

Jesus Taught Us to Love

Objective: The students will be able to state Jesus' most important lesson teaches us to love one another.

For the Catechist

Love is the theme of this Grade 1 text. Beginning with the title, God Is Love, the students see God and love together. Learning that Jesus' most important commandment was "love one another" should not surprise them.

Love. In this lesson the concept of love is explored so that students broaden their understanding beyond "saying I love you." Encourage discussion of how we express love to include acts of kindness and unselfishness, attention to another person's needs, and service to others as well as signs of affection such as a hug or kiss

Background Reading

(Direct quotations from the sources noted.)

God is a Loving Provider

"Besides explaining the existence of evil in this world, these first chapters of Genesis also pre-announce the coming of salvation. In the first story of creation, 'God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good' (1:31 NAB). Even after the fall, Eve becomes 'the mother of all the living' (3:20). God curses the serpent making mankind its enemy: I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel' (3:15 NAB). Even Cain is given protection by the Lord (4:10-11). After the flood destroys all the inhabitants of the earth, God makes a new covenant with Noah, telling his family, 'Be fertile and multiply and fill the earth... abound on earth and subdue it... never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood' (9:1,7,11). The ultimate promise is that God is a loving provider, who 'did not turn away from His creation, nor forget the work of his hands' (Liturgy of St. Basil, ref Ps 137/138:8)"(LLI 29).

Lesson Plan Overview

Opening: The Lord's Prayer and its Doxology.

Introduction: Jesus taught us how to live to be happy—love one another. **Need:** Eight index cards or pieces of paper on which are written the following: love, tree, another, house, one, toy, went, ball.

Read Text Aloud: Ask questions noted on following pages as text is being read

Activity Tracks:

Choose a basic, group, or craft activity to reinforce the lesson (detailed on the pages that follow).

•*Basic 1:* We Treat Each Other With Love

•*Basic 2:* Jesus Taught Us to Love

•*Group:* “Learning from Jesus” Game

•*Craft:* “Love” Collage

Closing: The Lord’s Prayer and its Doxology

Come Bless the Lord Icon:

Packet I:

Packet II:

Teaching Pics

Liturgy and Community

"Similarly, true liturgical piety cannot be separated from the love of our neighbor. As St. Maximos the Confessor points out, the aim of the Church's mysteries is to enable each of us to become 'as much as possible like Christ and bringing into open manifestation through Christ-like behavior the gift of the Holy Spirit given once by holy baptism.' As mutual forgiveness and reconciliation are the prerequisites for a worshipping community, care for those in need are its first consequence. Our liturgical life 'results in identifying oneself as far as in one lies, as God has done, with the man who is in want of any kind of help: not letting him go uncared for and destitute, but taking the trouble to show by our deeds that our affection for both God and neighbor is alive.' The Divine Liturgy, the holy mysteries and the daily services are all occasions for deepening our sense of faith and our feelings toward God and others" (*LLII* 99).

The Lesson Plan

Opening

Gather children around the icon corner. *Who remembers what our prayer is for this unit? (The Lord's Prayer and Doxology) Let's get ready to pray now.*

Introduction

Last week we learned that Jesus came to teach us about God. What did Jesus teach us about God? (He loves us and wants us to call Him "Father.") Jesus also came to teach us about life—about how to live. God created us, and He knows how we should live if we want to be happy. If we live the way God wants, then we'll be united [clasp hands together] with God now and forever.

How does God want us to live? Jesus taught us that. He taught us three important words. The three words are on these index cards, and I have other words, too. Do you think you can find the three words that make up Jesus' most important teaching? [Hold up each paper or index card and read the words, place cards on the table or papers on the chalkboard ledge.] Would someone like to guess one of the three words? [When "love," "one" and "another" are chosen, pull the card and hold it or place it where you can make the entire phrase.] Jesus' most important teaching was "love one another."

Who knows what love means? [Allow responses.] We will learn today one thing that love means. As we learn more about Jesus we'll learn more about love.

10 Jesus Taught Us to Love

Jesus taught us many lessons.
His most important lesson has three words.
Do you know what those words are?

**LOVE
ONE
ANOTHER.**

We are to love one another.



God made every person in His image.
Every person is special to God.

Reading of Text

As the children read aloud, help them interact with the text using the comments or questions below which are keyed to the text phrases (in bold type). See "Reading of Text" in Lesson 1 for use of the Vocabulary Visual Aid.

Do you know what those words are?

[Allow responses.] *Let's find out.*

Every person is special to God.

Why is every person special to God? (Because He made them.) What are the- three important words? (Love one another.)

He showed us by the way He treated others.

Do you remember some stories about Jesus and how He treated people? How about the story of Jesus and the little children? How did He treat the children? (He told them to come to Him, and He embraced them.)

Many people did not like Zaccheus.

What is a tax collector? A tax collector, in Jesus' time, collected money that the king asked for. People thought that tax collectors stole some of the money.

He walked with Zaccheus and stayed at his house.

How do you feel when someone calls out your name and wants to walk with you? [Allow responses.] Zaccheus probably felt very happy. Someone finally treated him with kindness.

Jesus showed us how to love one another.
He showed us by the way He treated others.

One day Jesus passed by a man named Zaccheus. Zaccheus was a tax collector. Many people did not like Zaccheus.

Jesus saw Zaccheus sitting in the tree. He called to Zaccheus to come down.



He walked with Zaccheus and stayed at his house



Jesus taught us to treat others with kindness.

The story of Zacchaeus teaches us that we are to be kind to others even those whom we find it hard to be nice to. Have you ever seen someone making fun of someone else or teasing them? How do you think that person feels? [Allow responses. As the children share stories, ask again, "How do you think that person feels?"] We have some choices when we see someone being made fun of. Do you know what our choices are? 1. We can join in. 2. We can NOT join in. 3. We can say "Stop it!" to those who are treating the person badly.)

