

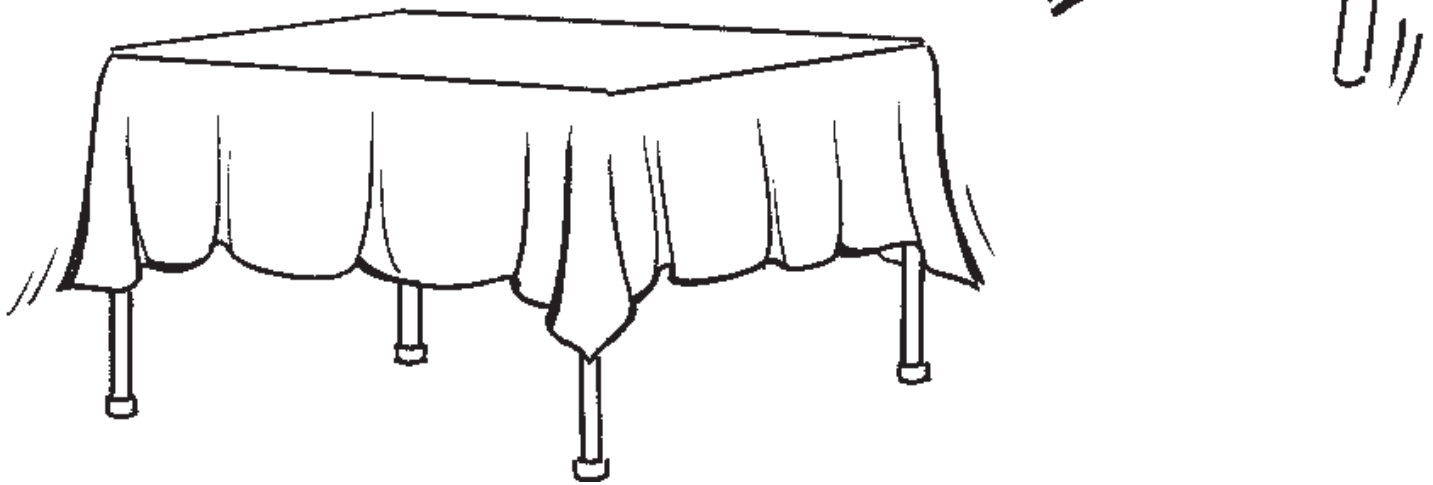
Love

Biblical Material: Proverbs 10.12

'Love covers many wrongs.'

You will need:

- A tablecloth.
- A sheet of paper.
- A table, blackboard, flip chart or similar object.
- A thick felt-tipped pen or chalk.



Introduction

When we don't like someone, we notice all the things they do wrong. We note all their faults and start to list them in our mind. Pupils can suggest faults or use the ones below, then place the list on the table or write the list on the board/chart.

1. Monday - she didn't play with me.
2. Tuesday - deliberately ignored me at lunch time.
3. Wednesday - she laughed at my painting.
4. Thursday - boasted about her new clothes.

Core Material

Once people get into this state of mind, the list keeps growing. It is difficult to break the pattern. One loving act of kindness can, however, break the pattern and make us feel differently about a person.

Read the Biblical Material. Ask a pupil to place the tablecloth over the table/chart and cover the list. Love is like this: it covers all the wrongs. In the Bible, the word 'cover' is used to describe part of the process of

forgiveness. The Bible links seeing and behaving. If people constantly see other people's faults in their 'mind's eye', and dwell on them, it is likely to affect how they behave towards them. Love 'covering' the faults means faults are not constantly seen and dwelt upon, which can help prevent people acting towards others in an unloving way. Please make it clear to children that this does not mean tolerating wrong.

Prayer/Reflection

Hold up the tablecloth while the prayer is said, then cover the list again.

Love is like a tablecloth:

It covers many things.

What our eyes do not see,

Our mind does not dwell on.

And hate does not grow into actions.

Help us, Father, to use love to cover wrong.

Note. For guidance on prayers and reflections see pages 9-11.