

**Safeguarding Note:**

This week's acts of worship looks at unconditional love and knowing what healthy love looks like. The episode from the Bible tells the story of the woman at the well. She was not accepted or loved by her community because of the choices she made. Her choices are not explored, but the focus is on loving others, especially those who do not feel loved or accepted. You can find her story [here](#).  
Therefore, we need to be sensitive to those who may not know what healthy love looks like and as always be alert to any signs of neglect or abuse that children might experience or witness.

### Day 1 - Unconditional Love

This overview plan accompanies the collective worship video that can be found here: <https://youtu.be/YkDGUZox3QY>  
Please ensure you watch any video clips to ensure they are suitable for your context.

Gather 	 Engage	Respond 	Send 
<p>Welcome to Worship Light the candle  "The Lord be with you"</p>	<p>Have you ever been given conditions for using or borrowing something. Conditions are a bit like rules. "You can borrow it if you promise to put it back, put it on charge and if you break it you have to pay for a new one?" Or you can only go out in the garden to play when you have done your homework. Both of these situations have conditions or rules attached. The opposite of giving conditions would be to give someone something with no conditions - or to give it unconditionally. What does unconditional mean?</p> <p><i>Unconditional love, simply put, is love without strings attached. It's love you offer freely. You don't base it on what someone does for you in return. You simply love them and want nothing more than their happiness.</i> The Bible tells Christians that God's love is unconditional.</p> <p>Christians know they don't have to do anything to earn the love of God, because he loved them even before they were born.</p> <p><b>1 John 4:10</b></p>	<p>Jesus wasn't worried that the lady was a woman and a Samaritan. He saw her as a person, who he loved unconditionally. This was not romantic love, but agape love or friendship love.</p> <p>Many Christians try to love others unconditionally as God does. I wonder what you think this means?</p> <p>God looks at the heart of people not the outside.  I wonder what loving people unconditionally actually looks like?</p> <p>For our prayer time today, we are going to use our hands to help us think about people we find it easy to love and those it is harder to love.</p>	<p>We will find out what happens next in the story next time.</p> <p>Remember loving people unconditionally is hard, but follow the example of Jesus and just see a person who is just like you.</p> <p>Go in joy, go in love, go in peace to love people unconditionally.</p> <p>Amen Blow out the candle</p>

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

Today we are going to meet another person who met Jesus. This meeting totally transformed their life and the life of their whole community.

**John 4: 4- 9 – The woman at the well**

So, Jesus left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. Now he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

In Bible times, it was not normal practice for men to talk to women, especially those they didn’t know. You will also remember from last week that Jews and Samaritans were enemies and did not mix.

So according to the custom of the time there were two big reasons why Jesus should not be talking to this woman.

Jesus however, went against these unwritten rules and stood by the woman to engage in conversation with her.

I wonder what this tells you about Jesus and how he feels about people?

Hold your hands together as we say a prayer.

I invite you to join me in prayer:

Dear God,

Help me to love people unconditionally as you do, not seeing what is on the outside, but what is on the inside.

There are some people I find it hard to love, so please will you help me to be more loving and kind.

Thank you God for all the people in my life who love me.

Amen



## Day 2 - Water of life

This overview plan accompanies the collective worship video that can be found here: <https://youtu.be/R1YCVz3KfSg>  
 Please ensure you watch any video clips to ensure they are suitable for your context.

