

Jesus Says, “Love Each Other!”

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 19, ages 3-4

Lesson 19 Goal

- Your child will talk about various ways of showing love and will name people he or she loves.

Key Points

- Jesus said, “Love one another.”
- We can show love to one another by what we say and do.



Parent Reflection

God establishes the community of faith as a family, a communion of persons, showing us that we need one another to make our journey of faith. Consistent with this, Jesus sends his disciples to teach in groups of two (see Mark 6:7). At the Last Supper, he clearly expresses his will that his followers continue to grow in communion with one another, stating “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another” (John 13:34). The command to love one’s neighbor was not a new commandment, as Jesus had previously spoken at length on this (see Luke 10:25-37). Therefore, this “new commandment” to love one another implies something more than merely showing love or mercy to another. Rather, one may argue that Jesus intended to call his disciples to a *relationship* of mutual self-giving. This means both giving and receiving.

Reflection Question

What steps can I take to foster greater unity and communion in my parish family?

Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- construction paper (one sheet)
- adult scissors
- art supplies, such as glitter-glue and stickers (optional)
- Lesson 19 Activity Master – Saint Page

(included with this lesson)

(Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

Preparation Steps

- Cut out a large heart shape out of construction paper. Fold the heart shape in half to form a card.

Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Pray together: *“Thank you, Jesus, for our friends. We will love them, like we love you. Amen.”*

Discovering

Show Love! Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about Jesus and his disciples.

Ask your child, “How can we show love for one another?”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s

understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

1. Who Is Showing Love? Turn to the drawing in the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child a crayon or colored pencil. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it.

2. A Card to Show Love. Give your child the construction paper heart shape, crayons or colored pencils, and art supplies. Ask your child whom he or she would like to make a special card for, to show love. Have your child draw a picture on the outside of the card. Help him or her write a special note on the inside of the card. Have your child decorate the card with drawings or art supplies. Arrange to deliver the card together.

3. The Communion of Saints: Pope Saint John Paul II. Show your child the picture of Pope Saint John Paul II on the Family Activity page and read about him. Then read more about Pope John Paul II to your child (see page 3).

Ask your child, “Do you think there might be someone living in your lifetime who will be remembered as a saint?”

Have your child write and draw about Pope Saint John Paul II using the Lesson 19 Activity Master.

Sending

Pray with your child. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by

tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child:

“Dear Jesus, help us to always love others just as we love you. Amen.”

Pope Saint John Paul II

Saints Live in Our Time, Too

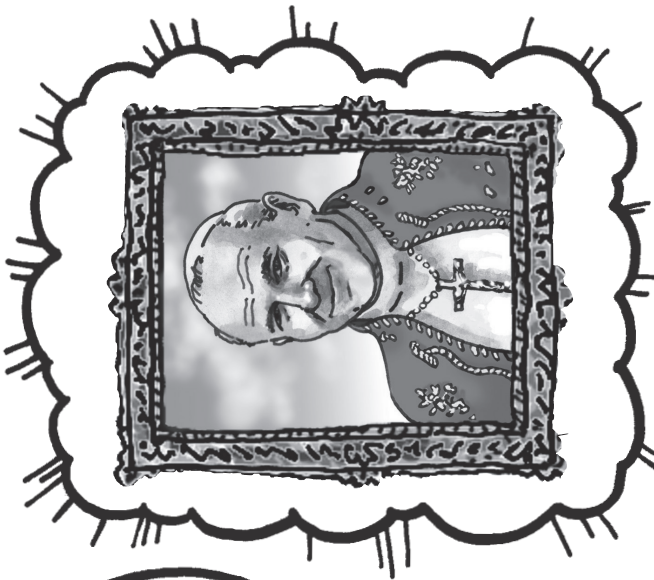
Many of the saints we have learned about lived so long ago. Did you know that people are still working hard to live the life that Jesus asked of us? Pope John Paul II lived at the same time as your parents and grandparents. He especially wanted to help people to have a special love for the Blessed Virgin Mary.

When Pope John Paul II was born, his parents named him Karol. The world was not a peaceful place. Many countries were fighting each other. The kings and presidents of some

countries made it hard for people to feel safe if they believed in God. But Karol knew that when he grew up he wanted to be a priest.

Karol did grow up to be a priest. He worked so hard that he became a bishop, then an archbishop, and then a cardinal. Those are all important jobs in the Catholic Church. Finally, he was chosen to be the Pope. That means he became the leader of Jesus' Church on earth. And that is when he changed his name to John Paul II.

DRAW



**Pope
Saint John
Paul II,
pray for us!**