

Children's Message for May 17th 2020

Object: A picture of your mom, dad or another family member that you may resemble.

Scripture: John 14:15-21 (NRSV)

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Message

Begin by gathering your child/children in front of you. With the picture in front of you, say, I have this picture of my mom (or whomever) and it's interesting that we look kind of the same. We have the same color hair, eyes, height, etc. But more than that we both like to read, bicycle, run, fish, ski, etc. We are alike in many ways. Some of this is because of genetic traits that we share and some of this is because we spent a lot of time together. Families are very important. They shape us and we tend to be like someone in our family. Who are you like in our family or have you ever noticed that you are like...because of...? Do you and your sister(s), brother(s), cousins like similar things? Or how about me or your mom/dad, grandma, grandpa, aunt, or uncle? Has anyone in our family ever told you that you are like someone else in our family?

Do you ever wonder what Jesus means when he talks about the fact that God is in Jesus and Jesus is in us and we are part of each other? That we share life together? It's kind of confusing and sometimes hard to think about, isn't it? We can't really explain it well because we can't see God in us and in others but just like we share traits with our families, Jesus says that we share traits with him and with God. The biggest trait that we share is love. Jesus says by showing love everyone will know that you are part of God's family. Just like people may know that you are part of our family by how you look or by the things you like to do, Jesus says by showing love for every person, then everyone will know that you are part of God's family. When we all share this love it connects us like family. What are ways Jesus showed love? What are ways that we can show love? These are great ways to show God's love and to include everyone in the family of God.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank you for being with us always. Thank you for showing us how to be like God and love everyone. Thank you for making us one big family in your love. Amen.

Optional Activity

Give your child/children construction paper, markers, stickers, crayons, glitter, etc. to make a folded Thank You note to Jesus for showing us how to love one another. Encourage them to illustrate a favorite activity or trait they share with another family member. Read the thank you note(s) along with the prayer.

Source: faithformationjourneys.org