

I Love God and God Loves Me

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 4, ages 3-4

Lesson 4 Goal

- Your child will be reminded of God's love and will have opportunities to express love for God in a variety of ways.

Key Points

- God loves me.
- I can show God I love him by telling him I love him and by doing good things for others.



Parent Reflection

Young children feel God's love primarily through the love of their parents. Having mothers and fathers who give them what they need, who take time to listen and play with them, and who delight in them makes the idea of a God who loves them credible. As a parent of a child this age you are no doubt building a capacity to understand God's love through your everyday care of your child. Children also learn about God's love through their parents and others who care for them, so it's important that they experience warm and loving interactions with them.

Through the Holy Spirit's work within us and the grace God gives us in the Sacraments, we grow in our love for God and others. It is a formation of heart, rooted in love, directed by God.

Reflection Question

How has God shown his love to me? How do I show love to God? To others?

Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons or colored pencils
- red or pink washable paint
- white paper
- paintbrush
- newspaper to cover the table
- Lesson 4 Activity Master – Saint Page (in-

cluded with this lesson)

(Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

Preparation Steps

- Set up the painting area by covering a table with newspaper and having the paint accessible.

Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Pray together: *“God, we praise you because you made us wonderful. We love you because you loved us first, created us, gave us all we need, and watch over us. You are a wonderful God! Amen.”*

Discovering

Showing Love. Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read “Showing Love.”

Ask, “How does God make people strong?”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

1. God Loves Me. I Love God. Turn to the drawing in the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it.

2. Anytime Valentine: Hand-Print Painted Hearts. Paint the palms of your child’s hands. Using the white paper, have him or her make a handprint with fingers pointing together and overlapping forming the point of the heart. Label this art “LOVE.” Share it with the rest of the family.

3. The Communion of Saints: Saint Agatha Lin. Show your child the picture of Saint Agatha on the Family Activity page and read about her. Then read more about Saint Agatha Lin to your child (see page 3).

Ask your child: “How can you ask Jesus to help you through a scary time?”

Have your child draw about Saint Agatha Lin using the Lesson 4 Activity Master.

Sending

Pray with your child. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child.

“Dear Jesus, thank you for giving each of us a heart for loving. Help us to show love to others. Amen.”

Saint Agatha Lin

She Knew Jesus Loved Her

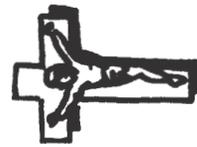
One day, about two hundred years ago, a woman in China noticed something different. For thousands of years, people in her part of the world worshipped kings as God. They also believed that the people who were born before them had powers. But that day Agatha noticed that many more people were talking about Jesus. They said that Jesus was King, and that he could help them understand about God.

Agatha was proud to live in her part of the world. She wanted people to love her country.

But she also wanted them to learn to love Jesus. She began to teach children about him. This made the emperor at the time, who was like a king, very angry. He was worried that if people loved Jesus, they would not love him. Agatha knew that people could love them both. So she continued to teach about God.

This was a scary time for Agatha, but she believed she was doing the right thing. She would not let someone else, even an emperor, make her say that she would not love God.

DRAW



**Saint
Agatha Lin,
pray for us!**