

Rooted Episode 1

Family discussion material

Love and Joy

WARM UP ACTIVITY

Everyone will need:

- pen
- piece of paper

Write down the name of everyone in the group on your paper, leaving space to write below it.

Below each name, write down something you really like about the person. Something like this:

Mum	
Always kind to me	
Dad	
Makes me laugh	
John	
Makes cool games	
Karen	
Me ;-)	
Jill	
Has the best smile	

Before sharing the pieces of paper with each other, you can mix them up and pick a volunteer to read out a few. See if you can guess who wrote each description.

Now put all the pieces of paper down, gather round them and have a good look.

It's a wonderful feeling isn't it? The Bible says it is so important that we **"encourage one another and build each other up"** 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Can you imagine a world where people were encouraging and building one another up in this way all the time? That's what followers of Jesus are asked to do.

THE BIG THINK

“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 them.” 1 John 4:16

God is love. That's possibly the best news in the universe! Of all the things that God could be he is - and always has been and always will be - love.

The Bible makes it so clear that 'love is greatest' - it's the most powerful force in the universe because God is love.

Close your eyes for a moment and we are going to go on journey back to when the world was very young. I'm going to tell you the first and most terrible lie ever told.

In your imagination, look around you at the garden of Eden. This is a perfect place that God has gifted to the first man and woman to show them how much he loves them. Can you see the trees reaching up to the sky showing how huge his love is? Can you feel the sunshine showing how warm his love is? Can you hear the birdsong showing how beautiful his love is?. Can you see the garden showing how perfect his love is?

Now can you see a snake slithering up? He is about to whisper the first lie:

“Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

God did not say that at all! But like all the best lies it is based on a truth. There was only one tree they must not eat from - if they ate from that tree they would die. Can you see how dangerous the lie was? It was implying that God did not love them, that He was only trying to steal their joy and restrict them, not protect them.

People still believe that terrible lie today. Tell the snake to be gone! Open your eyes now. Look around you at all the good things God has given you. Look at your home, your family and the beautiful world that God has made for us to enjoy.

Because of that first lie, and because people chose to believe it, the earth is no longer the perfect place that God intended. But God has never stopped loving us. He never will stop loving us because 'God is love'. He had a rescue plan that would prove to us once and for all how much he loves us:

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us." 1 John 3:16

But more about that another time...

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How easy or difficult do you find it to believe that God is love? Are there times when you find this particularly hard or particularly easy?
- What are some of the gifts that God has given to us that you are most grateful for?
- What things in our world make it harder for us to believe that God is love?
- Can you think of some ways that we can 'encourage and build one another up'?

PRAYER

- Use your pieces of paper from earlier to spend some time thanking God for the people in your family. You can thank Him for the good qualities that you wrote down or for other ones.
- If there were things that came up in discussion about things that make it harder for us to see and experience God's love, pray about these. Bring them to Him and ask for His help.
- Pray that we would know and experience that joy that comes from being loved by God and from loving one another.