



Haratua 22 – Rota Waitoa

**Mihimihi /
Introduction**
10 mins

Mihi
Sharing, catching up
Icebreaker ideas to get everyone into the mood

**Pānui /
Reading**
5min

John 15: 12-17

Hoani 15: 12-17

Activity
20mins

- He pēke taumaha, he māmā rānei?

**Conclusion
Evaluation**
5mins

What did we learn? Positives, negatives, suggestions for next week?
Feedback from tamariki/whanau

Resources needed:

Bible	
Pens/ pencils	Snaplock bags/Paper bags
Heart Templates	Bag filled with heavy things (weights or cans, etc)
Coloured Paper	

Kōrero about Rota Waitoa (Pg. 4)

More information can be found here:

- *Te Haahi Mihinare; The Māori Anglican Church* – By Hirini Kaa
- Anglican.org.nz website <https://www.anglican.org.nz/Media/Files/Waitoa-Rota>
- Te Ara website <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/1w2/waitoa-rotā>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rota_Waitoa
- <http://www.kinderlibrary.ac.nz/rota-waitoa/>





Readings:

John 15: 12-17

Today's reading comes from the book of John, chapter 15, beginning at verse 12

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Hoani 15: 12-17

Ka timata te panui kei te pukapuka o Hoani, te 15 o ngā upoko, ki te whiti 12

¹² Ko tāku ture tēnei, kia aroha koutou tētahi ki tētahi, me ahau hoki kua aroha nei ki a koutou. ¹³ Kāhore he aroha o tētahi i rahi ake i tēnei, arā, kia tuku te tangata i a ia anō kia mate mō ōna hoa. ¹⁴ Ko koutou ōku hoa, ki te meatia e koutou āku e whakahau nei ki a koutou. ¹⁵ Heoi anō tāku meatanga he pononga koutou; e kore hoki te pononga e mōhio ki tā tōna ariki e mea ai; engari kua oti koutou te hua e ahau he hoa; ko āku mea katoa hoki i rongō ai ahau ki tōku Matua, kua oti te whakakite e ahau ki a koutou. ¹⁶ Kāhore koutou i whiriwhiri i ahau, engari nāku koutou i whiriwhiri, nāku anō koutou i mea kia haere, kia whai hua, kia mau tonu hoki ō koutou hua; ā, ko tā koutou e īnoi ai ki te Matua i runga i tōku ingoa, ka hoatu e ia ki a koutou. ¹⁷ Ko āku whakahau ēnei ki a koutou, kia aroha koutou tētahi ki tētahi.



Reflection notes provided by:

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Pirihi/ Priest in Otaki for Te Hui Amorangi o Te Ūpoko o Te Ika

The story of Rota Waitoa is about loving your neighbour even when it gets hard going. Sometimes it can be challenging to love those people who want to make our life difficult. Yet Jesus Christ has commanded us to love whoever comes across our paths. If we want to share the Gospel of love and peace, then we need to show love and peace in our lives. Often this means forgiving those who hurt us or harm us. Sometimes we have to give up our belongings, our food, our money and our time to people who are not friendly towards us. You might say that this is just too hard. But if we ask God for strength, we can show our love to these very difficult people.

Rota Waitoa was called by God to a village on the East Coast of the North Island. The chief, Te Houkāmou, who had a lot of mana, did not welcome him. He made life hard for Rota. For example, he deliberately took Rota's vegetables and animals. He also refused to help Rota, a stranger to the village. This was serious but Rota did not get sad or angry. Instead, he asked God to give him the strength to keep going. Eventually, Rota got the respect of the chief with his determination and joyfulness. The result was that Rota and the chief became very good friends. They ended up helping one another, even working together to build two new churches.

Īnoi: God, give me the strength to love everyone, even very difficult people.





Korero about Tāmihana Te Rauparaha

Rota Waitoa, *Ngāti Raukawa*, was born in Waikato. As a young man, he was a student at the mission station set up by Anglican missionary Octavius Hadfield. He was baptised by Octavius on 17 October 1841. When Bishop George Selwyn visited Kāpiti Island in 1842, he met Rota who accompanied him on many trips throughout Aotearoa. In 1846 Rota became a student again, this time at St John's College, Auckland, which Selwyn had established to teach theology, ministry and practical work skills. After a lengthy period of study, he was ordained a deacon by the Bishop on 22 May 1853.

Rota ministered mostly in only one location. He was appointed as a minister to the Kawakawa pastorate at Te Araroa on the East Coast of the North Island. Despite the Treaty of Waitangi, he was very aware of the serious impact of colonisation on Māori in terms of loss of land and possessions. He was keen for Māori priests to minister to their own people. At Te Araroa he constantly devoted himself to his ministry tasks. At times this proved to be very difficult when the great Ngāti Porou chief, Te Houkāmou, deliberately claimed his crops, moved his garden, refused to offer help and scattered or killed his animals. Despite all these setbacks, he eventually won the respect of Te Houkāmou with his joyful determination. They became close friends and allies. For example, they collaborated to build two new churches: St Barnabas at Hicks Bay and St Stephen's at Te Araroa.

Waitoa was priested in 1860. He died about six years later.

Kōrero about Rota Waitoa (Pg. 4)

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- Te Ara website <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/1w2/waitoa-rot>
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Activity

N.B. There are many steps to today's activity, but hopefully they will create the point for the tamariki.

Step 1)

Ask for a volunteer to come forward. Ask the tamaiti to pick up a bag off the floor (it will be full of heavy stuff). Everyone can see that the tamaiti struggling.

Ask the tamaiti:

- Is it heavy? Is it hard? It's hard to carry a heavy load right?
- Do you feel this heavy when you have lots of challenges in life or when there's too much going on? What kind of challenges do you have? (all tamariki might have ideas)

Thank the tamaiti for their help, and ask everyone to keep in mind how heavy that bag was.

Step 2)

Do the activity below:

Ngā pēke Īnoi o te Aroha

You will need:

- Zip-lock Snack/ Sandwich bags OR brown paper bags
- Markers
- Stickers
- Coloured paper to cut up into heart shapes
- Colouring pencils
- Printouts of heart templates (see next page, 4 per page)

Give each tamaiti a bag. Encourage the tamariki to decorate their bag. They could write "Love one another" or "Aroha tētahi ki tētahi".

Younger tamariki can be given cut out heart shaped paper, whilst older tamariki can cut out their own hearts.

The tamariki then write the name of someone they know on each heart and place all of their named hearts INSIDE the bag. Make sure that everyone writes their classmate's names as well as the Kaiako's name!

Step 3) – *continues on to the next page*

Kōrero:

How heavy is the bag that you've just filled with hearts? Can you lift it? Is it heavy like the one that tried to carry earlier? (It shouldn't be)

The heavy bag was weighed down with challenges and hard stuff. These bags are full of aroha. Notice how aroha can make things easier?



Step 3) - continued

And inside the bags you've just made are names of people who can help you carry your challenges. Let's see...

Kaiako can reach inside their own bag and pull out the name of another tamaiti present. Ask that tamaiti to come forward, with the volunteer from the beginning, and see if the two tamariki can now lift the bag. Ask them if it is easier.

Like Rota, aroha helped to make his challenges easier. Like Rota, we have people who can help us with our challenges. And like Rota, we can always pray and carry on.

Step 4)

Every day, everyone has a challenge. Sometimes we need help with our challenges. Encourage tamariki to take out one heart each day and say a prayer for the person on the heart to experience GOD's LOVE that day.

You could demonstrate an example or two to get them started.

Heart templates for this activity is on the next page.

