

# As Church, We Show Our Love

**Objective:** The students will be able to summarize the parable of the Samaritan and explain the way it shows how we are to love each other.

## **For the Catechist**

Our culture tends to idealize and perhaps abuse the word *love*. Children are heard saying, "We love pizza; we love this movie; we love this color." In these situations the children are just saying a word. Children in Grade 3 are ready to understand this word *love* has many different meanings. This lesson begins to explain the word love as Jesus used it.

First, we must remember that God initiates any movement of grace. God first loves us, and we respond by loving Him. One way we show our love for God is by loving each other. This requires us to stop thinking only of ourselves and begin thinking about others. This is not easy for any of us. We have to work at learning to love each other. We have to ask the Holy Spirit to help us grow in God's love.

Children experience love on many different levels. Their parents, family and friends love and care for them. This initial love teaches them to love. As they mature, they will continually grow in love. Their understanding of God's love for them grows as they experience their love for one another.

Sometimes it is hard to understand how we are to love each other. Jesus tells us we are to love each other as He loves us:

"This is my commandment:  
Love one another  
as I love you" (John 15:12).

We can learn how to love the way God wants by learning about the lives of our saints. Even in modern times we have examples of people

## **Lesson Plan Overview**

**Opening:** The Creed

**Introduction:** Discussion about helping  
**Need:** adhesive bandages

**Read Text Aloud:** Have students volunteer to read the text. Use questions in the teacher manual to discuss the lesson with the students.

### **Activity Tracks:**

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

- *Basic:* The Message of Jesus
- *Group:* The Good Samaritan
- *Craft:* "Thinking of You" Card

**Closing:** The Creed

## **Icon Packets:**

*Packet II:*  
Parable of the Good Samaritan

## **Teaching Pics:**

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who live their life focused on God. Mother Teresa is a good example. She believed in the dignity of all of God's people, and she was willing to help everyone, especially the poor. We need to learn to love like the Saints and holy people.

### **The Parable of The Good Samaritan**

To understand this parable fully, we should be aware of the extreme contrast Jesus is making, the priest and Levite (temple assistant) held respected roles in Jewish society. The Samaritans, who considered themselves as traditionalist Hebrews, were reviled by the Jews and there was generally bad blood between them. The point of the parable is that the religious leaders fail at loving their neighbor while the religious outcast is the one to imitate.

## ***Background Reading***

*(Direct quotations from the sources noted)*

### **Christian Hospitality**

"The traditional way sharing is exercised in the domestic church is in hospitality, the willingness to share all we are and all we have with others. Hospitality is a principal exercise of the priesthood of the domestic church. By taking the small section of the world under their control and sharing it with others, the Christian family sanctifies it and makes of it an offering to God.

"Christians exercise their domestic priesthood to the fullest when their home is open to others in the spirit of Christ. The Christian community should be especially welcome as was the case in the early Church, where people put what they had 'at the service of the saints' (1 Cor 16:15). The domestic church, then, should be a place where guests are the rule rather than the exception.

"We should not confuse hospitality with entertaining: inviting those who will invite us in turn. Everyone does that! Christ says that we best imitate God when we show concern for those from whom we can expect no repayment (cf Mt 5:43-48). And so hospitality is most Christian when it is extended to those from whom we do not expect any return" (DC 36).

### **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 one's self 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**

*Today we are going to continue saying the Creed. Did you say the Creed during the Divine Liturgy this week? Let's begin with the sign of the cross. [Use the prayer worksheet according to your jurisdiction.]*

## **Introduction**

*Last week we learned about the different ways we worship God in church. Does anyone remember any of the ways? (Praying, singing, standing, listening to the Gospel, receiving the Eucharist) In how many of these ways did you worship this week? When we worship, we thank God for all the good He has sent us. Who are we with when we worship? (Our family and the other church members)*

