage, John 3:16, begins with the words: “God so LOVED the world that he gave his only Son.”

God’s heart is a heart in action. What actions are within our power, to make a difference in the world? A staff member has the challenge to figure out how best to model a loving heart, without being “self-righteous”.

**ACTIVITIES**

\* Make “LOVE” posters for your room. Use words and images that remind students about how love is expressed.

\* Identify people in our lives who show unconditional love in their lives.

\* Present Bible mini-dramas based on stories where Jesus reached out in love to people that were often treated poorly or who were considered “unloveable.”

\* How did we help others when we were very little?

\* Brain storm ways that we can remember to help the needy by setting up simple weekly “rituals” (at home and at school)

\* Discuss how a school can be a place of “UNCONDITIONAL LOVE”, without making it trite or corny.

\* Make a life size drawing of a person. On the drawing, add representations of the needs that we all have, as human person. Make sure that you include the physical, emotional, social, psychological, cultural, spiritual and relational needs that we have.

BIBLE QUOTES to talk about ....

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever." Psalm 136:1-3

Jesus said, "By this people will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-36.

St Paul wrote, "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight." Philippians 1:8-10

"And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him." 1 John 4:15-17