

**Focus:** Love Jesus and love one another.

**Materials:**

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth  
Cycle B Easter Season CD  
Bible Reading: in Lesson plan  
Foam heart  
Optional: CD for Love Go Round Activity

**Gathering** (children find/sit on a carpet square)

*Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. Last week we talked about staying close to Jesus. Do you remember what we learned last week about Jesus being the vine and us being the branches? This week Jesus tells us that God is love. Love is what Jesus, the vine, gives to us, the branches. The fruit we bear is the fruit of love. Can you think of any good things that happen because of love?*

**Opening Prayer**

Together we make the Sign of the Cross (do in reverse so children can mirror).

*Say: Now let's put our hands together and bow our heads.*

*Let us pray.*

*Thank you, Jesus, for loving us. Thank you for teaching us to love others. Thank you for being our special friend. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.*

*Amen.*

**Song/Movement**

*Join in the Dance*, track: 1, from Easter Season Cycle B CD

Play music, encourage children to stretch or move to the music (clapping, stamp feet march in place to the beat), turn to each other and shake hands, saying hello, etc.

Join in the dance of the earth's  
jubilation! This is the feast of the  
love of God.  
Shout from the heights to the ends  
of creation: Jesus the Savior is risen  
from the grave!

1. Wake, O people; sleep no longer,  
greet the breaking day!  
Christ, Redeemer, Lamb and Lion,  
turns the night away!

2. All creation, like a mother, labors  
to give birth.  
Soon the pain will be forgotten, joy  
for all the earth!

3. Now our shame becomes our  
glory on this holy tree.  
Now the reign of death is ended;  
now we are set free!

**Memory Verse**

*Say: Now let's take a moment together to learn a verse from the bible.*

*Love one Another.*

Have the children repeat the verse after you a couple of times.

Say: *Jesus says this two times in today's Gospel. It is a very important teaching. God is love, Jesus is love. If everyone loved each other like God loves us, there would be peace in our world. No more fighting, no more bullying, no more enemies, we would all be friends. This is the world that God wants for us, one filled with love and peace.*

Sing Alleluia for Easter Season:

*"Hallelu, Hallelu" Track 2 on CD Labeled EASTER SEASON CYCLE B,*

*Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah,*

*Praise ye the Lord!*

*Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah,*

*Praise ye the Lord!*

*Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah, Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah, Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah,*

*Praise ye the Lord!*

*Repeat three times*

### Gospel Story

Say: *Today we are reading from the Gospel of John.*

Have children make sign of the cross on their forehead, mouth and heart saying. *"Lord, open my mind, my lips and my heart so that I may learn it, speak it and love it."*

**Read:** None, pp. N/A,

Jesus said to his disciples,

[Chatty hand, thumb against fingers]

"As the Father loves me, so I also love you.

[Cross hands over heart]

Keep my commandments,

[Point heavenward]

and keep my love,

[Cross hands over heart]

as I have kept my Father's commandments

[Point heavenward]

and kept his love.

[Cross hands over heart]

I tell you this

[Chatty hand, thumb against fingers]

so that my joy will be in you

[Raise arms and twirl hands in circles]

and your joy will be complete.

[Cross hands over heart, and raise arms, twirling hands in circles]

My command is that you love one another

[Make the outline of a heart with your fingers and point to each one]

as I have loved you.

[Cross hands over heart and gesture with both hands spreading arms wide over the group]

The greatest love is to lay down one's life

[Make the outline of a heart with your fingers]

for one's friends."  
[Point to the children]  
Jesus continued:  
[Chatty hand, thumb against fingers]  
"You are my friends  
[Point to the children]  
if you keep my commands.  
[Cross your heart]  
I call you friends  
[Point to the children]  
because I've told you all that my Father told me.  
[Chatty hand, thumb against fingers]  
You didn't choose me;  
[Shake head "no"]  
I chose you.  
[Point to the children]  
Go and give glory to God,  
[Point heavenward]  
and he will bless you in my name.  
[Hold hands out in blessing]  
My command is: Love one another."  
[Make the outline of a heart with your fingers]

After the reading say: *The Gospel of the Lord*

Children respond: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

#### **Discussion Starters:**

- *Who are Jesus' friends?*
- *What does Jesus want his friends to do?*
- *How does Jesus show his love for his friends?*
- *How can you grow in friendship with Jesus?*
- *Why does Jesus want his friends to love one another?*
- *How can we continue the work of Jesus on earth?*
- *How do your friends and family show love for you?*
- *How do you show love for your friends and family?*
- *How can you show love for Jesus?*

#### **Reflection on Reading:**

*In today's gospel, Jesus lets his disciples, and us, know that they/we are his friends. With his words, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you," Jesus makes it clear that this special friendship is based on love. After calling his disciples friends, Jesus tells them to "love one another." Jesus tells his friends that they have been chosen to bear fruit in the world. They are called to go out and love one another. The love that we receive from God and Jesus gives us the ability to care for and love others. When we love and forgive others we continue the work of Jesus on earth.*

## Gospel Activity

### Activity 1:

#### **Love Go Round**

Have the children sit in a circle. Hand the heart to one child and chant the following while they pass the heart around the circle:

*There's plenty of love to go around,  
The more and more we share.  
Where is the love that goes around?  
Where is the love, O where?*

When the verse is done, whoever is holding the heart shares something they can do to be kind to others. (you can play a portion of a song from one of the CD's instead-for example: Jesus loves me, this I know, Jesus loves the little children, I am so glad that Jesus loves me-instead of the verse.)

Repeat as time allows.

### Activity 2:

#### **Jesus Says Be Kind:**

This game is played like Simons Says, but instead of saying "Simon Says", you say "Jesus says"

Pick a few actions ahead of time when you won't say – Jesus Says.

The gospels tell us what we should do to be like Jesus. We should pray, listen to and learn from the stories of Jesus, love and serve God and each other. Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone in the world were the best sheep, followers of Jesus they can be.

Let's practice what Jesus has taught us to do.

Sample Actions-. No one is out, everyone gets another chance:

#### Jesus says:

Hug your neighbor

Say hello and smile at people.

Be extra kind to people in your life; be courteous, and say please and thank you.

Offer to let a classmate go first in a game.

Share your toys.

Help to clean up your classroom and playground.

#### Don't say Jesus Says

Clap your hands

Stomp your feet

Jump up and down

Feel free to make up some more on your own.

Complete the weekly bulletin as a group-let the children color them if there is extra time

**Closing Prayer**

(Children respond: "I Believe!")

Ask: *Do you believe in God, who loves us?*

*Do you believe in Jesus, who teaches us to love others as God loves us?*

*Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives us power to love one another as Jesus loves us?*

**Sending Forth**

Say: *This week remember to show love to others, give a hug to your brother or sister when they are sad or mad, draw a picture for someone who is sick. Can you think of other ways to love another?*

**Lining Up/Closing Song**

Play "Rejoice in the Lord" track 3 from Easter Season CD Cycle B while children put away any materials and lineup. Hand out weekly bulletins. Remind them it is important that they return to their family quietly so that we may all listen and pray together in church.