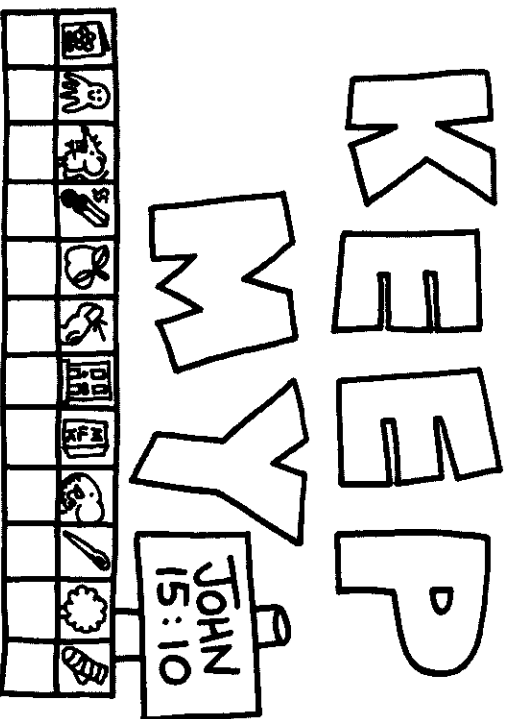


What else does
Jesus want us to do?

Jesus is our friend!

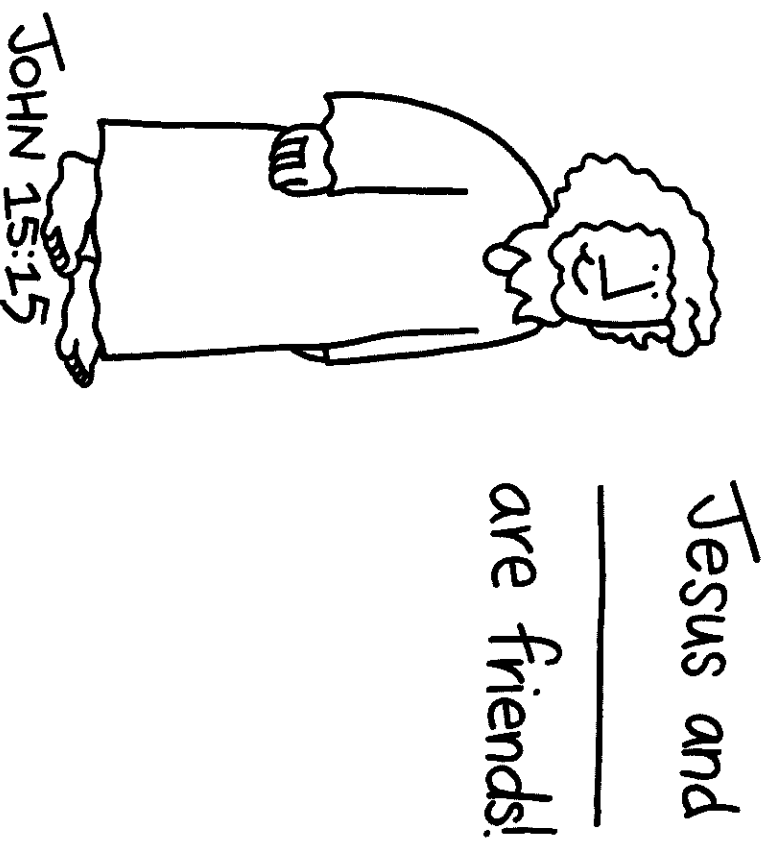
Color the letters.

Write the first letter of each picture in the boxes



Draw a picture of yourself next to Jesus.

