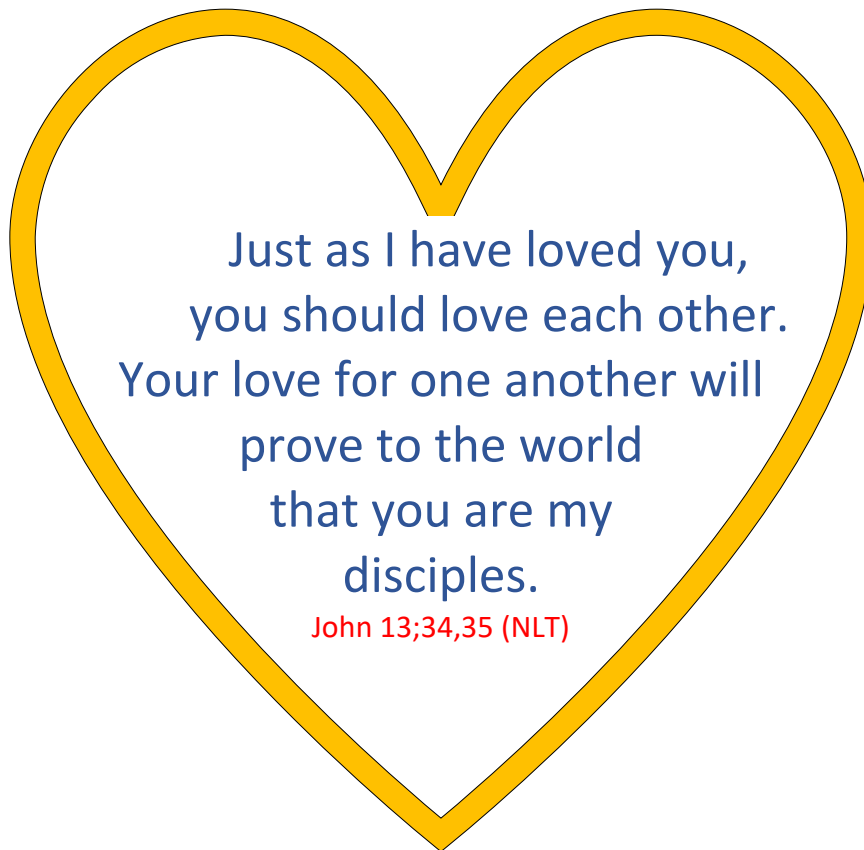




Jesus showed God's love more than anything else, by coming to earth to live and die to save us. Everything He did was for others and on the last evening of His life washed the disciples' feet – the humblest way of serving them. He said:



Let's ask Him to show us how to do that.
In our schools there are many ways we can care for others.
And also how to love the world around us by looking after nature
and doing our best not to add to the pollution
that is doing such damage to our precious planet.

Some ways to pray (for children)

Lord Jesus, please show us how we can serve others in our schools. Open our eyes to see where people need our help;
Open our ears to hear when people want us to listen;
Open our hearts to go out of our way and give of our time;
We ask it in Your name. Amen.

Father, you have made the world so beautiful and filled it with millions of kinds of animal, birds, fish and plants. We are so sad that it is all being spoiled - so please let us be part of Your rescue plan.

Show us each day good ways to love the earth and everything in it.

And as Spring brings everything back to life, we will praise You with thankful hearts! Amen.

Dear God, many people were ill with the coronavirus and some died.

Lots of grown-ups had big problems with their jobs and money, and children missed learning at school.

Please help everyone to be strong and hopeful and remember that even if bad things happen it doesn't mean You've stopped loving us. Amen.

Dear Lord, we ask you to help us to save the beautiful planet that you made for us. We want to get rid of the plastic that keeps filling our seas and oceans.

Soon our mistakes will cost the creatures of the sea their lives, we must protect them. We ask for your help to make everyone see that we have to take action. Amen.

Grace and Xanthe (Year 4)

Dear Lord, please be with all children in my school. I pray for kindness, compassion and forgiveness to abide in us always no matter what. Holy Spirit, help each and every child, teacher, parent, helper, dinner lady and lunchtime supervisor have a clear understanding that Jesus is full of kindness and compassion. Amen.

Kezia (Year 5)





Jesus said; 'Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.
Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.'
John 13;34,35 (NLT)

What does love look like in the context of school life? Jesus the Rabbi showed love to His disciples in various ways. At times He was gentle – at others tough and expecting them to stretch themselves in their faith. There were periods of relaxation and rest and then challenges to accept physical hardship and show courage in the face of the opposition. The hallmarks of Christ's love were servant-leadership and sacrifice. His prayers, teaching and actions always expressed the truth, holiness, mercy and kindness of His Father in heaven.