Sometimes the person who is picking on someone else seems very strong. We want to join that person so we can look strong, too. Does God want us to join in when someone is being picked on? (No) When someone is being picked on, remember the story of Zaccheus. Jesus treated others with kindness.

We are to love one another.

We are called "Christians" because we are followers of Jesus Christ. If we follow Jesus Christ, we must do as He did. We must love one another even if it is hard. What is the most important lesson Jesus taught? (Love one another.)

Activity Tracks

Basic 1: We Treat Each Other with Love
[This worksheet is in the student text.]

In our lesson today we learned that Jesus showed kindness to a man whom others didn't like. What was his name? (Zacchaeus) We learned that we are to be kind to all. What are some ways to show kindness? Let's use this worksheet to help us think about living the way that Jesus taught. [Read directions to the students.] Some drawings will be used more than once.

Jesus did not care what the other people were saying.
Jesus taught us to treat others with kindness.

Jesus showed us what He taught us.

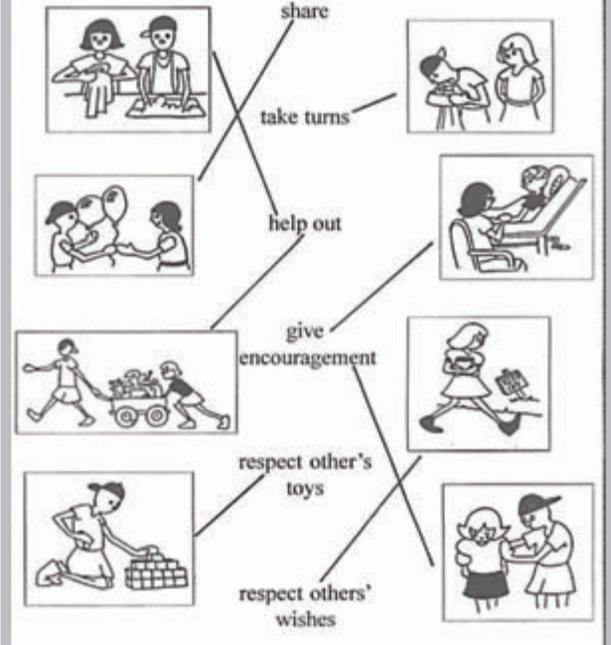


Children need to be kind to one another, too.

We are to live as Jesus did.
We are to love one another.

We Treat Each Other With Love

A. Match the phrase and the picture



share

take turns

help out

give encouragement

respect other's toys

respect others' wishes

Basic 2: Jesus Taught Us To Love

Lesson 10 Basic 2
Jesus Taught Us to Love

Materials: "Jesus Taught Us to Love" worksheet, pencils

Today we learned that Jesus wants us to love. Let's read the directions on the worksheet and see if you can remember what we read in our lesson.

Group: "Learning from Jesus" Game

Materials: "Learning from Jesus" game board worksheet (one for every four players, enlarged to 11" x 17" paper if possible), pennies or some kind of game markers, a dice or spinner (one for each game), 1 parent for each group

Today we learned that Jesus wants us to love one another. We do this by being kind to one another, by caring, and by sharing. When we live this way, we stay close to Jesus. Here is a game to help us remember that. Four people share one game. You roll the dice and move your marker. If your square has the word "love" on it, you must tell one way you express love. Other squares have other messages. [Give a few examples.]

Craft: "Love" Collage

Materials: "Love" worksheet, construction paper, markers, scissors, glue sticks, magazines

Today we learned that Jesus wants us to love one another. We are going to make a collage to remember that. On your worksheets you have words "Love One Another." Color the letter blocks, cut out the words, and paste them onto construction paper. Then you can cut out pictures of people being kind, helpful, or loving one another. These are ways we follow Jesus' commandment to love one another. [Show your example.]

Closing

Let's gather at the icon corner. Let's be still and look at the icon of Jesus. [Say the "Lord's Prayer" slowly with the children; include the Doxology. Use the liturgical text for your jurisdiction.]

God bless you. Have a good week!

Jesus Taught Us to Love

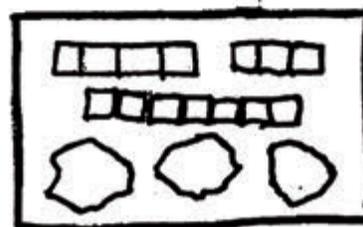
A. Each sentence below has a word missing. Choose one of the words below the blank spaces to complete the sentence. Write the letters in the blanks.

1. God made every person in His image.
(image/rooms)
2. Every person is special to God.
(taller/special)
3. God loves every person.
(loves/soes)
4. We are to love one another.
(see/love)
5. Jesus taught us to treat others with kindness.
(kindness/medicine)
6. We live as Jesus did.
(Jesus/Susan)



B. Unscramble the words and fill in the blanks.

love one another
e v l o n o e a o t n h r e





image



children



everyone

Jesus Taught Us to Love

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(image/room)

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(see/love)

5. Jesus taught us to treat others with
_____.
(kindness/medicine)

6. We live as _____ did.
(Jesus/Susan)



B. Unscramble the words and fill in the blanks.

_____ _____
e v l o n o e a o t n h r e

Learning From Jesus

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| forgive | love |  | |
| | | | |
| love | | | |
| You were kind to the new student, move up 2 | | | |
| | You shared with your sister, move up 1 space | | You didn't forgive, move back 2 spaces |



love



forgive

| | | | |
|---|--------------|--|----------------------------------|
|  | START | | You were mean, move back 1 space |
| | | | |

L O V E

O N E

A N O T

H E R