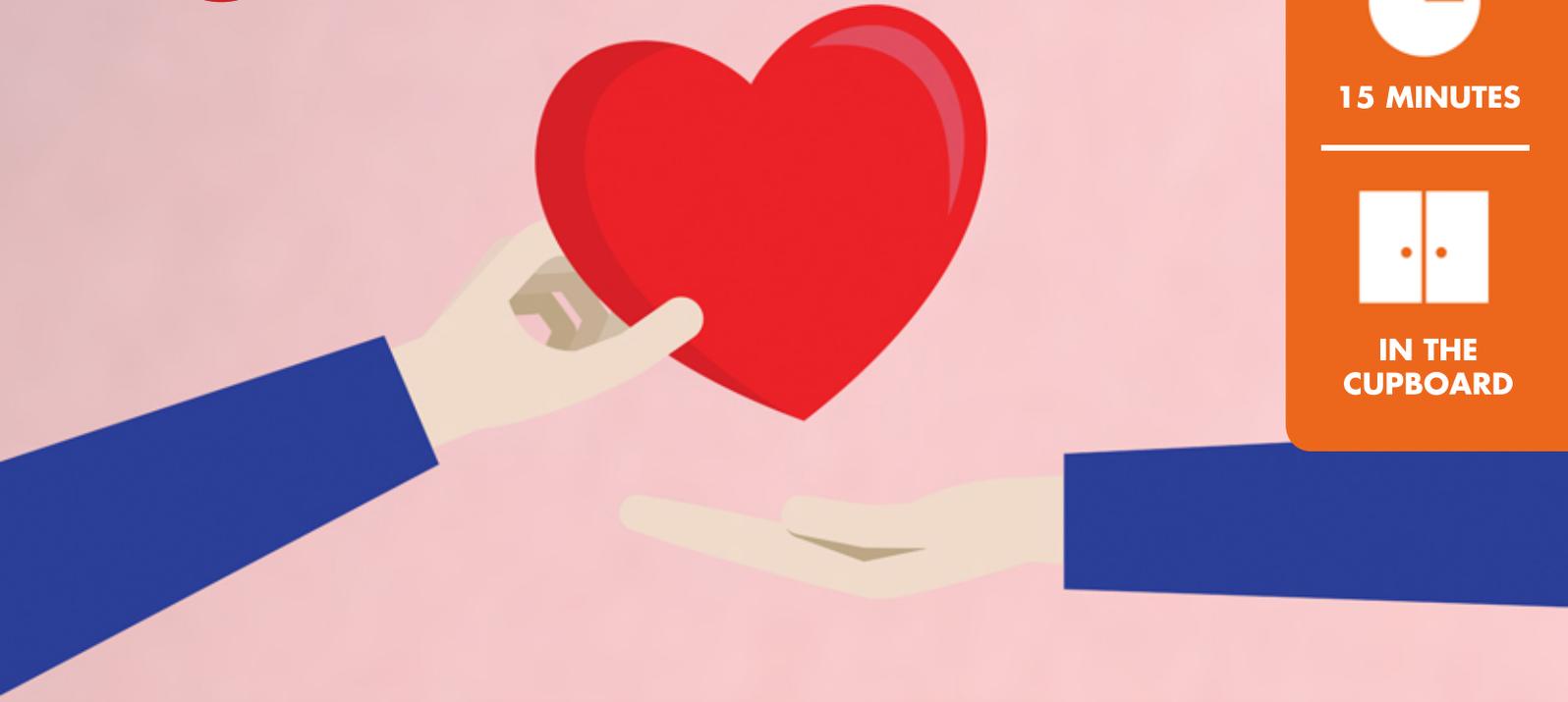




LOVE



▶▶ GETTING INTO THE ACTIVITY

Show how when our hearts are filled with God's love, that love ends up spreading to others. Can be linked to Valentine's Day.

Start by talking about love. What is love? How do we show our families that we love them? (being nice, giving hugs, behaving, saying 'I love you' etc). How do your families show they love you? (looking after you, protecting you, encouraging you, giving hugs etc). Love makes the world a better place. The more we love each other - the better the world becomes. That's the same with God's love for us.

Object Lesson: Follow the script from the activity sheet, reading out the sentences as you illustrate the lesson. Alternatively show our video of this illustration, which can be found at <https://vimeo.com/500911856>. After sharing the object lesson, if children have the equipment, see if they can re-create it for themselves.

Finally spend some time thinking about different ways we can share God's love with the people around us, in the way we live our lives and help others. How many different ideas can the group come up with? Finish with a prayer.

'If a person believes in me, rivers of living water will flow out from their heart.' John 7:38



WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Kitchen Roll
- Shallow Tray of Water
- Pen
- Washable Felt Tip Pen



KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE

If working in a face-to-face setting, please maintain social distancing as required. Children should ideally have their own equipment.

LOVE - OBJECT LESSON

Did you know, God loves us all very much. However did you also know that God wants us to share that love with other people? No? Well lets find out what he means...

(Start by drawing a love heart with a biro onto the bottom of a sheet of kitchen roll.) This heart represents us. However, that heart is empty at the moment and isn't very colourful or exciting. It's missing something...

When we believe, listen and trust in God, that heart becomes filled with God's love **(Colour the heart in with a washable felt tip pen)**. God loves us all so much, no matter who we are or what we look like. God wants to fill our hearts with his love, just like the colourful heart on this kitchen roll.

However, God doesn't want us to just keep that love for ourselves, he wants us to show the world how good God is. **(Draw 3 or 4 smaller hearts above the big heart)** Around us are lots of people who we see throughout our lives. People such as family, friends, neighbours and so on. These little hearts represent those people.

By living our lives in a way that pleases God, his love spreads to those people around us and they get to experience God's love through our words and actions. Let's see what that looks like! **(Dip the bottom of the kitchen roll into a shallow tray of water - the water should start to seep up through the towel and the ink in the heart should now start spreading to the smaller hearts above. The longer you leave it, the better the effect.)**

It might be by saying please and thank you, being kind to your friends, helping someone, praying for others, or in lots of different ways we live our lives. Every small act of kindness and love that we do spreads God's love to others and helps to fill their hearts with God's love too. How cool is that?

Do you think your words and actions always reflect God's love? Or could we sometimes be kinder and more loving to the people around us?