*Conclusion*

*10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

**1 John 4:10**

**Questions for discussion**

Is there anything exciting you have learned today?

Are there any questions that arise?

How does what you’ve heard make you feel?

Love is perhaps an obvious characteristic to find in God. How do you react to the idea that God might ‘hate’? What does he hate?

How do you react when you hear that God loves all he has made, even the evil person?

And why (do you think) is it so hard for some people to love *God*?

**Personal application**

How will what I’ve learnt today make a difference to the way I view God (and others)?

Is there anything new I have learned about God today?

What changes might I make in the light of this?

**THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE 1**

**HANDOUT**

**The origin of love**

*Introduction*

Start with God’s self-revelation.

Just a convenient idea?

The ‘Royal Law’ (James 2:8)

*The Origin of True Love*

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

**1 John 4:7-8**

*God’s Love is a Trinitarian Love*

*God’s Love is an Extravagant Love*

Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. **Gen 1:29**

*God’s Love is a Universal Love*

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. 9 The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

**Psalm 145:8-9**

*God’s Love is a Secure Love*

“For [God] chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ.”

**Eph 1:4-5**

*God’s Love is a Strong Love*

Covenant love - *‘Hesed’*

*God’s Love is a Saving Love*

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, so that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life”

**John 3:16**

*God’s love is a gracious, unmerited love*

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**Rom 6:23**

*God’s Love is a Strange Love*

For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. 7 The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. 8 But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

**Deuteronomy 7:6-8**