

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Love one another

INTRODUCTION

Jesus and his apostles gathered to celebrate the Jewish Passover and share their last supper together. When they had finished, Jesus explained that soon he would be leaving them.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and read this prayer aloud:

The candle flame is warm and bright;
it changes darkness into light.

We feel its warmth and see its glow,
and when we look at it, we know

The light of Christ is burning bright,
for we are children of the light!

SORRY

Jesus told his disciples to love one another. St. Paul reminds all Christians that if we do this, then our lives will always be pleasing to God.

If you love one another as you love yourself,
then you will never harm another person and
will live according to the rules given by God.

(Romans 13:8-10)

Have the children reflect on these words and say this prayer together:

Heavenly father,
help us to be loving and forgiving,
so that our lives are always pleasing to you.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 2.

GOSPEL (JOHN 13:33-35)

When Judas had left them, Jesus turned to his apostles and said, "It will soon be time for me to leave you my friends, and you cannot come where I am going. When I have gone, I want you to love each other as I have loved each one of you. If you live by this rule, other people will see your goodness and love, and they will know that you are my disciples."

DISCUSSION

Jesus said that he was going to leave his apostles. Where was he going? Jesus knew that the time had come for him to suffer and die before rising from the dead and returning to his father in heaven.

What did Jesus tell his disciples to do when he had gone? He gave them a new commandment, to love one another as he had loved them.

Jesus loved and cared for all people and wanted to put right whatever was wrong in their lives. Can you remember some of the times he showed how much he cared? A few of these times are:

—when he fed five thousand hungry people;

—when he cured the lepers;

—when he brought a little girl back to life;

—when he changed the water into wine at the wedding feast; and

—when he cured the crippled and made the blind see.

(Encourage the children to suggest their own favorite examples.)

Jesus loved us so much that he was willing to suffer and die for us, so that we could share everlasting life with him at the end of time.

How do other people know that we are followers of Jesus? When we love and care for others as Jesus taught us to, then we become more like Jesus, and people see his goodness working in our lives and know that we are his followers.

ACTIVITY

Give each child a copy of the activity sheet, and ask them to fill in the blank spaces and to draw a picture of someone they love or care about.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you showed us
how we should love
and care for one another.

May our love be a sign
to bring others to know
and love you, too.