Write your name



THINK and **LOOK** ahead

STEP BY STEP

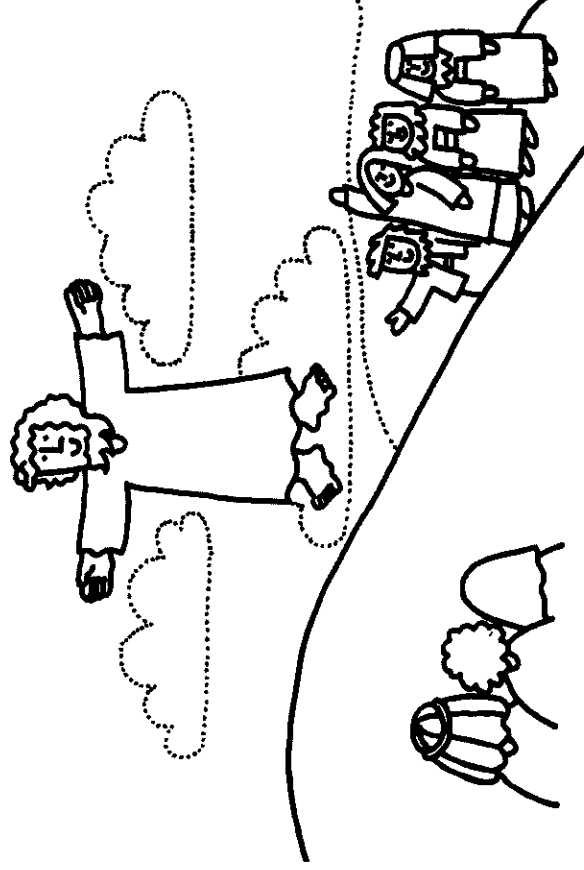
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B

Love each other

JOHN 15:9-17

On Thursday we celebrate the
Feast of the Ascension.

Trace the lines to finish the picture



Jesus wants us to love one another!

How many hearts can you see?



Sixth Sunday of Easter

Focus

A candle next to a Bible open at today's Gospel, with a simple ring placed beside them.

Introduction

Jesus commanded us to 'Love one another as I have loved you'. So great was Christ's love that he poured out his life on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. God's love for us never changes; it is like a circle without beginning or end which goes on for ever.

Gloria

Gospel Acclamation

Light the Gospel candle and sing Acclamation 4.

Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of St John (15:9-17)
(See page 381.)

Reflection

What did Jesus command us to do?

Jesus demands that whoever wants to be called his follower must love others as much as he loves us.

Is this commandment easy to obey?

At times we find some people more lovable than others! But Jesus doesn't simply want us to love people we know and care about. He demands that we love the unloved and those who are rejected and ignored by the world. This is the challenge of being a Christian and struggling to become more like Christ.

Why is love so important?

Love is at the heart of everything good which leads us to God. Listen to what St Paul had to say about love:

Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or full of self-importance; love is not selfish or greedy; it does not anger easily or remember past mistakes; love finds no joy in what is wrong, but delights in what is right. Love is always trusting; hoping in the future and accepting whatever it might bring. Many things may come and go, but love will never end. There are three important things: faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love.
(Adapted from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 13)

Jesus came to *show* us what it means to love as God loves. God loves us unconditionally in spite of what we say and do. Jesus put his love into action and gave us many examples of what loving one another really means.

Can you think of any examples?

(Encourage the children to share any stories they know that demonstrate Christ's living love in action.)

How can we love one another as God loves us?

Jesus gave us the perfect example when he shared his final meal with his disciples:

It was just before the Passover celebration, and knowing that the time for him to die was fast approaching, Jesus showed his disciples the depth of his love for them.

While they were at supper together Jesus stood up, and, laying his outer garments to one side, he wrapped a towel around his waist. The disciples watched as he fetched a basin of water and knelt down to wash their feet one by one, before drying them with the towel. When it was Peter's turn, he protested loudly, 'Lord, it isn't right that you should wash my feet!' But gently Jesus insisted, and reluctantly Peter allowed his Master to wash his feet. When he had finished, Jesus dressed and returned to the table. 'Just as your Lord and Master has washed your feet, so you must be ready to do for others what I have done for you.' Then he told them, 'This is my new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. The world will know that you are my disciples by the love you have for one another.'
(Adapted from John 13:1-15, 34-35)

Serving one another is one way in which Jesus expects us to show our love for others. In every act of love and service offered in every home, workplace, kitchen and canteen, school or playground we wash the feet of one another and bear the fruit of God's love. It is something that we are all called to do; it is the 'hallmark' of every Christian.