*We like to be with the people we know. But God wants us to help all people. Before we begin, I am going to give each of you an adhesive bandage. Why do we use adhesive bandages? Do they help us? I want all of us to think about a time we would need to give an adhesive bandage to someone else. What are some of these times? Why would we want to help someone? Remember how we learned that God created us to be happy with Him forever. Do you think God wants us to help other people be happy? I guess you could think of what God wants us to do as similar to what we do with this adhesive bandage. He wants us to help people who are hurt. He wants us to offer our help. Sometimes our help could be as small as giving an adhesive bandage, but that is what God would have done. He wants us to do the same.*

*We do like to help the people we love. Who are some of the people we love? But God wants us to help even the strangers. Let's turn to today's lesson to learn more.*

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## As Church, We Show Love



In the Bible we read stories about Jesus helping other people. We also read stories that Jesus tells to teach a lesson. These stories are called parables. Jesus tells parables to help us learn how we are to love. When we read a parable, we hear how people treat each other. Jesus wants us to learn how we should act if the same thing happened to us. Through these parables, Jesus teaches us how God wants us to love and treat others.

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Unit 3: As Church, We Act

## 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).*

**... Jesus teaches us how God wants us to love and treat others.**

*What is a parable? (A Bible story that teaches a lesson)*

*Why did Jesus tell parables? (To teach us how to love and take care of each other)*

One day a lawyer asked Jesus, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" He said in reply, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

The lawyer then asked, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus answered by telling the parable about the Samaritan.



**A** man full of wounds from robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped him and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight.

"He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him.

"The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.'

"Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?" He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Luke 10:30-37

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**.. "And who is my neighbor?"**

*What question did the lawyer ask? (How should we love God?) The Gospel gives us the complete answer Jesus told the lawyer. The complete answer is on this page. Let's read the answer together: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself (Lk 10:27)."*

**"Go and do likewise."**

*What story did Jesus tell to show what we are to do for our neighbors? (The Good Samaritan) Is anyone surprised that the Samaritan did all this? Do people in the world today help like this? Do you know of anyone? [Allow the children to tell some stories.]*

**...as I love you**

What is Jesus' commandment? (To love one another) How much? (As much as He loves us)

**... our example of how much we should love.**

How can we show our love for each other? (By being nice—not rude and mean—and by helping people—not hurting them. By taking care of each other) How did God show His love for us? (By sending us Jesus). Does anyone remember the name we call Jesus Who saved us? (Our Savior) What is a savior? (A special leader who brings people to eternal life.) Jesus is our Savior.

**Let's review:** What can we do to show that we love each other and take care of each other? (Help strangers, help friends and family members) Jesus wants everyone to know we are His followers. He wants them to know we are Christians by our love

In this parable Jesus shows us how we are to take care of everyone—even strangers. Sometimes that is hard to do. We need to ask Jesus to help us notice who needs help. Then, we must help them.

Jesus said to His disciples: "This is my commandment: 'Love one another as I love you.'" (John 15:12).

The Bible tells us God loves us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to grant us eternal life. Jesus loves us so much that He suffered and died on the cross to save us. We look to Jesus as our example of how much we should love.

Our Church looks to Jesus to learn how we are to take care of each other. We are to work together to help people in our church and throughout the world. As Christians we are to be known by our love.



As Church, we show our love to everyone.

**Words to Remember:**  
**Parable:** A story in the Bible that teaches a lesson.  
**Good Samaritan:** Someone who takes care of anyone who needs help.  
**Jesus' New Commandment:** Love one another

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**Activity Tracks**

**Basic:** The Message is Jesus  
[This worksheet is in the student text.]

Today we learned that people can tell we believe in Jesus Christ. How can they tell? (By our love) Let's follow the instructions and cross out some letters. The final message has the words Jesus told his disciples. Find out how much we are to love one another. [While the students are working on this worksheet, ask them to state what we can do to show people we love them.]

