

Love

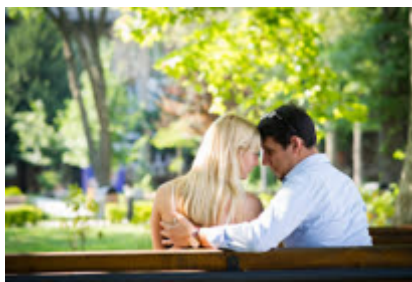
SPHE STRANDS:

**Myself – Making decisions –
Feelings and emotions**

**Myself and Others –
Relating to others**

Chatting

Display the following pictures:

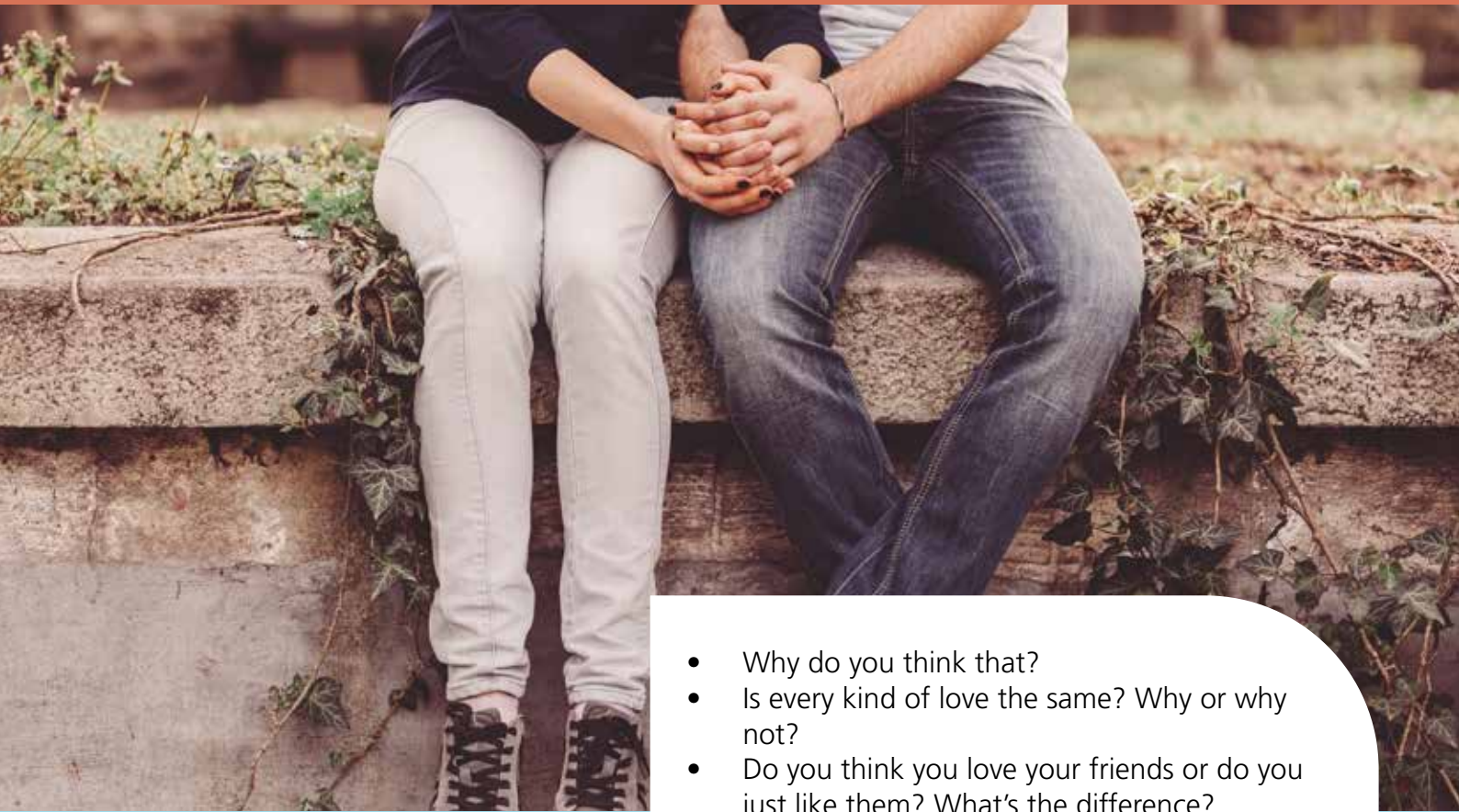


Take time to discuss each image asking questions such as:

- Do you think the people in this picture love each other?

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- Why do you think that?
- Is every kind of love the same? Why or why not?
- Do you think you love your friends or do you just like them? What's the difference?
- What is love?
- Explain to the children that love takes many forms – family love, love for friends, romantic love, love for pets and favourite possessions.
- Is romantic love always between a man and a woman? Explain to the children that when a person is attracted to someone of the same sex as them in a romantic way they are said to be homosexual or gay. Female homosexuals are known as lesbians.
- When a person is attracted to someone of the opposite sex as them in a romantic way they are said to be heterosexual.

