

ROOTS YOUNG PEOPLE

Go to www.rootsontheweb.com for all templates, links and images. Find Bible notes and more prayers on p.14. Use the BIBLE section below first, then choose activities from the other sections. Extra ideas can be found in *Explore & respond* opposite.

BIBLE John 14.15-21

Warm up 5 mins E

Set up a simple game of volleyball to play in two teams, with a net or a string marking the dividing point. Explain the rules before you begin (the basic rules can be found on the [WEB](#)). Every time a rule is broken, blow a whistle to emphasise your authority as umpire. For smaller groups, you can illustrate the same point with a game such as Jenga™ or Twister™.

Highlight it 10 mins W

Give out copies of **John 14.15-21** (see www.biblegateway.com) and two highlighters in different colours per person. Read the text together. Ask the young people to use the pens to highlight 'what Jesus asks of the disciples' in one colour, and 'what Jesus promises' in the other. Discuss what it might mean to show Jesus that we love him. Ask the group what they think the commandments are that Jesus is talking about.

Questions to discuss

- What does Jesus ask of us?
- What does Jesus promise us?
- Do you find this passage reassuring or challenging? Why?

EXPLORE

Jump it 10 mins E

Set a marker on the wall far higher than the young people can reach. Give each young person a sticky note and ask them to stand beside the marker and attempt to jump up and put their sticky note as high as they can on the wall. Stand back and look at how far short of the marker they reached. Remind the young people that we cannot do what Jesus asks of us without the Holy Spirit in us.

Role play 15 mins E

Ask the young people to think about some of the situations they go into in the week, such as school, their family at home, sports or activity clubs. Ask the group to create a short role play where they can explore how they might act in certain scenarios in these situations, if they love Jesus.

Picture pointers [WEB](#)

Questions for reflection [WEB](#)

- ▶ How might this image speak of relationship?
- ▶ How easy is it to balance the commandments in the Bible with the love which Jesus offers?
- ▶ What sort of things do you regularly do for other people, just because you love them?



CONNECT [GLOBE](#)

Life of love 10 mins WEA

Show the story of Mother Teresa (available on [WEB](#)). Alternatively, watch the film yourself beforehand, then in the session show a photograph of Mother Teresa and share how she lived her life demonstrating God's love through her actions. Discuss how her life demonstrates the connection between loving God and obeying his commandments. How could your group imitate her in a small way in the local community?

If...then... 10 mins WE

Before the session, prepare some sentences: 'If..., then...' For instance: 'If we love our parents, then...' 'If you train hard at running, then...' 'If you go to bed late every night, then...' 'If you work hard at school, then...' 'If you treat people with respect, then...' etc. Shout these out and ask the young people to call out good endings to complete each sentence, then discuss the concept of consequences.

[WEB](#) PostScript: Linking this week's reading to the news [GLOBE](#)

Listen

[WEB](#) See *Young People* page or *Hymns, songs & music* for links to these tracks.

Are we not one, Young oceans on *Suddenly (or the nuclear sunburst of the truth revealed)*
Intermission, Lucy Grimble on *Intermission*
One way, Hillsong united on *With hearts as one*

PRAY

Jesus, I love you 5 mins ES

Ask the young people to find a quiet space and privately spend some time in prayer, telling Jesus how much they love him, and to think about what this love means to them and inspires them to do. If they find it helpful, you could provide paper and pens for those in the group who prefer to write their prayers instead.

With the Spirit beside us 5 min ES

Gather the young people together in a circle and ask them to hold hands, as you pray: Holy Spirit, help us to live together as community, keeping your commandments, loving you and loving one another. **Amen.**

Live your faith [GLOBE](#)

Make a simple poster saying 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments' and stick it on the wall by your bedroom door so that each time you leave the room, you are reminded to do as Jesus asks. **ES**