**The message of Jesus**

Cross out the following letters:  
J K P Q X Z

~~N~~ ~~I~~ ~~G~~ ~~I~~ ~~V~~ ~~E~~ ~~N~~ ~~Y~~ ~~O~~ ~~U~~ ~~A~~  
~~N~~ ~~E~~ ~~W~~ ~~C~~ ~~O~~ ~~M~~ ~~M~~ ~~A~~ ~~N~~ ~~D~~ ~~M~~ ~~E~~ ~~N~~ ~~T~~  
~~L~~ ~~O~~ ~~V~~ ~~E~~ ~~S~~ ~~U~~ ~~C~~ ~~H~~ ~~A~~ ~~S~~ ~~M~~ ~~Y~~ ~~L~~ ~~O~~ ~~V~~ ~~E~~ ~~H~~ ~~A~~ ~~S~~  
~~A~~ ~~S~~ ~~M~~ ~~Y~~ ~~L~~ ~~O~~ ~~V~~ ~~E~~ ~~H~~ ~~A~~ ~~S~~ ~~B~~ ~~E~~ ~~E~~ ~~N~~ ~~F~~ ~~O~~ ~~R~~ ~~Y~~ ~~O~~ ~~U~~  
~~S~~ ~~O~~ ~~M~~ ~~U~~ ~~S~~ ~~T~~ ~~F~~ ~~O~~ ~~R~~ ~~Y~~ ~~O~~ ~~U~~ ~~R~~ ~~L~~ ~~O~~ ~~V~~ ~~E~~ ~~X~~ ~~B~~ ~~E~~ ~~F~~ ~~O~~ ~~R~~  
~~E~~ ~~A~~ ~~C~~ ~~H~~ ~~O~~ ~~T~~ ~~H~~ ~~E~~ ~~R~~

(John 13:34)

Write the message of Jesus on the lines below.

I give you a new  
 commandment. Love one  
 another. Such as my love has  
 been for you, so must your  
 love be for each other.

**Group:** The Good Samaritan

**Materials:** "Good Samaritan" worksheet

[Duplicate the worksheet and cut out the passages that are in the right order on the worksheet. Let the children pick a passage from the shuffled pile. Give them a few minutes to arrange themselves. If the class is large, set up teams to see who can arrange the story in the shortest amount of time. Also, you can ask the students to act out the part that they read.]

*For our activity today we are going to read the story of the Good Samaritan again. But this time there is a problem. The words are out of sequence. Pick up one of the papers on the pile. When everyone has one, turn them over and work with each other to put the story in order. When you think it is right, I want you to line up in the front of the room. Then, let's hear the story as you read the lines you are holding. We will be working together as we hear how Jesus wants us to take care of each other.*

**Craft:** "Thinking of You" Cards

**Materials:** Construction paper, markers, and sparkles, "Thinking of You" worksheet, envelopes (3 5/8" x 6 1/2"), stamps, and the list of names and addresses.



[Have sample ready to show children. If possible, arrange for a parent to help address and seal the envelopes.] *Today we learned that people should know we are Christians by our love. What does that mean? Today we are going to make cards to send to the homebound people of our church. Who are they? (People who are sick and unable to go to church) We are showing our love for them by letting them know we are thinking of them. On the inside of the card, let's write our names. [Have a child or parent write at the bottom of the card: "Children from \_\_\_\_\_ Church."] [If this lesson is taught during the Nativity Fast, you can have the children add Christmas stickers to the cards. Get a list of names and addresses from the priest in advance.]*

**Closing**

*We are going to say the Creed. Let's begin with the sign of the cross. [Use their prayer books.]*

There was a man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho who fell prey to robbers. They stripped him, beat him and then went off leaving him half-dead.

A priest happened to be going down the same road; he saw him but continued on.

Likewise there was a Levite who came the same way; he saw him and went on.

But a Samaritan who was journeying along came on him and was moved to pity at the sight.

He approached him and dressed his wounds, pouring in oil and wine. He then hoisted him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, where he cared for him.

The next day he took out two silver pieces and gave them to the innkeeper with the request: "Look after him, and if there is any further expense I will repay you on my way back."

Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the man who fell in with the robbers?"

The answer came, "The one who treated him with compassion." Jesus said to him, "Then go and do the same."

**Thinking of You**

**Thinking of You**