

LOVE IS DIVINE

You may remember, in grade 6 you learnt that we cannot survive without oxygen, water and food; and we need shelter, clothes and tools. But are you satisfied with those? No, you want more and more things. But some of them you can do without. They are wants. You learnt the difference between needs and wants. Without needs you cannot exist. Two of such needs are,

- belongingness - love, affection, acceptance
- security - protection, care, safety

We begin life with the feeling of love and protection. The warmth of the mother and her unlimited love were food for your growth, just as the milk you suckled. This love is divine. You grow and nurture with that unlimited parental love .

We grow up with love at home, in school, our neighbourhood, our country and our world. So you may understand that love is a basic need for you as well as for all of us.

Where there is care for others there is protection. You feel that you belong to someone. You are looked after and not left alone. You cannot live alone. You need people around you now and forever.

What will be the situation if you dislike, detest and disrespect each other in your class, have no feeling of kindness or understanding and are always at daggers drawn? If that prevails at home, at school, in the neighbourhood, in the country and in the world, will we have a home, a country, a world for all of us to live in peace and harmony?

Why do most of us find solace in our faiths? You must have experienced that your parents, apart from their daily routine of paying homage to faiths, go to church, temple or kovil, when their minds are disturbed, feel unsafe, insecure due to some reason. The cause may be a disease, dispute, disaster, disappointment or any other. Why? Because you pray for your protection, security, happiness and peace of mind. You believe that god's love is unconditional. All faiths insist and teach us to love each other unconditionally.

Activity 2.1

“Meththa, Muditha, Karuna, Upekkha”
(love, Loving kindness, compassion,
equanimity,

“Love thy neighbour”

“Love others as I have loved you”

.....
.....

Who has preached so? Find out. Collect similar statements made by religious leaders, to stress the value of love for the existence of the living beings.

Love and protection bring you happiness. The world will be happy, when you are happy. If you are satisfied and content, your daily routines become easy. You become conscious of what ever you do, be it at home, school or neighbourhood, you are calm, you are able to think, and do your studies well, you get on well with people. You have a lot of friends, You have a lot of people around you. You are not alone. You are more healthy, if you have a happy home, school, and a society.

Activity 2.2

Think of the people you love most and the people who love you. Make a list of them.

In your list you will include your mother, father, teachers, brothers, sisters, grand parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, father's friends, mother's friends etc.

Why do you think they love you?

What do you expect from love?

How do they show their love?

They:

- appreciate, admire and reward you.
- listen, believe and trust you.
- try to fulfil most of your requests.
- respect, understand and accept you.
- please you and do not hurt you, try to make you happy.
- look after your safety and protect you.
- care for your health.
- try to give the best education and guide you for your success.
- pay attention to you.
- plan and think of a safe and successful future
- advise you and are always vigilant.
- try to discipline you so that you'll be admired and respected by others.
- have a great concern about you.
- do their duty and take responsibility to show their love

and protection in various ways.

Think of the many instances at home they show their love care and concern about your protection.

Activity 2.3

Make a list of the situations and the people who help you or show their affection. Complete this.

| The individual | The instance | How they showed their love |
|--|----------------|---|
| My little brother Mother Father Sister Grand mother Grand father Aunt Uncle | On my birthday | My youngest brother hugged me and presented a toffee. |

In school you meet your principal, your teachers, your friends, and parents of your friends.

Did you think for a moment that the entire set up in the school is arranged for your benefit? This is how they show you their love and protection. From the time you enter the school till you leave, they look after you. They are all responsible for your protection and to develop your life competencies. There is a set of rules designed for your safety as well as for you to develop your personality. They are there for you to observe. What are they?

1. The time table.
2. Do's and don'ts to be observed
 - At the assembly
 - In the classroom
 - In the library
 - In the computer laboratory
 - In the science laboratory
 - In the home science room
 - In the dancing room/class
 - In the music room/class
 - In the play ground
 - In the swimming pool
 - In the school hall
 - In the principal's office
 - In the administrative office
 - In the school garden
 - In the shrine room/place of prayer
3. The various activities and methods are adopted to teach and for you to learn at every place mentioned above. It is the duty and the responsibility of the school to discipline you and guide you to achieve your goals by developing your talents.

Activity 2.4

List out the many things they do to protect you and prove their affection.

