



You will need...

A large board that the whole congregation can see, such as a sheet of 8'x4' MDF, painted white, supported in landscape format. Across the top, write the whole of 1 John 4:9. Then have 2 temporary patches with "mum" written on one, hiding the word, "God" and the other with "her" over the first "his" in the verse. Finally mask out the text after the colon. The congregation will initially see, "This is how mum showed her love among us..."

Alternatively this could all be done on powerpoint, but the physical visual is more engaging and clearer for children.

The story

400 years ago, the people of the UK had a great idea. Wherever you lived, whatever your job, whoever you were, on one Sunday in the year, you could take the day off and visit your mum. You would go and see your mum to say "Thank you" for showing me how much you love me. What a great idea! Do you know what that Sunday was called? "Mothering Sunday" It's today! Today is the day to say "thank you" to your mum.

You see lots of people may tell us they love us. We might even say that we love them. But what makes mums extra-ordinary is how often they show us their love. They don't just talk about love, or explain love, they show us their love.

Let's think about that: *(reveal the prepared board)* "mum showed her love for us by..." *(and on ppt, as desired)*

Who can tell me things your mum has done that have shown you that she loves you? How does your mum show you she loves you?

Accept answers and draw simple pictures on the space (that covers the rest of the verse). For instance- if a child says, "She washes my clothes" draw a pair of Y-Fronts. If a child says, "She cooks my dinner", draw a frying pan. There will be great engagement in the scribbled pictures. The quality of the image is an irrelevance!

Reply to answers offered with comments like...

- I'm pleased your mum did that for you, because I wouldn't do that for you!
- I don't love you enough to do that for you!
- Your mum must love you so much
- Your mum really showed you how much she loves you.



- I can tell your mum loves you.

Now we have thought of so many ways our mums show they love us. We can't get confused, it is so easy to see that our mums love us because they have shown us. So we have to make sure we thank them today. They are showing their love for you, doing things that no one else would choose to do for you.

But it's not only our mums that show their love for us. In the Bible, in 1John 4:9 it says (*remove "mum" and "her" patches, then unmask the rest of the verse*)

This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only Son into the world, that we might live through him *(and on ppt, as desired)*

[SLOW] You see God has shown us how much he loves us by... sending Jesus his only son into the world. Why did he send Jesus into our world? So that we could have life- life now, how it was always meant to be, with God lovingly ruling over us, and life forever... in Heaven with Jesus.

Now you might be thinking to yourself. "So what? God gave us his son. That's what He does. It's His job." Well let's find out how amazing God's loves is for us. **If you are a mum here who has a son, please can I ask you to raise your hand?**

Now, mums, I have a question for you. Think carefully. **Please leave your hand in the air if you would give up your son's life to save my life?**

Would you give up your son's life to rescue me? But I'm lovely! I'm really quite nice!

None of these mother's would give their own son's lives to save me. Not one.

[SLOW] Whether you are a mum or not a mum, whether you think you have a great mum or a bad mum, it's true for you. God sent his only son, Jesus to give you life. He knew that his son would have to die to do this. And he knows exactly what you are like. And still he did it. That's how much God loves me and you.

We can't get confused, it is so easy to see that God loves us because he has shown us. So we have to make sure we thank him today... as well as thanking our mums.

Let's thank God for that now:



Dear father God, Thank you for our mums and the things they do that show how much they love us. Thank you that you loved us so much that you gave your son Jesus to die to rescue us. Amen.

As you leave today, children will be giving flowers to all the women at the door. We hope that they remind you of the love God has for you.



Top Tips

Warning: for those women who wish they were mothers, or have lost children, this can be a difficult service, so we try to show gracious love and understanding by ensuring that the children give a flower to every woman. Ask the youngest child in each family to give the flower to their own mother, while the older children can do a check that every woman has a flower. Ideally, you would practise with the children how to present a flower, making eye contact and saying, "Thank you for showing love" rather than a "dump and run" approach!