

Welcome to faith formation support as we learn to **Love Like Jesus**.

Theme for May: Getting Started with the Way of Love

CHOOSE ONE SCRIPTURE (or explore all three throughout the week)

John 13:3-5, 33-35

Jesus knew he had come from God and would go back to God. He also knew that the Father had given him complete power. So during the meal Jesus got up, removed his outer garment, and wrapped a towel around his waist. He put some water into a large bowl. Then he began washing his disciples' feet and drying them with the towel he was wearing. My children, I will be with you for only a little while longer. Then you will look for me, but you won't find me. I tell you just as I told the people, "You cannot go where I am going." But I am giving you a new command. You must love each other, just as I have loved you. If you love each other, everyone will know that you are my disciples.

Summary: Jesus showed love by doing something humble and kind—washing his friends' feet at dinner. Then he said, "This is how people will know you follow me: by the way you love each other."

Scripture Option 2: God Creates People in God's Image

Genesis 1:26-27

God said, "Now we will make humans, and they will be like us. We will let them rule the fish, the birds, and all other living creatures." So God created humans to be like himself; he made men and women.

Summary: God said, "Let us make people in our image." So God created humanity in God's own image—male and female. God saw that it was very good.

Scripture Option 3: The Greatest Commandment

Mark 12:28-34

One of the teachers of the Law of Moses came up while Jesus and the Sadducees were arguing. When he heard Jesus give a good answer, he asked him, "What is the most important commandment?" Jesus answered, "The most important one says: 'People of Israel, you have only one Lord and God. You must love him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.' The second most important commandment says: 'Love others as much as you love yourself.' No other commandment is more important than these."

Summary: Someone asked Jesus, "What's the most important commandment?" Jesus answered, "Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. And love your neighbor as yourself."

FOR TWEENS & TEENS (ages 10-18)

Journal Prompts (pick one):

1. Jesus washed the feet of his friends – they were dirty and dusty from walking on the road (they only had sandals to wear). It was a humbling and caring action. When do you do things that are humble and/or caring? What could you do this week to show love without needing affirmation, and simply because you care?
2. If you were created "in God's image," what does that say about your worth? Do you believe it? How do you live like you are worthy of God's love and image.
3. "Love your neighbor as yourself." How do you treat yourself? Would you want to be loved that way? How can you begin to treat yourself with love, so that you can also show love to others?

Dinner Conversation Starters:

- Easy one: "What's one way someone showed you love this week?"
- Deeper one: "Jesus says people will know we're his followers by how we love. What does that mean in real life—like at school or online?"
- Funny one: "If Jesus washed feet to show love, what's the modern equivalent? Cleaning someone's bathroom? Taking out their trash?"

Bedtime (or Anytime) Prayer:

“Dear God,

Thank you for creating me in your image,
and for loving me just as I am.

Help me to remember that I am yours,
even on days when I feel unsure of myself.

Shape my heart to care about what you care about.

Guide my thoughts and my choices,
and help me use my time and energy in ways that reflect your love.

Show me small ways I can serve others—
at school, at home, and with my friends.

Help me to be kind, brave, and honest,
even when it's hard.

Thank you for being with me today.

Be with me as I rest,
and help me wake ready to love and serve again.

Amen.”