




## A Journey in Love

Year 6: The wonder of God's  
love in creating new life

Parent Information

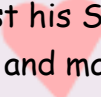


**Introduction:** This resource has as its foundational premise the belief that we are made in the image and likeness of God and, as a consequence, gender and sexuality are God's gift, reflect God's beauty and share in the divine creativity.

In order that children may grow and develop healthily and holistically towards an understanding of their gender and its implications for successful relationships, they must be at ease with themselves and grow in self-knowledge.

Children are encouraged to marvel at the wonder and beauty of God's creative love. The programme focuses on physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development.

**Foreword:** At the heart of the Christian faith is love, St John says that God is love (1 John 4:8) and whole purpose of Christianity is to live it as fully as possible in and through love. This means we have to link every aspect of our being, from birth to death, with love.



The alliance of the fullness of ourselves and with love links us with God the Father, through Jesus Christ his Son, and through the Spirit. Jesus accepted himself totally in the incarnation and made himself fully available to the world and to each and every one of us, especially on the Cross, the pinnacle of his love.

Parents and teachers are privileged to assist children every moment of their lives to further this link of love with their humanity and thus with God. The programme outlined in a Journey in Love is a brilliant reconciliation between the human and divine aspects of love and is truly fully Christian in its vision.

The vision is none other than the Kingdom of God, summed up by Jesus in the double commandments of loving God and our neighbour as ourselves.

**Dr. Jack Dominian**



## Year 6

Children develop in an appropriate way for their age, an understanding of sexuality and grow further in their appreciation of their dignity and worth as children of God.

We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution.

Each of us is the result of a thought of God.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

**Physical:** Children will learn how human life is conceived by looking at illustrations of the organs of the human body including male and female reproductive organs. Understand how a child is conceived in a loving relationship between man and wife and how a child grows from conception to birth within the mother's womb.

**Skills:** reflecting / observing / relating / identifying / researching / evaluating / accepting / presenting

**Social:** Children will recognise the signs of love expressed in those around us e.g. signs of love between those who care for us, loving couples, older people. Children begin to reflect on the different degrees of friendship that exist, e.g. school friends, close friends, best friends, mixed gender friends, lifelong friends.

**Emotional:** Children will understand that love is caring and sharing with another person and that relationships require time to mature and develop so that two people are more and more generous with their shared love for one another.

**Spiritual:** Children will understand that God causes new life to begin through the love that parents have for each other. We celebrate God's creative love in creating us as his children and recognising that we grow as human beings to the extent we give and receive love.

## Journey of Life

For each of us, life is like a journey.  
Birth is the beginning of this journey,  
And death is not the end; but the destination.

It is a journey that takes us  
From youth to age,  
From innocence to awareness,  
From ignorance to knowledge,  
From foolishness to wisdom,  
From weakness to strength and often back again,  
From offence to forgiveness,  
From pain to compassion,  
From fear to faith,  
From defeat to victory and from victory to defeat,  
Until, looking backwards or ahead,  
We see that victory does not lie  
At some high point along the way,  
But in having made the journey,  
Stage by stage.

Adapted from an old Hebrew prayer.

## Parents



- Help your child compile a list of the signs of love expressed in those around us such as parents, grandparents, siblings etc. Signs of love may be actions or words that are unique to the person expressing their love for them.
- Discuss the different degrees of friendship that exist in your child's life e.g. school friends, close friends, best friends, lifelong friends. As your child prepares to move on to secondary school discuss how some friends will continue to be important in their lives but they will meet a wider circle of new people with whom they may meet and make new friendships.
- Be prepared to discuss any questions your child may raise with regard to how their bodies are changing and the reproductive cycle.

### Prayer



We praise and thank you, Lord  
For the gifts of life and love.

Help us to use these wisely  
As we continue to journey in love.

Amen.

