

Joyful Catholic Families
Lesson #5 – Jesus Loves Me

Read “The Boys and Girls and Jesus”:

(from Read Aloud Bible Stories, Vol. 1, by Ella K. Lindvall)

Ask:

- Why does Jesus want the children to come to Him? (because He loves them)
- Jesus loves you.
- God loves you very much.
- God made you.
- He loves you more than anyone else ever could.

Game:

(I found [this game here](#).)

The children stand in a line, facing you.

Review with the children:

- Who told the children in the story to stop? (the apostles – Jesus’ friends)
- Who said “Come to Me”? (Jesus)

So when I say “Come”, you walk towards me.

When I say “Stop”, you stop where you are.

Continue saying “Come” and “Stop” until the children get to you.

Occasionally repeat the questions: “Who told the children in the story to stop?” and “Who said ‘Come to Me’?”

Repeat several times.

If you have a smaller room, the children can walk in a circle.

Cross and Crucifix:

Show the children a cross.

- What is this? (cross)

Show the children a crucifix.

- What is this? (crucifix)

What is the difference between a cross and a crucifix? (a crucifix has Jesus’ body on it)

- Both a cross and a crucifix remind us of how much Jesus loves us.
- Jesus was willing to die on the cross for each of us so that we could someday live with Him in Heaven.
- So, when we look at a cross or a crucifix, we remember how much Jesus loves each of us.

Look for Crosses and Crucifixes in Church:

We are going to go to church so let's review how we act in church:

- When we go to church, do we talk loudly? (No. If we need to talk, we talk quietly because others may be praying.)
- When we go to church, do we run? (No. We walk)
- When we go to church, do we skip or jump? (No. We walk.)

Let's go to church and see how many crosses and crucifixes we can find. (be sure to look at the ends of pews, Stations of the Cross, processional crucifix, tabernacle, altar, ambo,...) (Parents look with their child, not as a group. Instruct parents to ask their child, "Is it a cross or is it a crucifix?")

After everyone has looked for a while, bring them together as a group and ask where they found crosses and where they found crucifixes.

Adoration of Jesus in the Tabernacle:

Jesus loves us so much that He wanted to be with us even after He went back to Heaven. Jesus gave us His Body and Blood so we can receive it at each Mass (when we are old enough). He also gave us His Body so we can have it in all of our churches.

Who knows where Jesus' Body is kept in our church? (tabernacle)

Jesus is here in the tabernacle so we can spend time with Him. Jesus wants us to "Come!" to Him – just like the children in the story.

Spend a few minutes in prayer before the tabernacle. This prayer can be silent prayer (tell Jesus in your head thank you for the things you are thankful for) and a group prayer (perhaps the Our Father).

Go back to the classroom.

Make “Jesus Loves (child’s name)” Craft:

(Go to [this post](#) for the PDF.)

Today we are going to make this cross to remind you how much Jesus loves you. It says, “Jesus loves”. You will put your name on yours.

- Color in “Jesus loves” and “child’s name” (child writes name on a piece of paper)
- Cut out the cross.
- Trim the “Jesus loves” and “child’s name” to fit on the construction paper.
- Glue “Jesus loves”, cross, and “child’s name” to the construction paper.
- Put heart stickers on the cross.



Stickers: Give each child a sticker as they leave.

Supplies:

Nametags & Permanent markers

Prayers for prayer rings

Home lessons

Snack

Plates, napkins, water & glasses

Stickers (for each child at the end of class)

Read-Aloud Bible Stories vol. 1 by Ella K. Lindvall

Cross

Crucifix

Construction paper 9 x 12

Heart stickers

Crayons

Scissors

Glue sticks

Name of each child in bubble letters or paper for children to write their names on.

Copies of "Jesus loves"

Copies of cross on yellow paper