

Love One Another



Jesus and his disciples had eaten their last supper together in the upper room. Judas, the traitor, had left to make his deal with the Pharisees to betray Jesus.

“My children, I shall not be with you very much longer. You will look for me, but I tell you now what I told the Jewish authorities, ‘You cannot go where I am going.’ And now I give you a new commandment: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples.”

“Where are you going, Lord?” Simon Peter asked him.

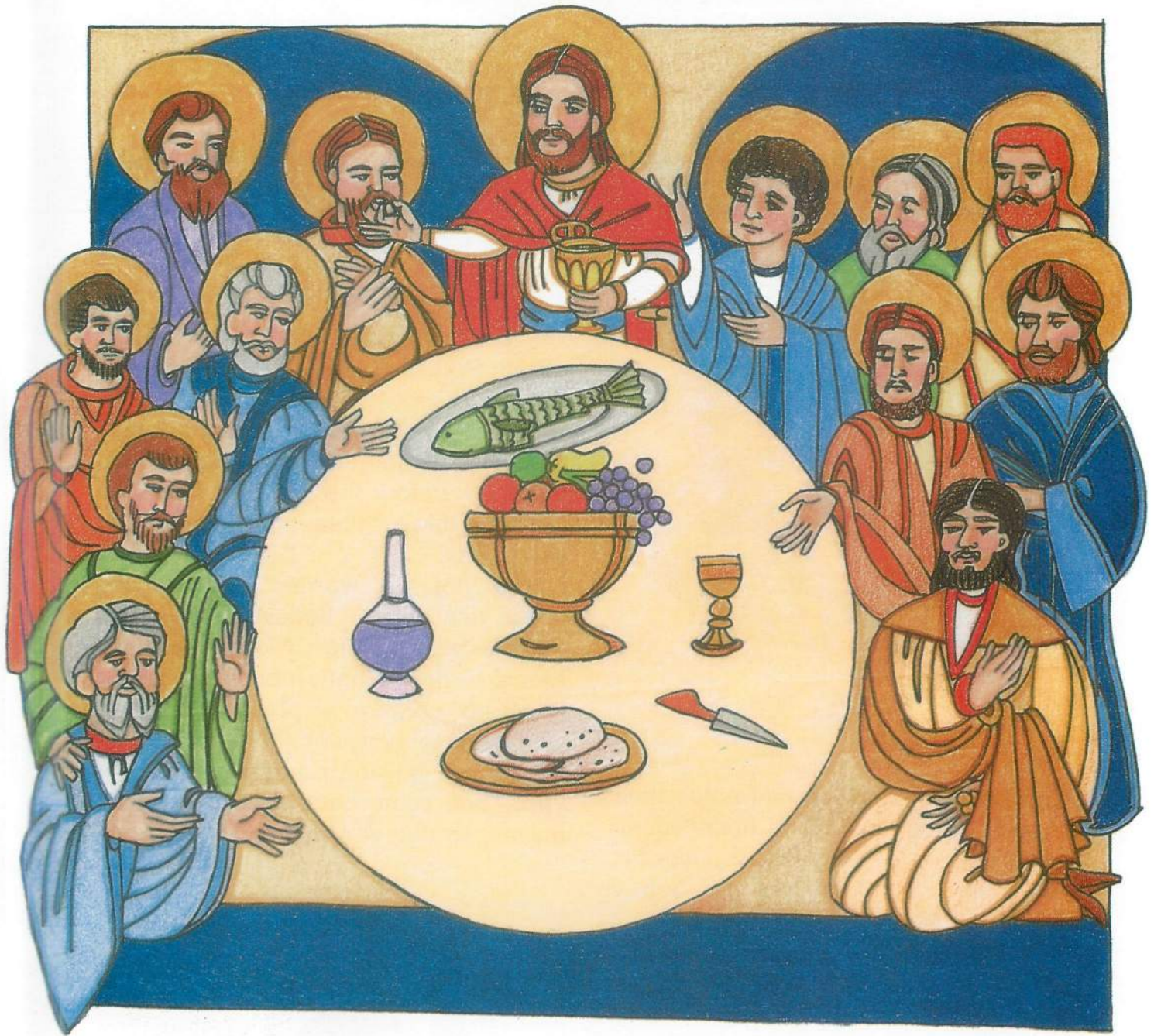
“You cannot follow me now where I am going,” answered Jesus, “but later you will follow me.”

