

# LOVE OTHERS LIKE JESUS LOVES YOU

*'For me, the life of Jesus Christ, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role-model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none.'*

*(Queen Elizabeth II 2014)*



## WORD OF THE WEEK

**Luke 15: 1-32**



Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

God be in my head, and in my understanding;

God be in my eyes, and in my looking;

God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;

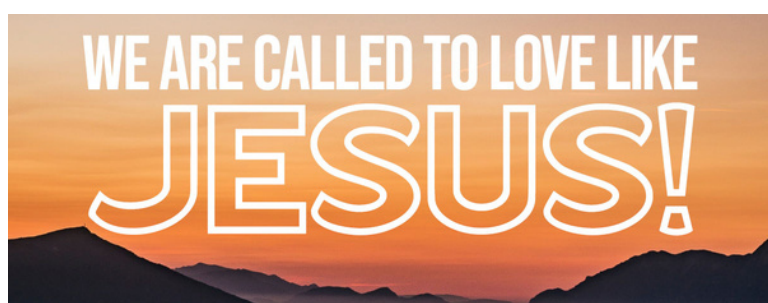
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;

God be at my end, and at my departing.

Amen.

The people listening to this parable would have thought Jesus was mad to suggest that a shepherd would leave his 99 other sheep to go after one! But Jesus was telling them and us something very special about how much God loves us. God loves each one of us so much that he wants none of us to be lost. Would you do anything to help others? Would you leave your friends to help someone in need? Would you risk being criticised to stand up for what is right? This week we are called to love how Jesus loves.

How did Jesus show his love for others?  
What can Jesus teach us about loving others?  
Talk to the person next to you about examples of  
when Jesus showed love to others and how we can  
put that into action in our own lives.



The parable of the lost sheep teaches us that every single person matters to God and therefore everyone in our school community matters and is important. No one is to be left behind, or left out. Everyone has a part to play. Everyone should be respected, looked after and cared for.

How can you live this out this week?

When have you not seen this happen?

When have you seen this happen?



"FOR ME THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK IN WHICH I TRY TO LEAD MY LIFE."

## QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Queen Elizabeth was a great example of someone who lived out the teachings of Jesus and loved others as Jesus loved her. Read through some quotes from Queen Elizabeth on the accompanying sheet and think about and reflect on how they might help us to understand better how she understood the call to love others like Jesus loves us. Take sometime this morning to read these quotes and reflect on the life of the Queen and her example of service.

## A PRAYER FOR THE QUEEN

Gracious God, we give thanks for the life of your servant Queen Elizabeth, for her faith and her dedication to duty. Bless our nation as we mourn her death and may her example continue to inspire us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



## A PRAYER FOR KING CHARLES III

We also pray for our new King and pray that he too will be able to live a life inspired by Jesus' example of love.

O God, to whom every human power is subject,  
Grant to your servant His Majesty the King  
wisdom in the exercise of his high office,  
so that, always revering to you and striving to please you,  
he may constantly secure and preserve  
for the people entrusted to his care  
the freedom that comes from unity and peace.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit  
God, forever and ever,  
Amen.

