

Growing Together

Inspired by the Christian Faith

Nothing can separate us from the love of God

Read Together



Paul was in prison in Rome, not because he had done anything bad, but because some people didn't like the things he said about God and tried to shut him up.

Paul was separated from his family and friends and not able to do the everyday things that he liked doing – which was to tell people about Jesus. But he could still write letters and he wrote a letter to his friends in place called Ephesus to encourage them in their love for Jesus and for each other.

It's like a beautiful prayer.

For this reason I fall on my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth receives its true name. I ask God from the wealth of His glory to give you power through His Spirit to be strong in your inner selves, and I pray that Christ will make His home in your hearts through faith.

I pray that you may have your roots and foundation in love, so that you, together with all God's people, may have the power to understand how wide and long, how high and deep, is Christ's love.

Yes, may you come to know His love—although it can never be fully known—and so be completely filled with the very nature of God.

To him who by means of his power working in us is able to do so much more than we can ever ask for, or even think of: to God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for all time, forever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3: 4-21 *Good New Bible*





Prayer Spaces

Can you find an old coat with a zip on it? Remember how your coat wraps itself around you and keeps you warm and protected from the wind and rain.

Pop the coat in a special place where you can keep doing and undoing the zip and as you do up the zip, you may want to pray 'nothing can separate me from the love of God'. (Romans 8:39)

Prayer

Breathe in gently and say, 'nothing can separate me' and as you breathe out, 'from the love of God'



Did You Know?

The Danyang-Kunshan Grand Bridge in China is over 100 miles long making it one of the longest bridges in the world. God's love is even longer.

The Amazon is the widest river in the world, it's nearly seven miles wide in one place, imagine trying to cross it. God's love is even wider.

Redwoods are some of the highest trees in the world. They can grow to over 90 metres tall (300 feet). Imagine trying to climb one! Some redwoods have been higher than Big Ben. God's love is even higher. Parts of the Pacific Ocean are the deepest in the world, one section the Mariana Trench is so deep you could fit a pile of 680 double decker buses into it! God's love is deeper.



Courageous Advocacy

Bravely making the world better.

Write a letter like Paul to someone who can't go out and about or draw them a picture with something very big on it – like a bridge or river or tree. Explain that God's love is wider or higher or longer than these things. If you can't post the letter or picture, can you show it to the person on facetime or send a picture of it in a message?



Create and Make Inside and Outside

Can you make a den? Can you make it into a mini home?

As you sit in your new mini home, think about what it might mean for Jesus to make a home in your heart.

Create an obstacle course – you may want to do this outside. Is there something wide to cross? Is there something high (but safe) to go over or under? How long and far could you hop or skip or run in the course? As you do these things remember how wide and long and deep and high God's love is.



Family Fun

Play dominoes (you can make a set out of cards if you don't have any, for ideas go to <http://www.dltk-cards.com/dominos/> and see how long you can make the cards stretch. Play 'Jenga' and see if you can keep going higher and higher with each game. If you fancy playing with water, play with things that sink or float. Talk about the depth of the water.

Think about and find things that have roots. Talk about how the roots work and how they feed the plants. Paul said, 'I pray that you may have your roots and foundations in love' what do you think he meant by this?



Under 5s

Make some gloop (a mixture of cornflour, water and possibly food colour to the consistency of custard).

As the children trace their fingers making patterns, talk about how the gloop slowly catches up. This is like God's love, it goes in any direction up, down, over, under—it's everywhere!