In the classroom

| The teachers | The things they do for your benefit |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| | |

At the playground

| The teachers | The things they do for your benefit |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| | |

Have you ever thought of your neighbours, people in the society who care for you **and protect you**.

The people around your house, in the village or city, on the road, or in the vehicles you travel.

They too have a duty and a responsibility to protect you. If we may list some of them:

- When you are on the lane or the path to or from your home they should be watchful to see whether you are safe. Everyone around should be alert and helpful. or
- When you are travelling in a vehicle to school without parents, they would be alert about the kids (exploitation or abuse by certain mentally sick people.) or
- In a bus they are concerned about your safety while getting in or down and inside the bus.
- Crossing the road, specially in front of schools, the drivers of vehicles using the road should be conscious about the children at pedestrian crossings.
- In shops or market places the children are sometimes misled and distracted by some when parents are busy selecting and choosing. Be concerned.
- At bus stands or railway stations, some bad people try to exploit children. As adults they should be concerned about children's protection.
- Drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and indecent pictures as well as unwanted or unsuitable pictures are sold to children. They try to attract children into their shops or places. As members of the society who love and care for you all, should be vigilant to protect you.
- Members of the Police should be strictly concerned about unescorted children who are on the road, in vehicles or public places, who become victims of exploits.

- Public health personnel too have a duty and responsibility to protect children. So they should co-operate with the school, parents and other organizations to make parents, public and children aware of the dangers these innocents are plunged into.

Activity 2.5

List out the people and the help you expect from them when you are out of the house on the road, school van, public vehicle, in a shop, market, bus stand or railway station.

As much as you expect love and protection from the various people you come across, you too have a duty and a responsibility towards them to respect their love and concern.

At home when the rest of the members love you, what are your duties and responsibilities to prove that you love them in return? Do you just enjoy and be happy amidst their love and attention? They too need love and care from you.

What can you do to prove your love?

- Help your mother, father and others in the family in every way you can.
- Listen to them. Converse with them.
- Show respect and gratitude.
- Tell them you appreciate them.
- Do not hurt them.
- Do things to their satisfaction.
- Keep your room neat and tidy.
- Keep your table, your books, your clothes, shoes etc. in the proper place.
- Have a time table prepared to work in the afternoon, after school and at the weekends.
- Do your homework, assignments etc.
- Do not let the principal or teachers complain about you to your parents.

- Do not let the neighbours, relations complain about you.
- Don't be fussy about food or other wants so much to the extent of hurting your parents.
- Try to understand them. How much they can afford to and express your gratitude for what they give you.
- Try to understand and believe that they do their maximum.
- Do not hide anything from them. Talk to them freely about the experiences in the school, in the neighbourhood, in the van or bus or any other place.
- Be co-operative specially when sick. Please don't be a headache to them. Be supportive to fulfil their duties towards you.

In the neighbourhood,

- Be helpful when you can do something for them.
- Talk to them. Be polite and courteous.
- Always be thankful for any help they give your family.
- Participate in activities they organize.
- Organize various activities with children in the neighbourhood certain activities like cleaning the room of a sick person, cleaning the house and garden of an helpless old couple.
- Offer help like purchasing things or taking messages.
- Keep company with them.
- Be alert about suspicious people.

In the society,

- Offer help-offer the seat to a pregnant mother or one carrying a baby, to an elderly person or a teacher.
- Help an elder to cross the road, carry a bag or get into a bus.
- Help a stranger to find a road or house, give proper directions.
- Be alert about suspicious people and inform your parents or teachers.

In the school,

- Be polite to teachers and the principal.
- Respect them and the leaders in the school.
- Observe the rules and regulations.
- Be punctual.
- Do your homework.
- Be attentive to teachers.
- Be helpful to teachers and not a nuisance.
- Be supportive to teachers at different activities and functions.
- Observe the disciplinary rules and guide others to follow.
- Help the children in the lower classes.
- Look after the little ones and be alert and careful about their protection.
- During feildwork, trips, sportsmeet, religious functions, hikes, camps, prize givings, concerts, offer your help by participating and performing your duties entrusted to you without playing truant.

You can comprehend how happy you could be by proving your care for others in return for the care and protection you receive from those around you.

How wonderfully we can live if each one tries to fulfil one's need of care and protection. What a beautiful place the world could be if every one could put into action empathy and care for others. It is the only word that binds us together. So don't you feel that Love is Divine.

Don't forget to learn to love yourself.