

Love your enemies



Sign of the Cross. Let's pray (See p. 170.)

quietly by yourselves



Who do you love the most?
Who do you love next to most?
Who else do you love?
Who do you love not very much? Why?



when each child has had time to think

Share stories.

It's hard to love people who hurt us or annoy us. Everyone finds this very hard.

Do people love you? Do people love you all the time even when you're bad?



The best news that Jesus ever told us was that *he loves us and God our Father loves us even when we are bad.*
That's great news.

welcome the Gospel. Sing Alleluia. (See p. 220)



all stand (adapted from Luke 6:27–38)

Jesus spoke to his friends,
"Listen.
Love your enemies.
Don't fight back.
Always be kind and loving
even to people who aren't kind to you.
Be just like God Our Father,
he is always kind to you,
and you will be happy."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you Lord Jesus Christ.



all sit (some suggestions)

This must be the hardest thing Jesus has asked us to do. He is really asking us to copy him.

He never stops loving us even when we do wicked things.

If we want to follow Jesus we must try to copy him and not stop loving people who upset us and make us angry.

It's difficult and Jesus understands and he won't stop loving us if we fail.

Are you going to give it a go this week?

Let's start by making friends with each other and offering each other the sign of peace. *(For children it may be much more appropriate to link little fingers than shake hands. It's a sign often used by children when making friends after an argument.)*

SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE

VISUAL AIDS

- > An attractive container overflowing with wrapped gifts, i.e. small novelties, one for each child.
- > A card for each child with the words I WILL SHARE...

SHARING

God gives us all many gifts. God shares everything he has with us.

but first Jesus tells us how we can be more like God our Father who is so generous to us all.

Encourage the children to give examples.

We all love to receive gifts, and today there are some gifts for sharing -

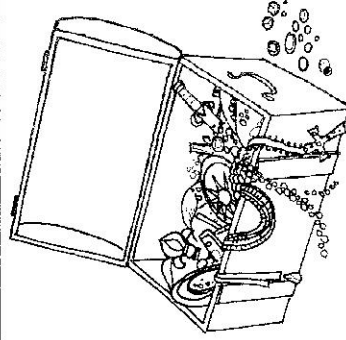
WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Say/sing together:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Love one another
as God loves everyone.
Alleluia!

A reading from the Good News given to us by Luke.
Glory to you, Lord.

Jesus says to his friends,
'You must be like your Father in heaven,
full of pity and mercy.
Never judge anyone.
Never condemn anyone.
Always forgive everyone.'



Whatever you give one another, God will always give you more. God's gifts will be more than you can ever imagine; his gifts will be overflowing!

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION

Jesus says we must be like someone: who is it we should be like?

- In what ways can we be like our Father in heaven?
- in being generous,
- in showing love,
- in being forgiving, etc.

What will God do when we give what we have?

- God will repay us;
- no matter how generous we are to others, God will be even more generous to us.

ACTIVITIES

Have the children mime ways of being like God, e.g. sharing gifts.

Share out the gifts from the container amongst the children.

Give out the cards, and have the children complete them, writing a gift they can share with another:

- e.g.
- I will share a smile;
 - ... a kind word;
 - ... helping hand;
 - ... time!