Overview

In this week’s Gospel passage, Jesus commands us to love one another as He loves us. He even tells us (and later will show us) how to do this – by laying down one's life for others. This understanding of love that Jesus gives to us has always been lived in a radical way by the saints, and Jesus calls us to follow their, and His, example. In this lesson, students will consider what it means to do small things for others with great love.

Directions

A. Read the Gospel passage aloud to your students as they follow along. Then discuss the focus and reflection questions with them as a class.

B. Read the Love as Jesus Loves worksheet aloud to your students as they follow along. Then discuss the scenarios with your students, asking for each one how they can love in small ways.

C. Then, in advance, photocopy and cut out enough of the ‘I Love You’ Coupons for every student to have 3-4 coupons. Make crayons, markers, and/or colored pencils available. Have your students think of ways that they can show they people they love in their lives (parents, siblings, classmates, teachers, and so forth) that they love them. Help them to write one way of showing love on each coupon. Then have them color and decorate the coupons. Encourage your students to give each coupon to someone this week and do what they wrote on the coupon for that person to love as Jesus loves us.

Answer Key

Focus Questions

1. By keeping His commandments.
2. He has loved us by dying for us on the Cross. Jesus’ entire life is an example of love and total self-giving.
3. To lay down our lives for our friends.
4. Even though most of us will never face the call to literally die for our friends, we can lay down our lives for others each day by sacrificing in small ways. Through our unselfish acts of charity we “lay down our lives” for our friends.

5. He commands us to love one another.