

Inclusive catechesis & prayer

We all belong to the family of God



Introduction for catechists: We are all beloved children of God. Inclusive catechesis is about making sure that everyone has the chance to get to know about God the Father, Jesus His son, and the Holy Spirit. You can adapt this resource to meet the needs of your child / group, so that each one can build an engaging and joyful relationship with God – who loves each of us, just as we are.

Opening hymn: Playing quietly to introduce the liturgy. Our suggestion is *He's Got the Whole World*. See missiontogether.org.uk/sing-with-mission-together

Sign of the cross: Where appropriate children are supported to make the sign of the cross.

Introduction for children

Today we are going to talk about something very special. We are going to talk about how much God loves us and how he shows us how to love each other.

Bible reading

In the Bible, which is our special book about God, it says: 'God the Father has loved us so much! He loved us so much that we are called children of God. We really are His children!' 1 John 3:1

Bible reflection

The Bible teaches us that God created everything that exists and so, in a special way God is the Father of all people, that includes you and me. This means that, thanks to God, we are all brothers and sisters. Isn't that wonderful! The Bible also teaches us that God loves every one of you equally, and he will always love every one of you. One of the ways God shows His love for His children, is by giving us this beautiful world to share, with its trees and flowers and animals. We show our love for God by looking after the world together. And we can show our love for one another not just by sharing our beautiful world, but by sharing what we have, by using kind words, by trying to help each other, and by praying for one another. Let's do that now as together we say the Mission Together prayer.

Mission Together prayer: to the right.

Sign of the cross: Where appropriate children are supported to make the sign of the cross.

Closing hymn: *He's Got the Whole World*. This time children can join in with percussion instruments and sing along if appropriate for the group.

Follow up activities: *How do you show love*. Found on page 2.

Mission Together Prayer

May all children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love
Now and forever. **Amen.**

Activity: How do you show love?



Tips for catechists / parents

Love is hard to explain unless you explain it by the ways it can be expressed.

This activity can be tailored to the group you are working with so that you are using concepts and tools that work for them. You could also ask children, in advance of the session what they do to try to be kind to others so you have ideas of what images, words or symbols would be helpful.

In order to prepare you will need to think about the way the children who will be participating communicate best. Do they use Makaton Symbols? Widget? Can they Read? Would images of actions that symbolise love (see instructions) be clearest?

Next think about the kinds of things that children within the group are able to do to show kindness? Can they sign or say sorry, please or thank you? Can they smile at their friends when they are pleased to see them or share toys?

Cut out images/Makaton symbols/Widget symbols/words of a few things each child could do (it doesn't matter if every child has, for example, the same three choices if that's what works for your group).

For this activity you will need:

- Large paper hearts cut out of A4 card – one for each child
- PVA Glue
- Coloured tissue paper cut up into small pieces

Instructions

- Give the children the choices of image/symbol/word and ask them to choose one thing that they think they can do every day. Explain that this is going to be something you want them to remember to try to do everyday, to show everyone around them that they love them, just like God loves us.
- If children want to choose all the options that is fine, but being clear that they can choose just one takes the pressure off more anxious children. Its also important to say that this is about trying to do something and if we forget or things go wrong its OK!
- Support the children to glue their image/symbol/word onto their card heart.
- Next support the children in sticking on different coloured pieces of tissue paper to decorate the heart, around the symbol or image.
- When this has dried the children can take their heart home and put it somewhere to remind them of what they are going to work at doing every day to show love. They may want to put it next to their bed so that when they say their prayers, they remember to ask God to help them with this challenge.



Fundraising ideas



Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio – the Catholic Church's official children's charity for overseas mission. Thanks to children in England and Wales, we can provide life-changing aid around the world in whatever form it's needed. That could be a new school, feeding programme, or a generator for a children's home. Mission Together helps all children, regardless of background or beliefs. That's how we show the all-embracing nature of the Catholic Church and the true meaning of 'mission'.

Fundraising is a brilliant way to involve everyone in raising money for Mission Together. Below are a few ideas for different times in the year. You can find other ways to get involved by visiting our webpage <https://missiontogether.org.uk/fundraising-ideas/> Please **share your** fundraising events with us @missioUK adding the hashtag #missiontogether

Ideas for Spring & Summer

Valentines biscuits: bake heart shaped cookies and sell them in pretty bags around Valentines Day. Try to involve children as much as possible, from adding ingredients and cutting cookies to shaking sprinkles.

Spring flower sale: everyone loves the first signs of spring after winter! Work with children to pot spring bulbs – snowdrops, mini daffodils, crocuses and hyacinths to sell as Easter gifts.

Easter bonnet competition: charge children to enter a competition for the best Easter bonnet. Prizes for the most fabulous creations!

Weeding Week: While the days are sunny and warm, why not raise money by weeding gardens? Ask for suggested donation, or sponsorship per bag of weeds. Maybe green fingered children could plant too!

Scavenger hunt: this is a great outdoor activity! Print off some sheets with summertime things to spot e.g. flowers in the garden, leaves on trees, birds singing. We have an accessible Scavenger Hunt available to download on our 'Inclusive Resources' webpage. Charge an entry fee. Every complete scavenger sheet is placed in a hat, with the pulled out winner receiving a prize.

Ideas for Autumn & Winter

Rake-a-Thon: With autumn leaves falling, who not fundraise for Mission Together by tidying gardens for a suggested donation. Make sure children have strong gloves and bags if they take up the Rake-a-Thon challenge.

Winter walks: brave the elements and hold a torch-lit hike or winter walk to raise money for Mission Together. Make sure you have plenty of adults to supervise and assist when organising outdoor events with children. Better still, get the whole family involved!

Christmas crafts: get children involved in making and selling Christmas cards, ornaments, wreaths, biscuits, and any other Christmassy gifts and treats you can think of. Donate the proceeds to Mission Together. Visit our Advent webpage for instructions for our Handy Advent Wreath and other craft ideas.

Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission.

23 Eccleston Square London SW1V 1NU missiontogether.org.uk missio.org.uk

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