

We Love Each Other

Lesson Plan Overview

Objective: The students will learn that God wants us to love our parents, family, friends, and all people.

For the Catechist

In Unit Four the students learn that sin is a part of human life. It is the part that must be tolerated, lived with, but never fully accepted as the real, human calling by God. "What happens is that I do, not the good I will to do, but the evil I do not intend" (Romans 7:19). The children are asked to personalize the lessons on love and asking forgiveness that they learned in the previous unit. In addition, in Lesson 15, they are taught that they are not only to ask for forgiveness when they have hurt someone but also to forgive when someone has hurt them. They learn that sin is a part of human living that is looked upon as not very Christian.

A discussion of "sin" with young children may seem harsh, especially given the usually inconsequential actions that are their wrongdoings. However, we have traditionally expected seven-year-olds to experience the Mystery of Repentance, so first grade is not too early to begin the discussion of "sin." In the preschool and kindergarten curriculum, the word sin was used and explained by the term "mistake." In their secular school environment the word mistake is used often with no moral implications. Hence, in the present curriculum the word "hurt" is associated with sin, which is more in keeping with the reality of one's sinful action. Help the children to see their wrongdoings as being hurtful to their family and friends.

Who loves you? All children may not be so fortunate to have parents who show loving care and concern for them. In this lesson, be especially sensitive to your children's family situations. Someone cares for each child even if that someone is a foster parent or social worker. Also, some children may be able to understand parental care and healthy families from their experiences with their friends' families.

Parents and Children. Everyone makes mistakes. By presenting the home as the place where love and forgiveness are learned, this lesson teaches that both

Opening: "All-Holy Trinity" **Need:** Five index cards, numbered with the phrases of the prayer as follows: **(For appropriate wording, refer to prayers according to jurisdictions in "Part I" of this Grade 1 Text.)** 1) All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; 2) O Lord, cleanse us of our sins; 3) O Master, forgive our transgressions; 4) O Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake. 5) Lord, have mercy" (3 times).

Introduction: Discussion of how love and forgiveness begin at home. Each of us is called to ask forgiveness and to forgive. **Need:** In a brown bag one object (perhaps car keys or toy from your home) that caused a major disagreement.

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 Learn to Love at Home

•*Basic 2:* "Love, Honor and Obey"
Crossword

•*Group:* "Honor" Todd Game

•*Craft:* "We Love Each Other"

Closing: "All-Holy Trinity

Come Bless the Lord Icon:

Packet I: The Holy Trinity
Packet II:

children and parents are in need of forgiveness. Children do not just ask for forgiveness, they offer it as well. When parents and teachers identify their own mistakes, children learn to admit to mistakes. Then, everyone involved learns to offer forgiveness.

Honoring one's parents. The wrongdoing most prevalent in the young child's life is the act of not obeying his or her parents, so disobedience is offered as the touchstone for discussion of further wrongdoings. It is offered in the context of honoring our parents since we obey not out of a sense of duty or fear of punishment but rather out of the honor due those who have cared for us. Likewise, we obey God out of honor. "Honor" is a primary concept in religious understanding but difficult to teach in today's egalitarian, individualistic society. Any personal examples of honoring as respect and service are welcomed in order to help build this valuable concept.

Background Reading

(Direct quotations from the sources noted)

Children and Prayer

"When there are children in the family, these common prayer times can be occasions for them to try out the prayers they may be learning either at home or in the church school, the troparia of feasts or the like. You may wish to end the family's evening prayer time by singing a hymn or reciting a prayer together until it becomes part of them. You will achieve more by such regular evening prayer times, if they are kept within the children's attention span, than the infrequent church school sessions the children may attend.

"The best way for parents to introduce their children to prayer is to share with them their own experience of prayer. If they see you praying over them from their earliest days, they will naturally sense prayer as a normal part of living which, in the heavenly realm, it is" (DC 25).