“Lord, why can’t I follow you now?” asked Peter. “I am ready to die for you!”

Jesus answered, “Are you really ready to die for me? I am telling you the truth; before the rooster crows you will say three times that you do not know me.”

“Do not be worried and upset,” Jesus told them. “Believe in God and believe also in me. There are many rooms in my Father’s house, and I am going to prepare a place for you. I would not tell you this if it were not so. And after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am.”





I may be able to speak the languages of men and even of angels, but if I have no love, my speech is no more than a noisy gong or a clanging bell. I may have the gift of inspired preaching; I may have all knowledge and understand all secrets; I may have all the faith needed to move mountains, but if I have no love, I am nothing. I may give away everything I have, and even give

up my body to be burned but if I have no love, this does me no good.

Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail.

I Corinthians 13:1-7

4. Have students read "What Do You See When . . ." to themselves or aloud and discuss each part of the first section. Let the children comment on the last section about how love can be confusing. Ask them to summarize the idea of the story. (15 min.)
5. Unit project work: List what each child will be responsible for bringing in. Get all things ready for the party. (5 min.)
6. *Homework*: Bring in all the items needed for the party! End with prayer.

Extending the Lesson

1. Review the year's work through games such as hangman, crossword puzzles, redoing some of the activities, or flipping through the text.
2. Have students write a paragraph on the Beatitudes.
3. Have students memorize one or more of the Beatitudes.

Session 4—Love One Another

Key Concept

We share in God's Kingdom even now in an everlasting covenant with him and with others by loving one another as Jesus loved us.

Objectives

Students will

1. Read the story, "Love One Another," and discuss ways we can love one another.
2. Have the end-of-the-year party.

Materials Needed

- Party materials the children have prepared in previous weeks and things they have brought from home.

Procedure

1. As students enter, tell each how much you have appreciated him/her in your class this year. Have children put homework (party foods) aside until party time. (5 min.)
2. Have students read the story, "Love One Another," and discuss ways we can follow the commandment of Jesus and keep the covenant. Talk about ways we can love one another. Discuss who the "one others" are—friends, family, neighbors, strangers, enemies, people we don't even know.

Read the excerpt from I Corinthians 13 on love and end class by having children hug each other and tell how they have been like Jesus to them this year. (You have been like Jesus to me by always being willing to listen to what I had to say. You have been like Jesus to me by being patient with me. You

- have been like Jesus to me by forgiving me for saying unkind things about you, etc.) (10 min.)
3. Set up for the party. After the party, have the children clean up. Class isn't over until all is cleaned up and the last prayer is said. (40 min.)
 4. End with a prayer that each child can add a line to. If parents are present, they should be invited to add to the prayer if they wish.

Lord, Jesus, we are ending our class today, but we are not ending our relationship with you or with one another. We promise to always follow your commandments to love one another as you have loved us. Be with us always, God, to help us remember your teachings when we want to forget them. Thank you for giving me (say the name of each child in the class) to teach this year. Thank you for letting them help me grow in my knowledge and love of you."

Now have students say their own prayers. If any child is hesitant or uncomfortable, you may have the child say, "God, help me always to follow your teachings," or another sentence more appropriate to the student. (5 min.)

Extending the Lesson

Give a short oral quiz on the year's work. Divide the class into teams and ask the questions giving points for correct answers. See which side wins!

Notes
