



Catechist Background

Jesus is still speaking in the Temple precinct, this time with the Pharisees. It was not uncommon practice in Jesus' day for Jews to invite debate about which commandment of the 613 laws of the Torah was the most important. Keeping all 613 laws perfectly was an exacting task, and if laws appeared to conflict in a particular situation, it was important to know which was the more important law to uphold. Jesus is the first person recorded to have linked these two laws from Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (*Love of God*) and Leviticus 19:18 (*Love of Neighbour*).

Setting the Scene

For the activities below you will need a photo of a loved one (the bigger the better) and some mirrors

We Say Sorry

Leader: You have created us in your image, Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: You are present in the people around us, Christ have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: You remain within us even when we cannot see you, Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Gloria

We Pray (1)

Lord God, strengthen us in faith, hope, and love so we can serve you in our lives. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

Reflecting on the Gospel reading with Children

Say:

- Last week's Gospel reading reminded us to 'give to Caesar what is Caesar's and give to God what is God's'. As we all belong to God, that should affect how we treat others.
- In today's Gospel, Jesus was talking with another group of Jewish religious leaders who were trying to trap him into saying something that went against Jewish teaching:
- What did they ask him? [*What is the most important commandment?*]
- Jesus' answer had two bits to it as he said there were two commandments that were the most important. [*Love God and love your neighbour, as these two are linked*]
- Does that sound like one commandment or two? [*You could say either!*]

Hold up a photograph of a loved one and ask:

- If I wanted to show this person I loved them, would I rip up or throw away their photo? [*No*]
- Would I stamp on it, spray paint or mud all over it? [*No*]
- We don't have photographs of God as such, but we can show our love for God by how we treat things God has created.
- **WE** are made by God. How should we treat each other? How should we treat ourselves?

Response

- Give out the mirrors and invite the children to look at themselves;
- Invite the children to look at others around them.
- Say: You and I are 'God's reflection' and so is every person here.
- Invite the children to think about one way in the next week that they are going to try extra hard to be loving to God by being loving to another person.

We Believe

Relate the Creed to what you have shared with the children by asking these questions and inviting them to reply: 'I do':

- Do you believe in God, who created all of us to reflect God's image to the world?
- Do you believe in Jesus, who showed us how to be like God?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us show God's love to others today?

We Pray (2)

Again, relate the Prayer of the Faithful to the Gospel reading by saying 'Jesus told us to love others as we love ourselves, and so we now pray...'

Leader: We pray for all who believe in God, that we can see God in everyone. Lord in your mercy,
All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for people everywhere, that we may all live in peace together. Lord in your mercy,
All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for anyone who lives in an unsafe place without caring people to look after them. Lord in your mercy,
All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for anyone in our parish who feels like they are not a very good image of God. Lord in your mercy,
All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, help us to show we love you by showing love to others. We make our prayers through Christ our Lord.
All: **Amen.**