Activity

Give each child a copy of the words of St Paul to decorate and hang at home.

OR

Give each child a rectangular piece of plain paper. Ask them to write their name on one side and decorate it. Then make a paper chain using each child's name to add a link to the circle. The small links making up the large ring are a reminder of God's love for us, that love which we share with one another.

Intercessions

As brothers and sisters in one loving family, together let us pray to our heavenly Father:

We pray for countries facing famine, flood, drought and any kind of disaster.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for people who are poor and hungry.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for peace between nations and religions.

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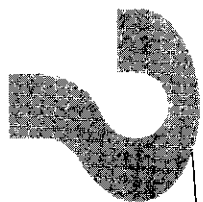
We pray for the needs and concerns of one another.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Knowing that our heavenly Father is listening, in the silence of our hearts let us share our own unspoken prayers with him.

Silence

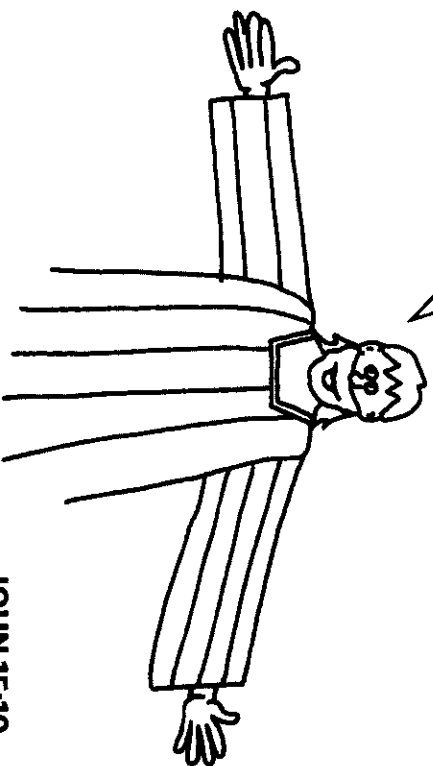
Loving Father,
may we faithfully follow Christ
so that our love for you and each other
may make us worthy to be called your children.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



How can we remain
in Christ's love?

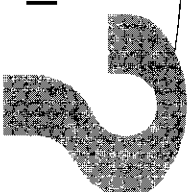
Unscramble the words of Jesus!

FI OYU
EPKE YM
MMOCNAEDMTNS

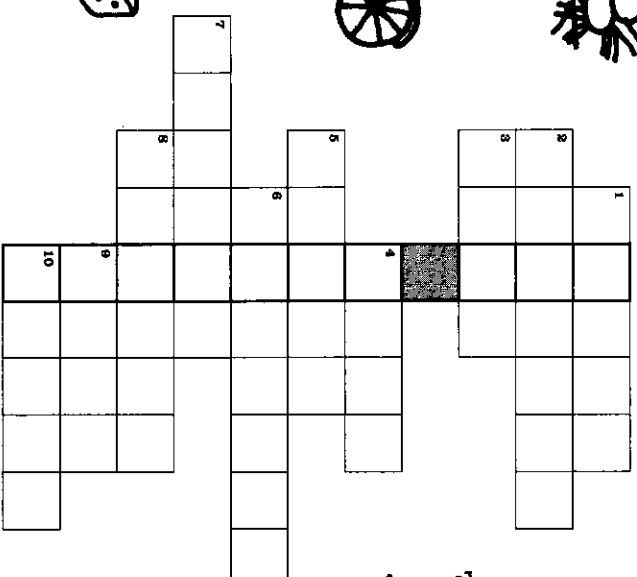


JOHN 15:10

If we do all
these things, what will
Jesus call us?