The Lesson Plan

Opening

We have begun a new unit in which we are going to learn how we must live as Jesus taught. We are to love. We are to ask forgiveness when we sin or hurt someone. [If you are approaching or in the Great Fast, say, "During the Great Fast we try even harder not to sin."] Our prayer each week will ask God to forgive us and to heal us from sin. Here are five cards that have the five parts of the prayer. Let's go over the words. Now, let's go to the icon corner and get ready to pray. Each of you will get to say your phrase. [Stand quietly for 20 seconds, make the sign of the cross, and let each child say his or her phrase.]

Introduction

In our last group of lessons, we learned about Jesus. Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus came to lead us to God. He taught us about God and about life. The most important lesson Jesus taught had three words. Does anyone remember what the words are? LOVE ONE ANOTHER! God wants us to love one another. It's one thing to know what we're supposed to do, and other to do it. In this unit, "Learning to Love and Forgive," we'll learn about how to live as Jesus taught. We'll learn how to follow God's way.

I brought something with me to help teach the lesson. [Bring out bag and place it prominently.] In this bag is something that caused a major problem at my home. Can anyone guess what it is? [Allow responses; after some, ask the following:] "Did that cause a problem at your house? What happened? Were you able to forgive and love one another again?"

In this bag is a... [open bag and remove object. Tell how it caused a problem and how family members worked through it and forgave one another. Use phrases "I am sorry," and "I forgive you." Indicate the persons in the disagreement had to both forgive and ask forgiveness.] We learn to love and forgive at home. We learn to love and forgive with our friends, too.

Sometimes we forget how much we love and need each other until we have a problem. When we work through it and forgive and love each other, we realize how important the people are in our family. We will play toys and games for a short time. They are not as important as our friends or our family. We will have our brothers and sisters and mother and father with us forever.

In these next lessons we will learn how to love, how to ask forgiveness, and how to forgive. In this first lesson we will learn how to love. We must love even those we don't know. That is God's way.

We Love Each Other

God loves us. God cares for us.
God gives us people who love and care for us.
Who loves you?



We learn from the people who love us. They help us learn about God.

God said, "Honor your parents."
What did God mean?
What does honor mean?

To honor means to respect.
To honor means to love and serve.

We love our family.
They help us learn how to share.

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.

Who loves you?

Who loves you and cares for you? [Allow responses. If some children mention a guardian rather than a parent, say, "When we talk about parents in this lesson, I want you to think about (person child named)."] Some children have a mother and dad to care for them. Do you know of any families where someone else besides the mom and dad are in the home? (Grandparent, aunt, uncle, stepmother or father)

They help us learn about God.

In the photograph, how is the mother helping the children learn about God? Has your mother or father ever helped you learn something about God? Tell us about it.

To honor means to love and serve.

Let's think about honor. First, honor means to obey. [Allow several responses to the following:] Who can give me an example of obeying, respecting or loving your parents?

Our friends are a gift from God.

Some people have a lot of friends.

Some people have only a few friends.



We play with our friends.
We share with our friends.
We help our friends.
We pray with our friends.
We love each other.

Some people have only a few friends.

What makes a good friend? [Allow responses.]

How do you try to be a good friend? [Allow responses.]

We love each other.

What are some things you like to do with your friends? [Allow responses.]

We are kind to them because God made them.

Have you seen children making fun of or bullying, another child that no one knew? Is that right? (No) Is that God's way? (No) Does God love that person? (Yes) God wants us to be kind to all people even if we don't know them.

Sometimes the bully may look strong to us. Have you ever thought that you want to be strong like that? [Allow responses.] It may look that person is strong, but they aren't. Did Jesus bully people? (No) Jesus was strong. Jesus was God. Bullies are not strong. When we see someone being picked on, what are our choices? 1. We can join in, 2. We can not join in, 3. We can tell others "STOP IT!" 4. We can tell a grown-up.) Does God want us to join in? (No)

This is God's way.

Does God love everyone He made? (Yes) What does He want us to do? (He wants us to love each other.) God loves everyone, and He wants us to love everyone too. That is His way.

We follow God's way when we love one another.

