

## Life today

There are many people who work in each and every community in what we commonly call 'caring professions'. Sometimes this might seem as though there are people paid to care and so we don't have to. What are some of the ways every one of us can make a difference through caring in our communities?



## Imagine

It's quite unusual to hear Paul talking about caring for you so much. It's hard to believe that you are that important to him. He talks about sharing his own self with you. You think about your own mother and how she cares for you and your brothers and sisters. This is how Paul describes the gentleness and care he has for you. But it also makes you think about God. If Paul cares for you like this, how much more does God care? You try to imagine God being a bit like the way a parent cares for their children, surely that means God would do anything for you? You start to realise more and more that this is all part of the good news which Paul has been sharing with you all this time.



## Did you know?

Paul and other Christians often had to give up their paid work in order to pursue another way of life. Although Paul was always determined to be self-sufficient and 'pay his way', he was aiming to create communities where people looked out and cared for one another. A lot of his writing focuses on supporting one another and in particular, those who have, giving to those who have not.



## Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians

A nugget to explore with children: Chapter 2, verses 7b-8

*But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.*