



See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God.” 1John 3:1

Affection Lure

Lesson #7

The intention here is to focus on the positive aspects of love: the love of God, parents, family and friends. Keeping in mind the way this lure is used to harm children, this lesson serves to remind us that the Christian life is founded on knowledge of God’s love. The Christian life is lived out through love of one another which models this love of God. (JPPI 1981) *Familiaris Consortio* describes the role which the family plays in the world today. It is our hope that the children in our care experience the love of God through their family.

John’s letter reminds us that we have come to know and believe in this love which God has for us. God calls us into existence through love; at the same time, God calls us for love. Believing that love is the fundamental, innate vocation of every human being, the focus of this lesson is this call for love.

1Corinthians provides a clear description of what love is: patient, kind, believes, bears, hopes and endures all things. Paul’s letter also tells us what love is not: jealous, pompous, rude, quick-tempered, brooding nor does it rejoice over wrongdoing.

St. Valentine is western culture’s quintessential symbol of love. Older children could be invited to find out how this came about.

The celebration of the Eucharist, memorial of Jesus’ sacrifice and death for our sins, is the definitive example of God’s love. Through our participation, joining with each other, we show our desire to share this love with each other and the whole of God’s creation.

With older children it is possible to discuss Jesus’ exhortation in Mark to “love your enemies” or from John “As I have loved you, so you also should love one another”. Just what would that mean in their lives; what would it mean for our world?



The Affection Lure

Lesson Plan #7

Lesson Plan:

Prayer	Loving and gracious God, Help us to remember to always think first and stay safe. <i>Always keep us close to you.</i> This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.
Scripture	1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (The way of love) 1 John 4:16 (Agape love)
Saint or Hero	St. Valentine

Additional Catechist Resources:

Symbol	Hearts
Music	<i>Love One Another</i> (James Chepponis, GIA) <i>We Are Called</i> (David Haas, GIA) <i>One Bread, One Body</i> (David Foley, SJ, OCP) <i>Shout to the Lord</i> (Darlene Zschech, Hillsong Publishers)
Liturgy or Rites	Eucharist
Prayers	Act of Love O my God, I love you above all things, with my whole heart and soul, because you are all good and worthy of my love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of you. I forgive all who have injured me and I ask pardon of all whom I have injured.
Church Teachings	CCC: 2331 ... <i>God is love....Creating the human race in his own image...,God inscribed in the humanity of man & woman the vocation,...the capacity & responsibility, of love....</i> Familiaris Consortio: 11 ... <i>calling (humans) into existence through love, He called (us) at the same time for love. ...Love is the fundamental & innate vocation of every human being.</i> Apostolic Exhortation on the Role of the Family in the Modern World, Pope John Paul II, 1981.