When do we follow God's way? (When we love one another)

Let's review: *We learned today that God wants us to honor our parents and love one another. What is one way we honor our parents? (Love, serve, obey, respect).*

Activity Tracks

Basic 1: How Do We Show Love?

Today we learned that God wants us to love everyone. We learned we should love and honor our parents and our friends. Also, God wants us to show our love for each other. Let's complete this worksheet to help us remember the ways we can show our love for our family and friends.

What if we don't know someone?
Should we still be kind to them?
Yes.

We are kind to them because God made them.



God loves everyone He made.

God loves everyone.
God wants us to love each other.
This is God's way.

We follow God's way when we love one another.

How Do We Show Love?

A. With your teacher's help, find the hidden words and phrases that show how we love one another. Here are the words: share, take turns, help out, respect, be kind, hug, smile.

1. A S H A R E Z P T L U
 2. O T A K E T U R N S W
 3. L G H E L P O U T Y O
 4. R E S P E C T C I P V
 5. B E K I N D O Y T P R
 6. R E B N H U G T P I A
 7. E A T M I N S M I L E

B. How do you show love? Draw a picture of one way you show love to a family member or a friend.



Basic 2: "Love, Honor, and Obey" Crossword

Today we learned a new word, honor. God wants us to honor our parents. When we love our parents, we honor them. What does honor mean? It means to serve and obey and respect. All of those words are in the puzzle on this worksheet. Let's read the title together. See if you can fill in the missing letters.

Group: "Honor" Toss Game

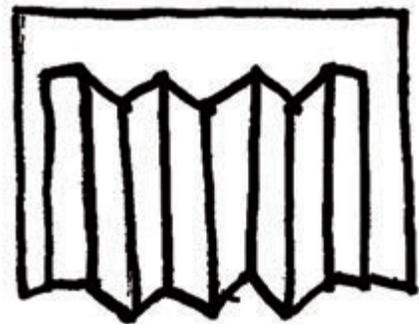
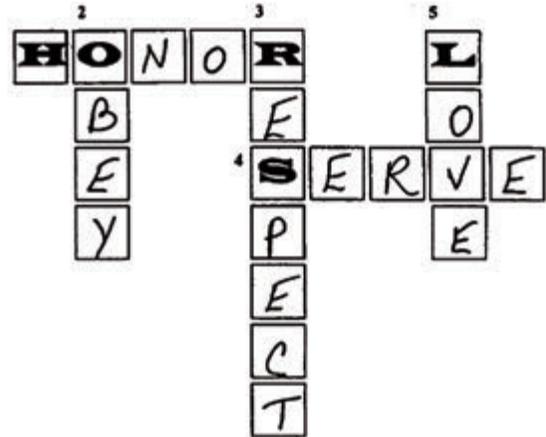
Today we learned about honoring our parents. We honor them when we serve, obey, respect, and love them. Let's have a contest to think of a lot ways we can honor our parents. Remember what we discussed when the word "honor" came up in our reading. I'll divide you into two teams. I'll say a word like serve that has to do with honor, and you think of an example of how you can serve your parents. When you're ready, raise your hand. If you have a good example, your team will get a point. Then you'll get a chance to make another point if you can toss the paper ball into the plate.

Craft: "We Love Each Other" Stand-up Craft

Materials: "Love Each Other" worksheet, red construction paper marked for the students to cut out 5" x 9" strips, scissors, glue sticks

[You may want to cut out the worksheet rectangles ahead of time and pre-fold at least the first strip to get them started with the accordion folding.] Today we learned that God wants us to love everyone. We have a stand-up craft to remind us of that. [Holdup sample, refer to sample and demonstrate how the craft works.] We have many kinds of people shown in silhouettes. You can probably find a person who resembles you! First, cut out the rectangle that I've marked on the construction paper. Then fold over my folds on your craft worksheet so that they are stronger. Then paste the left side, and the right side strips to the ends of the construction paper. Make sure the bottom edge of the worksheet is even with the bottom edge of your construction paper. The craft should stand when you are done.