That's a lot to live up to! Such standards and demonstrations of love are beyond us without the power of the Holy Spirit of wisdom and strength. But if Jesus commanded His disciples then to love in the way He did, the same is true for 21st century Christians as we walk through life.

Let us pray for our own local school and the children and young people in our community. Show us Lord Jesus how we can love and serve one another:

Dear Lord Jesus,

Help each of us to follow your example of showing kindness to those who are struggling. Help us when we show a hand of kindness and it is rejected. Show us how to graciously listen and be in the right place at the right time to be your hands and feet in our school community. Amen

Prayers from our partners	Page 4 and 5
Ideas for prayer groups, churches and home intercessors	Page 6
Ideas for Primary School Children	page 7
Ideas for Secondary Schools to Love our Schools	Page 8

These resources are also available in the Welsh language <https://www.prayforschools.org/loveourschools/>



Love our Schools prayers

Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Lord, please instil in us that holy love that produces fruit of joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Grant us the grace to be able to prove to the world that we are Your disciples. Amen.

Celia Bowring, Prayer Coordinator CARE and Chair PFS.

Lord God, we pray for all those working in education, from staff in early years and nurseries, to those in further and higher education institutions. We ask you to bless and uphold them, give them grace and strength whilst under pressure, and compassion and enthusiasm when working with young people. Help teachers to motivate and inspire their students, even in this time of unprecedented pressure and disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Please empower Christian staff to reflect the extraordinary love of Jesus and to be wise but faithful ambassadors of the glorious gospel of peace. May they bring hope and grace to our nation's schools as they serve you wholeheartedly. Amen.

Lizzie Harewood, ACT Executive Officer

Father, thank you that You are our strength. Thank You that You comfort us, hold us and surround us with Your love.

We pray now for children and young people; we ask You for peace and rest for them during this lockdown period. We take a moment to name some children and young people known to us personally.

We pray for the individual circumstances that each one might be facing right now - whether fear, anxiety, difficult home situations or anything else. Please give them strength, comfort and peace.

Lord, we ask You to reveal Your love and your goodness to these children and young people. We pray that You would surround them with Your wrap-around presence and that they would know the depth of Your love for them.

In the words from Numbers 6, please 'bless them and keep them, shine Your face upon them and be gracious to them. Father, would You turn your face towards them and give them peace.' Amen.

Ebony Fennell, Coordinator Prayer Spaces in Schools

Father we pray for all children and young people who are struggling.
We bring to you all who are anxious and stressed because of many changes in their daily lives.

We remember too, those who are grieving.

We ask for your loving kindness and peace for each one

Please help us to show thoughtfulness and care to those we know who need some encouragement. In Jesus' name. Amen

Lisa Jones, Mission Enabler Scripture Union

Heavenly father, we lift up to you all Christian schools' workers and volunteers across the UK. We pray for them especially at this time as they face the challenges brought on by lockdown. Would you please fill them with your Holy Spirit, so that they might have peace, and *know* that you are still in control. Would you inspire them supernaturally and give them courage to try new strategies.

We also lift up the many children and young people who normally receive their support. Father would you be with them also, may they also find the support that they need at this time and remove any anxiety from their hearts.

In Jesus' name. Amen

Bev Smith, Head of Schools Work Youth for Christ

Dear Father God,

We lift up to you all children and young people who find themselves caring for members of their family. Please provide them with the help and support they need at just the right time. Thank you for the love and kindness they show to those who cannot manage without their help. Fill them with your love and strength on the days that are tough. May they know your presence with them at all times. Amen

Julie Jefferies, Open the Book Partnership Ambassador



Ideas for prayer groups, churches, and home intercessors

Pray

Meet with like-minded people and pray for your school; weekly, monthly, half termly. Find a date, time and a place that works well for everyone.

Link with other Christians and prayer groups and suggest they focus on schools and young people in February.

Ask teachers or staff if they have any prayer requests. Some groups have got permission to put a prayer box in reception or the staff room.

Pray and encourage all those you know who work in schools. What classes in which schools are represented by children and adults in your church?

Pray for senior leaders, teachers, teaching assistants and the whole school community, for the children and young people as they continue to cope with the effects of Covid-19

Remember young carers that they will be supported and have time to relax. Pray too that those with special needs will be able to cope with the many changes affecting their lives at home and school.

