

## **Real love for God and his family**

**Aim:** - for children to realize that by loving God we love all his people regardless if we know them or not, or if they are good to us or not.

- To remember regardless of what goes on around us at church, our focus is on God
- To always come together in God's love

**Focus verse:** This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. But whoever has this world's goods and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. ( **1 John 3:16-18**)

### **Activity to begin lesson:**

Servant sticks a large piece of paper on the wall and in the centre of the room are a range of words that describe what we may do at church. Children individually gather words that they think are important, they stick these words on the large sheet of paper. Once all children have had a turn, the servant talks about the most important ones, such as receiving Holy Communion and worshipping God.

Ideas to use of what we may do at church ( these are to be written on paper, cut out and placed on floor for children to choose)

- Worship
- Pray
- Spend time with God
- To show God we love him
- To attend Sunday school
- To have holy communion
- To have confession

- To see friends
- To eat
- To drink
- To be united together as a congregation
- To look at what others are wearing
- To play
- To be with my friends

So the idea of this is that everything we do is centered around God. Discuss with children the items they have selected that are on the large piece of paper and the items that are left on the floor that is not appropriate for church.

**The lesson:**

Read Matthew 21:12-17

Discuss with the children ways in which church was different or similar back in the bible to nowadays, for example you may like to point out that although we have food and drink at church and things we may buy it is different to the market place that was made at the temple and Jesus called the temple a “Den of thieves” because today all the money that is made goes directly to church and not the person who is selling it as we read in the story. Also you may want to mention that by providing services for people they are more likely to stay in the church and want to spend time in church, just like it’s our own home.

Discuss further the bible passage and ask children how the market place would have made Jesus feel and why. (eg, we saw Jesus was angry by knocking the tables over)

Tell children that the house of the Lord is a house of pray and holiness this means that at all times we show Jesus we love him and also all his people.

At times it is difficult to love someone we do not know or to love someone who has hurt us or wronged us however Jesus has showed countless amount of times how he loved

those who wronged him. It is very easy to love someone who already loves at but it may be difficult to love someone who teases us, puts us down or treats us badly. It is by loving this person that we are experiencing the true love of God and his family.

**What the holy Bibles says about Love: (discuss with children)**

- 1 John 4:7-12
- John 15:9-13, 17
- Romans 5:8
- Matthew 6: 10-15
- Matthew 5:44
- **1 John 3:16-18**

Glory be to God forever and ever AMEN.