Love, Honor, Obey
God wants us to love, honor, obey,
serve, and respect our parents.
Fill in the missing letters. The words are in the sentence above.



Closing: [Pass out index cards to 5 students. Review words.] *I will say the prayer now; and when I point to you, read the words on your index cards.* [Say the words slowly and let the children participate.] *Let's go to the icon corner now and pray to the Holy Spirit.* *Let's get ready to pray.* [Make the sign of the cross, and pray slowly to let the children participate.]

God bless you. Have a good week!



parents



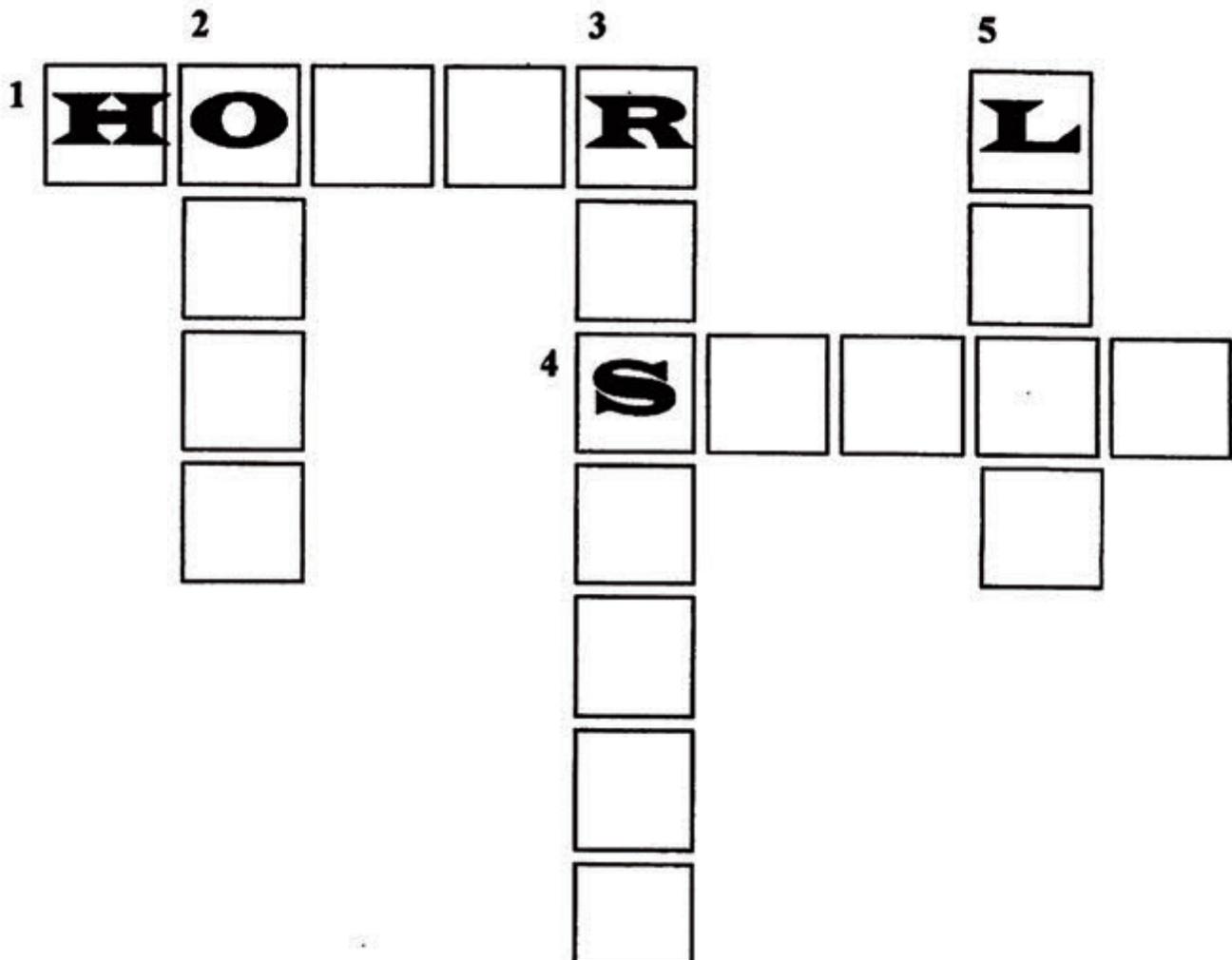
love



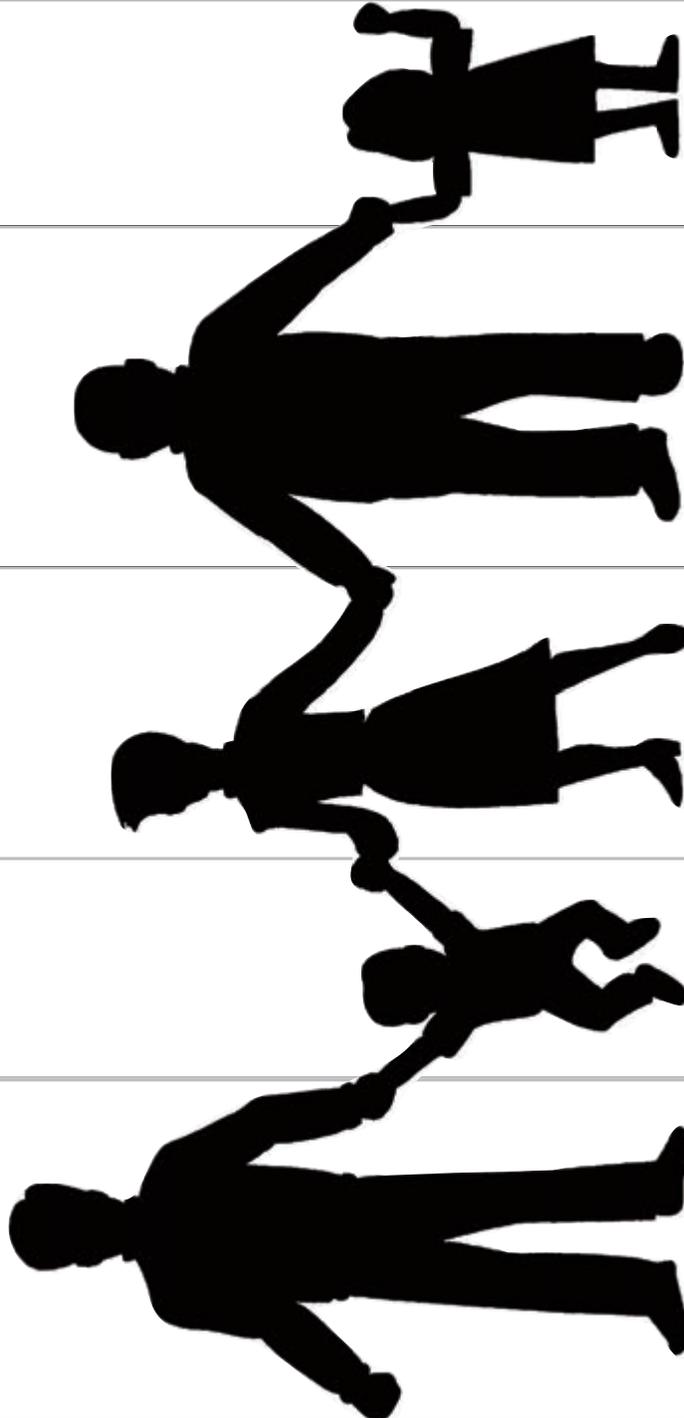
everyone

Love, Honor, Obey
God wants us to love, honor, obey,
serve and respect our parents

Fill in the missing letters. The words are in the sentence above.



**God
Wants
Us To
Love
Each
Other**



•Grey indicates fold lines. Fold end strip (first strip) inward. Last strip should then be inward also.

Cut on black outline

This edge piece is where the folded piece pasted to the construction paper