



Week commencing 14th February

## House Group Bible Study - 'The Sacrificial Love of God'

*Prepared by Kathryn, based on Sallyann's  
Valentine's Day Service*

### Love is patient, love is kind.

It does not envy,  
it does not boast,  
it is not proud.



It does not dishonor others,  
it is not self-seeking,  
it is not easily angered,  
it keeps no record of wrongs.  
Love does not delight in evil  
but rejoices with the truth.

It always protects,  
always trusts, always hopes,  
always perseveres.  
Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8



[BibleVerseImages.com](http://BibleVerseImages.com)

Love is costly. In order to **imitate** the way that God loves, we may be required to keep loving in situations where we are not appreciated or loved in return. Maybe there is someone that we find hard to love, and yet true love **always hopes** for the best for that person, **always trusts** that God will restore and bless them, **always protects** them from harm or gossip, and **always perseveres** in hoping, trusting and protecting.

On 14th February 270 AD, Valentine, a priest in Rome was executed on the orders of Emperor Claudius 11 for helping persecuted Christians, and performing marriages for Christian young people in defiance of the law. Claudius decreed that young men should not marry as unmarried soldiers were better fighters. In spite of the myriad of fluffy toys, hearts and flowers we associate with Valentines day, it is rooted in the ultimate act of sacrificial love, the laying down of one's life for others.

**How might we as individuals and a church be required to love in ways that are sacrificial?**

**Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God...**

Ephesians 5:1-2 NKJV

**Have you experienced a situation or time when someone sacrificed something for you?**

Sallyann challenged us on Sunday to begin to see the word 'Sacrifice' as a beautiful word, like Jesus did as he looked ahead to the fruit of his sacrifice, delighting in his Father's plan of redemption that would bring hope to the world.

**What is the motivation for us to embrace sacrificial loving as a beautiful way of life regardless of the cost?**

**God's love is unconditional in the sense that he gave up Jesus for the whole world. God's unconditional love demands action; it has conditions. Discuss!**

**Learn to love without condition. Talk without bad intention. Give without any reason. And most of all, care for people without any expectation.**