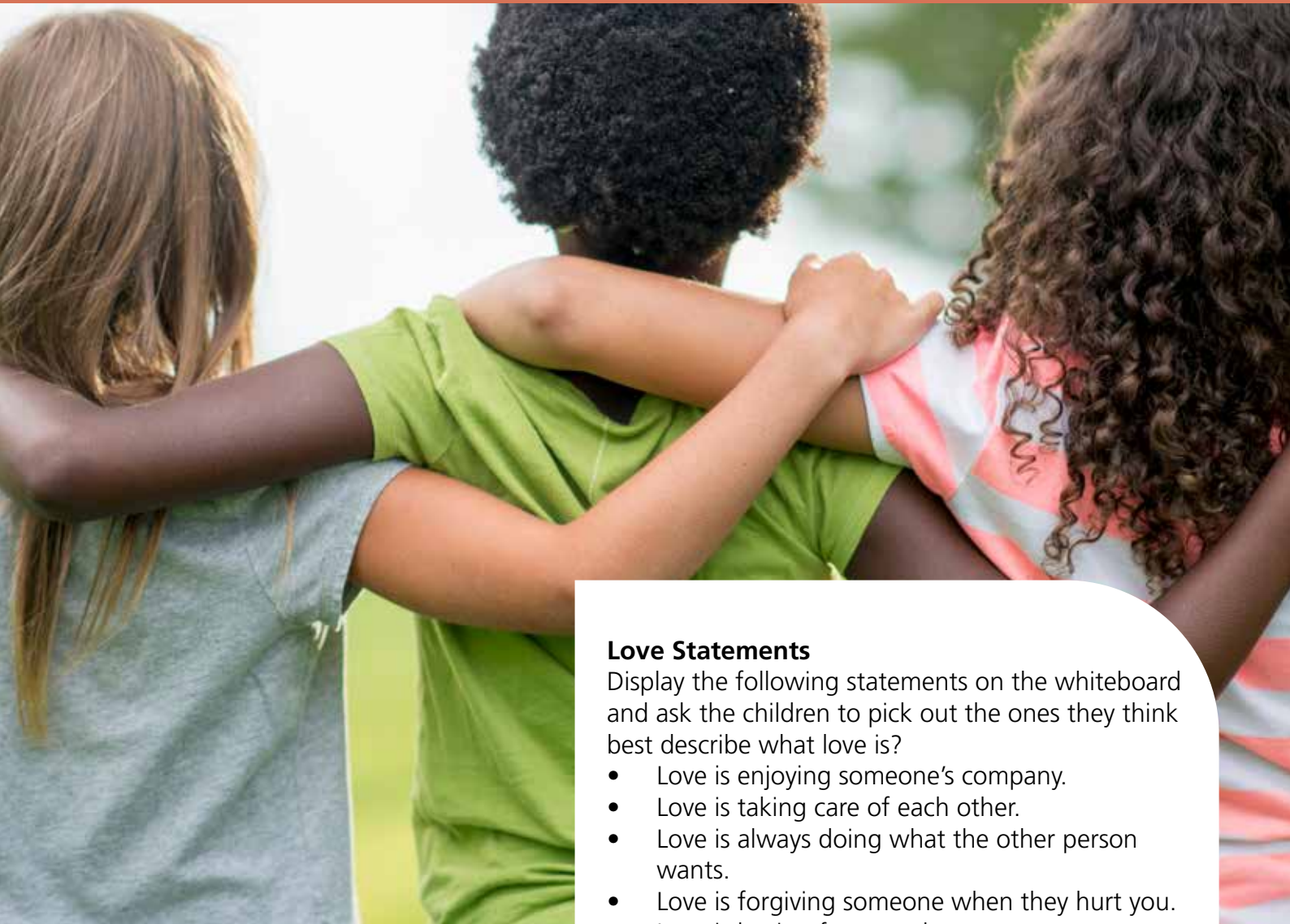
Different Kinds of Families

Invite the children to draw all the different kinds of family groups that they know in their own lives – two-parent, one parent, big and small families, families with grand-parents living with them, same-sex families.

- Invite them to turn to the child beside them and explain their picture to them.
- Ask if anyone would like to share their picture with the class.
- Ask if there is something that all the families have in common? Explain that love is at the heart of all families.

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Love Statements

Display the following statements on the whiteboard and ask the children to pick out the ones they think best describe what love is?

- Love is enjoying someone's company.
- Love is taking care of each other.
- Love is always doing what the other person wants.
- Love is forgiving someone when they hurt you.
- Love is having fun together.
- Love is taking care of someone when they're sick.
- Love is feeling excited to see someone.
- Love is give and take.
- Love is never arguing with someone.

Allow time to discuss each statement and encourage the children to consider love as something that is imperfect and something that requires give and take as well as making you feel happy.

Poem

Ask the children to write a short four-line poem beginning 'Love is...'

Here is an example:

Love is spending time with you
And knowing that you love me too.
Having fun and sometimes tears,
A friendship that will last for years.

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Reflection

Invite the children to sit with their feet on the floor and to close their eyes. Then read the following slowly:

Cast your mind back to the pictures we looked at today of all the different types of love. Think of someone you love now, someone who also loves you. How does it make you feel to think of them? Can you remember a happy memory with them? Think of it now and thank God for the gift of that person in your life. We all love lots of people throughout our lives. Some of them we haven't met yet.

Love is a wonderful gift from God. He wants us to love one another. He also wants us to love ourselves. Ask him now to help you to be a loving person, to give and take and to show your love with kindness and forgiveness. Amen.