

## **Love – The Defining Mark of God’s Nature**

### **Notes:**

Reading – Ps. 103:6-19 comes from words in Exodus 34:6+7

- God is love – 1 John 4:8
- God chose to create the world because of His love, NOT out of necessity
- God created us out of love, not out of necessity: Psalm 139:13 ff
- God came to earth as human – as Jesus, to give Himself a human face, someone that we could see / relate to John 3:16
- The full extent of His love was not evident until we were dirty / sinful / unlovely
- God loves us each so much that He thought that you / me / we were worth dying for
- God never forces any of us, ever, to accept that gift of love & salvation but taking risks are what make us grow
- The word that God uses for His love in Ex.34:6 means unfailing/ loyal / devotion/ kindness / within a covenant (agreed) relationship

### **Questions:**

1. In 1 (maybe 2 or 3) sentence, explain the essence of your understanding of God.  
If this is based on His love, what is your understanding of that love?
2. In your experience, what stops not yet believers from taking the risk of trusting in the love of God?
3. In our journey of faith with God, there are sometimes decisions that we have to take that can feel risky and need us to trust totally in the love of God. Share any examples when this has been challenging or seemed almost impossible personally speaking but when we have then seen God’s amazing love for us/ our friends/ our family.
4. Romans 8:35-39 says that we can never be separated from the love of God. If this is true, and we believe the word of God to be trustworthy and true, how can we encourage fellow believers when they feel far from God?
5. How can we link the many other attributes of God’s nature (possibly mentioned in ques. 1) to His over-arching nature of love?
6. Read. Isaiah 43:1-4a These words are true for each of us as well as for Israel  
Write out and read regularly, inserting your name  
'For you \_\_\_\_\_ are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you \_\_\_\_\_'