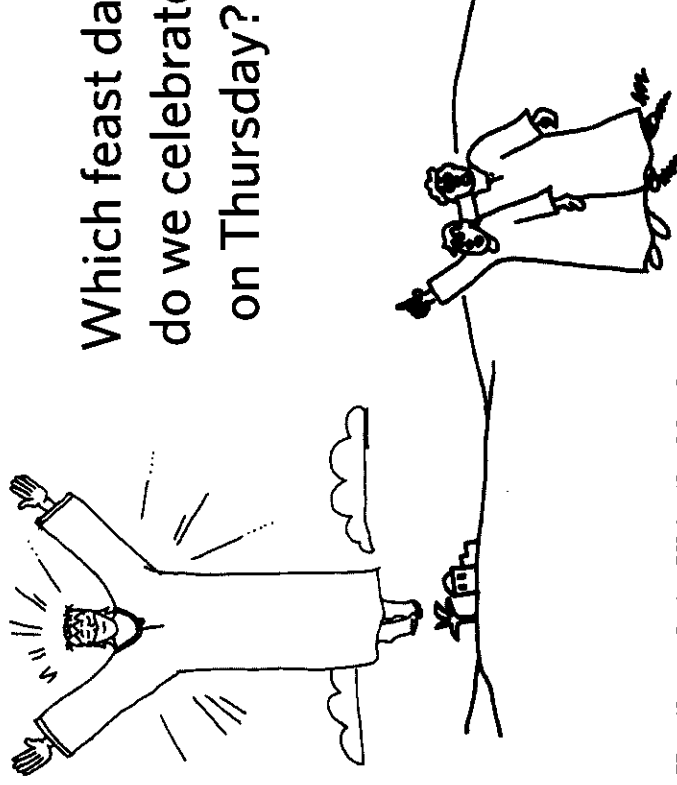
Use the picture clues to complete the puzzle.
The answer will appear in the bold squares









JOHN 15:14

THINK and LOOK ahead

Which feast day do we celebrate on Thursday?



Use the code to fill in the blanks

A = **E** = **H** = **O** = **R** = **S** =

T ◇ △ **SC** □ **N** → **I** □ **N**

OF **T** ◇ △ **L** □ **D**

Love each other

JOHN 15:9-17

Jesus loves each one of us.
What does he want us to do?

Use the code to find what Jesus says in John 15:9, 12

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
m	l	k	j	i	h	g	f	e	d	c	b	a
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
z	y	x	w	v	u	t	s	r	q	p	o	n

i	v	n	z	r	m	r	m
n	b		o	l	e	v	
o	l	e	v		v	z	x
l	g	s	v				



Love is...

Patient and kind;
It is not jealous or full
of self-importance;
Love is not selfish or
greedy;

It does not anger easily
or remember past
mistakes;

Love finds no joy in
what is wrong

But delights in what
is right.

Love is always trusting;
Hoping in the future
and accepting whatever
it might bring.

