**[ 2 ] WEEK TWO - THREAD: LEA Value: love**

**KEY TEXT**: Romans 12:9-21 Let your love be genuine.

(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:**

*Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.*

*Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.*

*Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay,"says the Lord. On the contrary:*

*"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.*

*In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good*.

**TEACHING FOR TEACHERS:** St Paul is guiding us into public expression of love. He invites us to consider how our devotion to God spills out in being Godly towards those around us. Central to this is the issue of revenge. The OLD WAY was “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” On September 12th, 2001 after the World Trade Centre Tragedy, a minister in Washington DC said in a sermon where Australian Prime Minister John Howard was attending: “If we live by that motto, then how quickly will we become and eyeless and toothless nation.” Young people need to hear that there is a better way than “revenge”. This is especially important in a 21st century cinema culture where many movies have revenge as a central theme to their story.

**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