

Reflecting on the readings with children:

Jesus said we should love one another so that we will be happy. Ask the children if that is their experience. Are people happier when they love one another?

Share some examples:

- Jesus tells us how he wants us to love others. What did he say?
- What do you think Jesus meant when he said, "Love one another as I have loved you"?

Note: this is a crucial point in our Christian faith. Christian life is based on love of God and neighbor. But children easily misunderstand this. The love Jesus shares is God's very own divine love. God *is* love. We are not able to love with the fullness of God's divine love as Jesus did. We are, however, commanded to love in the **way** Jesus loved, by serving one another. The greatest love is shown by giving our loves for others-in service. By doing this in the name of Jesus, we share God's own love with one another. What a wonderful gift to receive and to share. Remind the children that Jesus said, "There is no greater love than your life for your friends."

Jesus gave his life for us when he died. But he also gave his life for others by healing them, helping them, and caring for them. How can we give our lives for others now? Help children see and express ways they can give their lives for others. Here are some examples:

- Including all children in games.
- Talking to a child who feels alone.
- Helping someone with a task.
- Taking time, perhaps from play, to help someone.
- Accepting people just as they are.

Jesus asks us to love this way because he loves us so much. Jesus loves everyone and wants us to love everyone, too. That's what a Christian is – someone who believes Jesus is living and who lives like him.