

# Jesus Teaches Us About Love

## Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

### Lesson 19, ages 4-5

#### Lesson 19 Goal

- Your child will learn and talk about ways of treating others as he or she wants to be treated.

#### Key Points

- Jesus said to treat others the way we want to be treated.
- We should welcome others, share with them, and care for them.



#### Parent Reflection

The development of empathy is a process that begins in early childhood, but continues into adulthood. As we become better acquainted with ourselves and more aware of others' needs, we grow in our capacity to understand and respond to the feelings of others.

It is only when our love is given unselfishly, even sacrificially, that we are truly showing the love of Christ. Pope Benedict XVI, in his first encyclical said, "Only if I serve my neighbor can my eyes be opened to what God does for me and how much he loves me" (*Deus Caritas Est*, 18). Let us follow Christ in love.

#### Reflection Question

How can I show the love of Christ to others more in my life?

## Lesson Preparation

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

### Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- costumes or dress-up clothes representing clothes from Jesus' time and today
- toy doctor kit
- doll
- adhesive bandages

- pennies in a small bag
- Activity Master #2 – Saint Page (Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

### Preparation Steps

- Make sure your child has a copy of Activity Master #2 (included with this lesson).

## 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.

Say, *“Today, we will learn one of the most important rules. Jesus' rule is this: Treat others the way you want to be treated.”*

Help your child give appropriate responses to the following questions.

- Imagine you were playing with a friend and you fell down and hurt your knee. What would you want your friend to do?
- When you are feeling sad, what do you need?
- When you are hungry or thirsty, does someone you love help you? How?

Say, *“The people that would do these things for you are showing you love. Do you remember Jesus' rule? Treat others the way you want to be treated. We must treat people the way we would want to be treated. Let's pray to ask Jesus to help us always follow this rule.”*

## Begin in prayer:

Pray 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.”

**Parent:** *Jesus, our teacher, when someone gets hurt,*

**Together:** *Help us show our love.*

**Parent:** *When someone is scared,*

**Together:** *Help us show our love.*

**Parent:** *When someone is sad,*

**Together:** *Help us show our love.*

**Parent:** *When someone is hungry or thirsty,*

**Together:** *Help us show our love. Amen.*

## Discovering

**The Good Samaritan.** Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about the Good Samaritan.

Ask your child, “Can you think of a time you helped someone?”

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. What Can I Make to Share?** Turn to 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. Taking Care of Others (Dramatic Play).** Encourage your child to act out the Scripture story with you or to pretend her or she is taking care of a hurt person day.

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

Ask your child:

- ▶ How do you like to be treated?

- ▶ What are some ways you help others?

Have your child write and draw about Saint Brigid of Ireland using Activity Master #2.

## 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:

**Parent:** *Jesus, our Lord and our Teacher, When someone gets hurt,*

**Together:** *Help us show our love.*

**Parent:** *When someone is scared,*

**Together:** *Help us show our love.*

**Parent:** *When someone is sad,*

**Together:** *Help us show our love.*

**Parent:** *When someone is hungry or thirsty,*

**Together:** *Help us show our love. Amen.*

## Saint Brigid of Ireland

### Giving Away the Bread

"Stop giving away the bread!" angry grown-ups yelled at little Brigid.

Brigid was stubborn. She was stubborn about doing what Jesus asks. She knew Jesus wanted her to treat others as she wanted to be treated. When someone was hungry, she shared what food she had, because she knew what it felt like to be hungry. When she knew Jesus wanted her to help, she helped no matter what the grown-ups said.

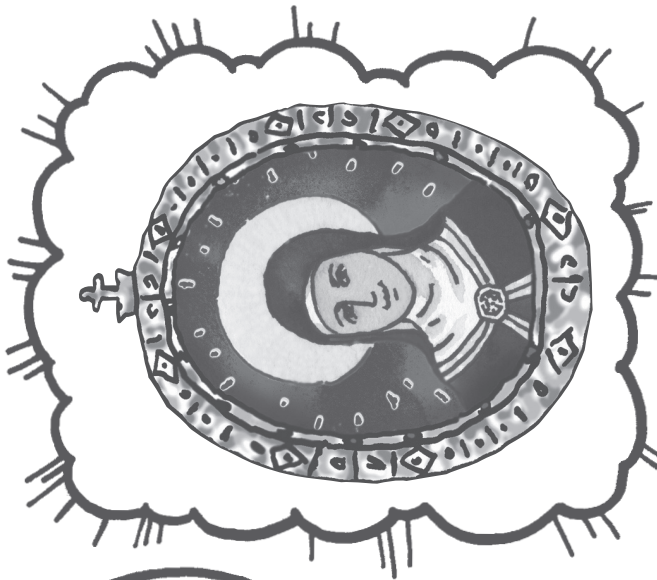
Young Brigid's own life was hard. Her family was very poor. But they were rich in their love for Jesus, and the family prayed together every day. Brigid's mother taught her to have great

trust in God.

Brigid was strong and happy. She smiled and laughed, making others laugh. People loved her, even those who sometimes were angry with her!

As Brigid grew older, she found many more ways to treat others the way she wanted to be treated. As a grown-up, she set up a wonderful place called an abbey, where holy women and men lived a life of prayer and service to God. She taught hundreds of children and adults about Jesus, and she took care of sick people. And she always cared for and fed those who were hungry, just as she did when she was a little girl.

**DRAW**



**Saint  
Brigid,  
pray for us!**