



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME



UNIT 6

We Love God

AIMS

1. To find ways how to live a life of love (on the example of St Theresa of the Child Jesus).
2. To show how praying, using God's name reverently and celebrating Sunday demonstrate our love towards God as expressed in the first three commandments.

KEY WORDS

- COMMANDMENTS
- LOVE GOD;
LOVE OTHERS

RESOURCES

- Statue (or picture) of St Theresa of the Child Jesus.
- Biography: St Theresa (see worksheet 6 side B).
- The Ten Commandments Flashcards/Poster
- Flashcards with the words: LOVE GOD and LOVE ONE ANOTHER
- Worksheet 6

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Keep a few moments of silence.

Ask the children to think of something they can do to show their love to God.

Sing a hymn of praise (for e.g. Morning has Broken - see resources)

NOTES

Remember other prayers. Go through the SORRY PRAYER or ACT OF CONTRITION with the children and invite them to learn it. Explain that we use this prayer to show how sorry we are for the times we failed to show true love to God (see Prayer Book).

INTRODUCTION

Narrate (using PowerPoint presentation or other slides, video etc. if available) the story of St Theresa of the Child Jesus (see worksheet 6 side B for short biography).

Ask: "What made Theresa notice God's love for her (us)?" She understood what Jesus said: that we must love one another and love God. Jesus also said that keeping his commandments brings us joy and peace. Discuss briefly these points with the children, referring to Jesus' words in John 15:10-11: *If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*

MAIN

- Show the 10 commandments flashcards (see resources) to the children and ask them to talk about them for a while. Briefly say how God gave them to us through Moses in the time of the Old Testament. (Story to be revisited in Unit 8) Place the card "LOVE GOD" by the first three commandments and "LOVE ONE ANOTHER" by the remaining seven. Show how Jesus himself summed up the commandments in these two captions. Explain that this Unit is about LOVING GOD.
- The first commandment says: **You shall not have other gods.** We are called to show a special love towards God especially by prayer. Refer back to the story of St Theresa of Child Jesus. She used to think about God frequently. Why did the saints pray and think about God? Do we pray to God? How do we pray? Briefly talk about the different types of prayer including Adoration and Praise. We must not only pray God so that he may help us and earn us favours but also to adore him and praise him for all the good gifts he gives us.
- The second commandment: **You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.** We use names to call people and to say nice things to them or to praise them. Give examples. But some other times we use them to blame others, to say bad things about them. How do you feel when someone makes fun of your name, curses your name or call you other names to hurt you? Ask the children to remember an occasion when this happened. It is wrong to use a person's name like this. But it is even worse to use God's name without love. God's name should only be used with honour and respect. We do this when we pray, at mass or when singing hymns.
- The third commandment: **Remember to keep Holy the Sabbath day.** If we truly love God, then we want to be with him. Sunday is the day to do so. Also point out that this does not mean that we should pray or attend Mass only on Sundays. We can do this on other days of the week too. How do we keep the Lord's Day holy? By going to church and attend mass. At mass we remember Jesus' great act of love when he died on the cross and rose from death. By going to Mass each Sunday we show God that we love him and that we want to be with him. Sunday should be a day to celebrate and a day to REST from work.

ACTIVITY

Ask the children to learn the first three commandments and the Morning Offering.
Hand out and briefly talk about the tasks in Worksheet 6.