Gather 	 Engage	Respond 	Send 
<p>Welcome to Worship Light the candle</p> <p>“The Lord be with you”</p>	<p>Have you ever been so thirsty that you can’t think about anything else but water?                      Scientists say you can only survive for a couple of days without water as it is so vital to keeping your body alive.                      Water is essential to life and brings life wherever it falls. Have you noticed how much greener the grass gets when it rains or how watering a dying plant can quickly revive it, allowing it to thrive again. Amazing to watch.</p> <p>In our last video we met a lady who encountered Jesus. Today we are going to find out what happened next...</p> <p>Before we do, let’s do a quick recap:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People didn’t want to talk to her because of some mistakes she had made in the past. She was lonely, as others in her community didn’t welcome her.</li> <li>• Water was usually collected from the well at the cooler parts of the day, in the morning and evening. This woman probably went at midday to avoid others. People were often mean to her and made her feel unloved.</li> <li>• She was a Samaritan - Jewish people at that time believed Samaritans should be avoided. She was often ignored. Because of all of these things, the woman came to the well each day feeling empty (show the empty glass) - unloved, unknown and unwelcome.</li> </ul> <p>This day, though, was different. This day, she met Jesus by the well, sitting there in the midday sun. For her, this encounter was full of surprises!</p>	<p>Sit quietly, be still and think about all you have heard in this act of worship.</p> <p>I wonder what words or images have made you think today?</p> <p>I wonder what you might do after watching and listening today?</p> <p>I invite you to join with me in a prayer. For Christians, prayer is just talking to God, who they know listens and hears their prayers. If you agree with what I have said, then please join me in saying, ‘Amen’.</p> <p>Dear God,                      Thank you God for water and how it brings life wherever it falls. Thank you for the new life you gave to the woman at the well just by loving and accepting her. Help me to bring life to people through my words and actions so they can grow and flourish.                      Amen.</p>	<p>Jesus offered the woman living water by loving and accepting her for who she was.                      So, how can you bring life to others through your actions and words?</p> <p>Go in love, go in peace and in joy as you bring love life to all those around you.</p> <p>Amen                      Blow out the candle</p>



• Jesus looked and spoke to her; nobody usually speaks to her! She felt acknowledged.

• This Jewish person was speaking to her - a Samaritan! She felt welcomed.

• Jesus knew the woman - who she was, all that she had been through, her past experiences and choices. She felt known and accepted.

Little by little, during the conversation at the well, the woman started to feel more whole.

She felt welcomed, loved, accepted. But Jesus said something else when looking at the water in the well.

Jesus said to her, "Whoever drinks this water will be thirsty again. Whoever drinks the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give them will become a well of life that lasts forever." John 4: 14-15

Jesus realised that this woman was looking for something deeper than water from the well this day. She was looking to be loved - not the sappy sort - but to experience kindness, acceptance, friendship and the feeling of being known.

Jesus was offering her this 'living water' - which would bring her life. Just like the plant that revives after being given water, Jesus was promising her a new life, a second chance.

He loved her unconditionally and that love would never stop. This love is like a never-ending stream of water - one that continues and will never end. This love and acceptance totally transformed her life.



### Day 3 - What does this mean for my Global community

See Term 3 Week 4 plan for more ideas.

How can we help people gain life through the gift of water - How is this an example of unconditional love. Love that gives life?

<https://www.wateraid.org/uk/publications/schools-challenge-ks2>

Here is a challenge to help thinking about us and them in the sense of the divide between what we and others have /have not.

<https://www.wateraid.org/uk/get-involved/teaching/ks2-resources>

This is ready made material for an assembly with thought-provoking information.

You could use this prayer:

For what we are about to receive,  
The water we drink,  
The air we breathe,  
The fire of the sun.  
The food of the earth,  
This company, These people  
This now, this here,  
May we be thankful  
May we be aware  
How every day is a gift  
And every breathe a prayer

*Martin Wroe*

### Day 4 - How do I know I am loved?

This video from the Church of England Faith at Home team recaps the Story of the Woman at the well and encourages the children to think about how do they know they are loved?

[Collective Worship for Primary Schools - Loved \(S2E2\) | The Church of England](#)



## Day 5 - Love others - Celebrate!

See CW Term 3 Week 4 plan for more ideas

Read All are welcome here by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman.

Reflect on how you as a class could welcome all and ensure all feel a part of, and loved within, the school community.

Perhaps the class could create their own thoughtful poem in the style of this book?



Use the EXAMEN prayer to reflect on love. It has 5 steps, so you might like to count them on your fingers.

1. GIVE THANKS for the times you have felt loved this week.
2. ASK FOR HELP to help others feel accepted, known and loved.
3. REFLECT on your day and think about the things you have done which have helped others feel welcomed and loved, and the times you may have missed opportunities to do so.
4. SAY SORRY for the times you may have made someone feel like an outsider - not welcomed or loved.
5. DECIDE how you will help others to know they are known and loved by you tomorrow.