Perhaps put some of these prayer ideas in your church or schools work organisation newsletter or notices

Thank

Say thank you to a teacher or other member of staff - download our thank you card pdf from the website.

Bake a cake or give a gift: Bring a smile to teachers at coffee time

Involve your church/prayer group to help and put together a “care package” of small gifts to deliver to a staff room. Ask for a donation from church, be creative yourself and ask talented friends to create simple items.

We know of prayer groups who have given flowers or plants; cakes, biscuits, or chocolates; and even stationery gift pack with coloured pens, paper, sticky tape, and glue sticks

You may like to contact local business and see if they are willing to donate.

Ask your school secretary or headteacher or the PTA if the school needs anything.

Remember Covid-19 guidelines and put gifts in a paper bag.

Offer to help.

Get involved with the PTA

Helping the school start something “Green”

Recycling, using less plastic

Helping create an outside nature area or help in the school grounds.

Planting seeds or bulbs or even trees! - See <https://www.plantbritain.co.uk/>

Offering to help pick up litter

Maybe something to think and pray about for the future post Covid-19:

Reading with children or helping in the classroom, or joining an Open the Book team.

Check the List of Volunteer Opportunities on our website. Maybe you can help on a regular basis.

<https://www.prayforschools.org/get-involved/volunteer-opportunities/>

Ideas for Primary School Children

Please remember the Covid-19 guidelines in your school

- ♥ **Pray:** for your teachers, teaching assistants, lunch time supervisors and support staff. Ask your Sunday school leaders to pray for your school.
- ♥ **Say thank you:** to lunch time staff/ caretaker/ school secretary as well as your teacher and teaching assistant.
- ♥ **Make a thank you card** for your teacher, teaching assistant, caretaker or lunchtime supervisor. Write a letter or use the Love our Schools thank you card pdf. You could draw a picture with a flower for every child in your class!
- ♥ **Offer to help:** Ask how you can help in your classroom or at break
- ♥ **Be good and helpful** in class.
- ♥ **Help** in the playground. Pick up litter (check with school, wear gloves and ask your teacher)
- ♥ **Pray** for your friends and those you don't know as well
- ♥ **Warm Welcome** - Do you know the names of everyone in your school bubble?
- ♥ **Be kind** to everyone. Smile at people every day. Say something nice. Be ready to share. Look out for each other especially those who are struggling.
- ♥ **Obey school rules!**
- ♥ **Be kind** to the environment - Try and be plastic free with your lunch and remember your reusable water bottle. <https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/get-involved/what-you-can-do/at-school/>
- ♥ **Ask** your grown-up about their day on your way home or at teatime

Further great ideas available from Stewardship and 40acts

<https://40acts.org.uk/>

Ideas for Secondary School pupils to “Love our schools”

Please remember the Covid guidelines in your school

Pray

Pray for your friends and those you don't know as well

Pray and encourage all those you know who work in your school/college.

Find out which schools/classes the children/young people in your church are in and encourage them to pray for them too

Pray for your teachers, teaching assistants and the whole school community, for the children and young people – perhaps focus on a different class each day.

Christian Union - Ask teachers or staff if they have any prayer requests. Some Christian unions or prayer groups have got permission to put a prayer box in reception or the staff room.

Share your ideas with your church and ask them to pray for you

Thank you

Say thank you to a teacher or other member of staff.

Buy or make some cakes or chocolates etc or give a gift: Bring a smile to teachers at coffee time.

Get creative and make a thank you card. A pdf is available on our website if you prefer.

Involve your church/youth group to help and maybe put together a Care package eg hand cream, chocolate or a fancy pen. Ask for a donation from church or prayer group or be creative yourself and ask talented friends to create simple gifts.

Remember Covid guidelines and put gifts in a paper bag.

Offer to help:

There may be jobs in the school that need doing. Outside would be easier this year because of Covid-19

Talk to caretaker/school manager – perhaps you could help with some friends after school or during lunch time

Help the school start something “Green”: Recycling, using less plastic. Consider “Plastic free July” in any month! Choose plastic free options for your lunch and bring a reusable water bottle. <https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/>

Help in the school garden or help create an outside nature area

Plant seeds or bulbs or even trees! See <https://www.plantbritain.co.uk/>

Offer to help pick up litter

Hold a Fairtrade event/ promote fair trade - Help people overseas while you enjoy some fairly traded products.

Look out for each other especially those who are struggling

Bring a smile – perhaps send an encouragement card

We have heard of secondary school pupils helping in their local primary school – maybe something to think about for autumn 2021

Further great ideas available from Stewardship and 40 acts <https://40acts.org.uk/>