

activity page

To the Teacher

Make a Jesus Tree

This Jesus Tree can be used throughout preparation for first Communion. For the tree, each child will need:

- Large piece of poster board
- Crayons or markers
- Green, orange, and yellow construction paper
- Large envelope
- Glue

Direct the children through the following steps:

1. On the poster board, draw a large tree without leaves. Color the tree brown.
2. Beneath the tree, write, "We love as Jesus loves."
3. Cut green, orange, and yellow leaves out of construction paper. You will need enough leaves to fill the branches of the tree.
4. On one side of the green leaves, write, "Forgiving." On the yellow leaves, write, "Healing." On the orange leaves, write, "Feeding."
5. Each child should have an envelope filled with several leaves of each color.
6. After you have discussed the lesson, explain to the children that it will be up to them to fill the tree with leaves. Every time a child loves in a Jesus way, he or she can sign the back of a colored leaf that corresponds to the action and glue it on the tree.

As the weeks go by, the children can watch their Jesus Tree blossom because of their love and kindness. Some of their love deeds can be class projects (adding to a collection box for the poor or writing cards for the sick in hospitals and for seniors in retirement homes). Others can be done at home or on their own (forgiving each other, sharing with their friends, or helping around the house).



To the Parents

As the children prepare to receive Jesus in their first holy Communion, they will be striving to live more and more as Jesus lived. You are in the best position to help and guide your child in his or her spiritual growth. Each night this week, read one of the following seven Bible passages to your child. The passages are short so you can allow time to discuss Jesus' action and how your child can adapt that action to his or her life. The more your child learns about Jesus and his way of love, the more meaningful the celebration of this sacrament will be.

Passages of love: Mt 8:5-13; 9:1-8; 9:18-25; 9:27-31; Mk 8:31-37; 10:46-52; Lk 9:10-17.

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- #544 on Jesus preaching to the "poor"
- #545 on Jesus' invitation to sinners
- #588-89 on Jesus' mercy toward and forgiveness of sinners
- #1503-05 on Christ the physician



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First COMMUNION

PREPARING CHILDREN FOR THE SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST

JESUS SHOWS HIS LOVE!

Jesus came to teach about God's love.

He told his apostles to let the little children come to him.

He said that a child's love is a special kind of love and all God's people should love as children do.



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by Francine M. O'Connor

Lesson 1

Stories of Jesus

The best stories are stories about Jesus and his love. These are three especially good ones.

JESUS FEEDS THE PEOPLE

Luke 9:10-17

One day, Jesus was speaking to thousands of people in a far-away place called Bethsaida. He spoke about God the Father's love. The people stayed and listened for a long time.

The apostles came to Jesus and said, "Send the people away now so they can get something to eat."

Jesus said, "Give them food to eat."

But the apostles replied, "We have only five loaves of bread and two fish."

Then Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." The apostles did as Jesus said. Jesus blessed the loaves and fish, and the apostles gave them to the people.

The people ate and ate and ate until they were all full. When the apostles picked up what was left, it filled 12 baskets! This was a miracle of love.

JESUS HELPS THE SICK

Matthew 8:1-4

One day, a sick man came to Jesus. He wanted Jesus to cure him. Jesus said, "I will do it. Be cured." He touched the man and right away, the man was all better.

This man had a sickness called leprosy. People would not go near a leper because they thought they'd get sick too. The lepers had to stay away from town. That was the rule in Jesus' day. Jesus didn't care about that rule. The man was sick and hurting and Jesus took away his pain. This was another miracle of love.

JESUS FORGIVES SINNERS

Matthew 9:9-13

This is the story of Matthew, a tax collector who was not well liked. He took tax money from the poor even when they did not have enough money for food. "Follow me," Jesus said to Matthew. Matthew got up and followed him. They went to Matthew's house to eat. The people whispered and shook their heads. "Why is Jesus eating with that sinner?"

Jesus said, "I have come to help sinners give up their sins and live better lives." Jesus forgave Matthew and loved him. Matthew became one of Jesus' apostles. He followed Jesus for the rest of his life.

Jesus' forgiveness is a miracle of love. Jesus showed his love in many ways.

When he gave us his own body and blood to share in holy Communion, he was showing us his love. While you are preparing ???to receive your first holy Communion, remember how much Jesus loves you.

A JESUS KIND OF LOVE

Jesus showed his love for people by feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and forgiving sinners. Here is a game to help you learn how to love as Jesus loved. You will need two buttons and a coin. Flip the coin to see how many spaces you will move. Heads, move two spaces; tails, move one. The spaces will tell you how to love with a Jesus kind of love.



You forgave a friend who accidentally broke one of your toys. TAKE ANOTHER TURN.



SKIP TO THE NEXT BUG.



You gave some of your allowance to help feed the poor. GO AHEAD 3 SPACES.



You said something to hurt someone's feelings. LOSE A TURN.



GO TO THE HIGH-FIVE CORNER AND GIVE EVERYONE A HIGH FIVE.



Your sister said she was sorry for hurting you, but you would not listen to her. GO BACK TO START.



GO TO THE HUG CORNER AND GIVE EVERYONE A HUG.



You were grumpy when your mother asked you to clean up your room. GO BACK 1 SPACE.



GO TO THE SMILE CORNER AND SMILE.

