

Aim: To understand what you can and can't do to make someone else change; to make changes to yourself instead.

Have you ever wished that you could change something about someone else?

Have you tried to make someone change? What did you try? Did it work?

It can be very frustrating trying to get someone to change when they don't want to. We can tell them why they should change, we can tell them what might happen if they don't change, but if the person doesn't really want to change – they won't.

One day you will realise that you can't *make* someone else change; the only person you can definitely change is *you*; and sometimes that means changing the way you feel about what someone else is doing. It might mean ignoring them when they are annoying.

You can't **MAKE** someone else change; but there are some things you can do so they will be more likely to change.

- If someone knows that you love them or care about them, they will be more likely to listen to you.
 - Do you tell them that you love them or care for them?
 - Do you try and do nice things for them?
 - Do you give them little presents sometimes?
 - Do you play together?
 - Depending on who they are, do you give them hugs or high-fives?

These are all ways of showing someone that you love or care about them, and we should do them often.

- Pray for them - and don't just pray that they will change; pray that God will look after them; ask God if there is anything that you need to change about yourself.
- Be willing to make changes yourself. If you don't want to change for them, they won't want to change for you.
- Lead by example; do it yourself first. **Read Luke 6:31**
- Understand that they don't have to change just because you want them to and the more you want them to, the more they might not want to change.

Read Matthew 7:3 – *"And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own?"*

Can you imagine a cartoon about that verse? The Bible isn't really talking about real eyes with specks or logs in them; **do you know what it is talking about?**

Have you ever said to your brother or sister, "Don't do that it's annoying" and then they say "But you do something else and that's even worse!"

The Bible is saying stop worrying about other people's faults; stop worrying about trying to change them - you have your own faults and your faults might be a lot bigger than theirs; but more importantly, you *can* do something about changing yourself.

And you might be surprised to find that when you change, other people change too.