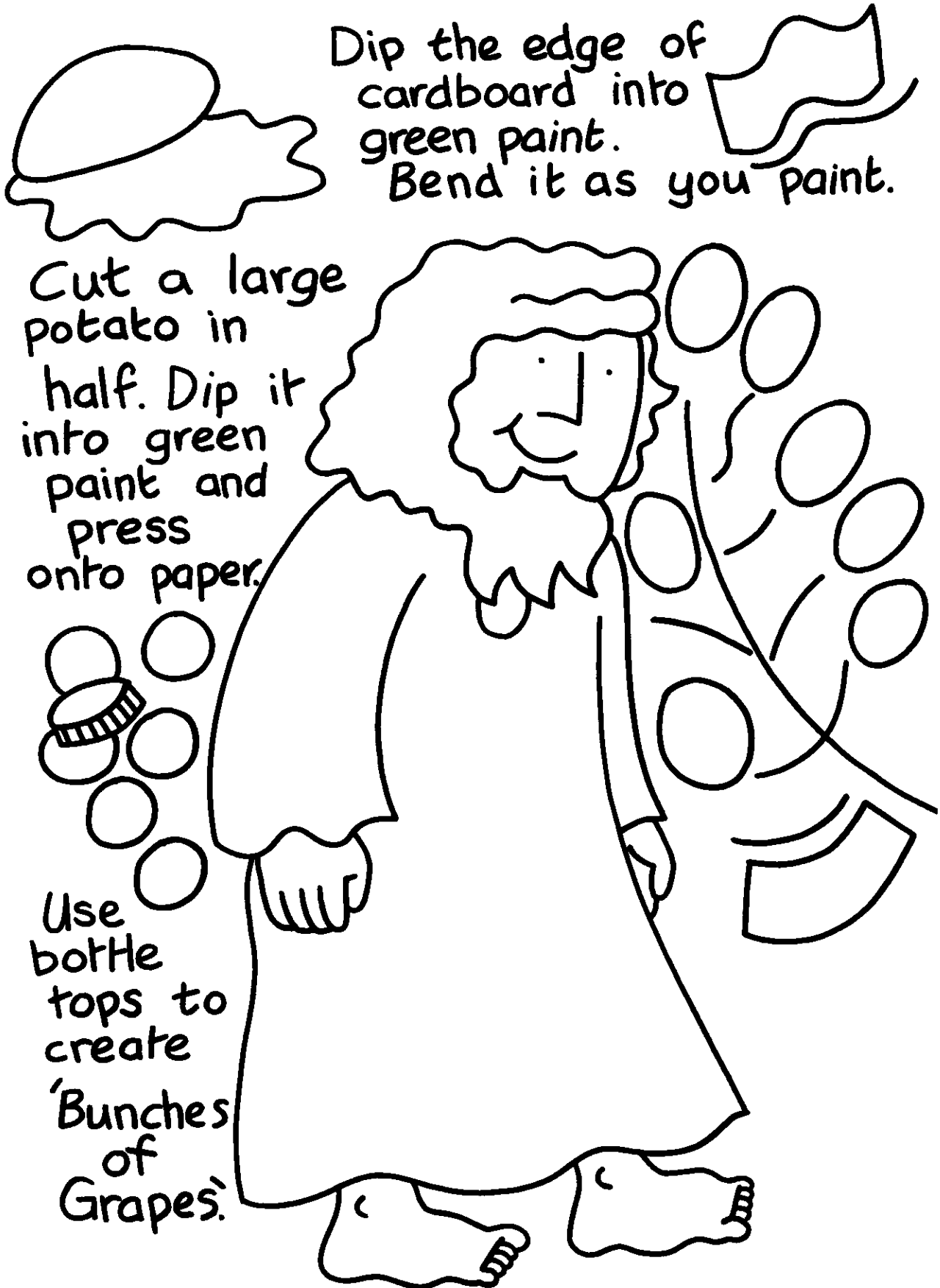
Many things may
come and go,
but love will never end.

Dip the edge of
cardboard into
green paint.

Bend it as you paint.

Cut a large
potato in
half. Dip it
into green
paint and
press
onto paper.

Use
bottle
tops to
create
'Bunches
of
Grapes'.



Sixth Sunday of Easter

Focus

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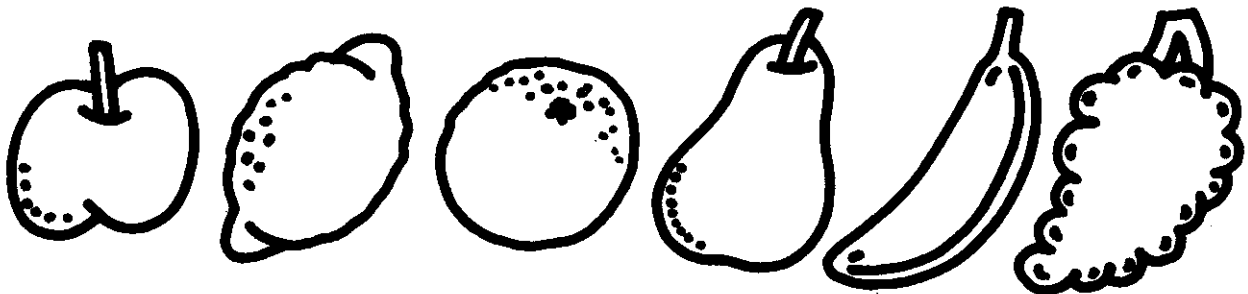
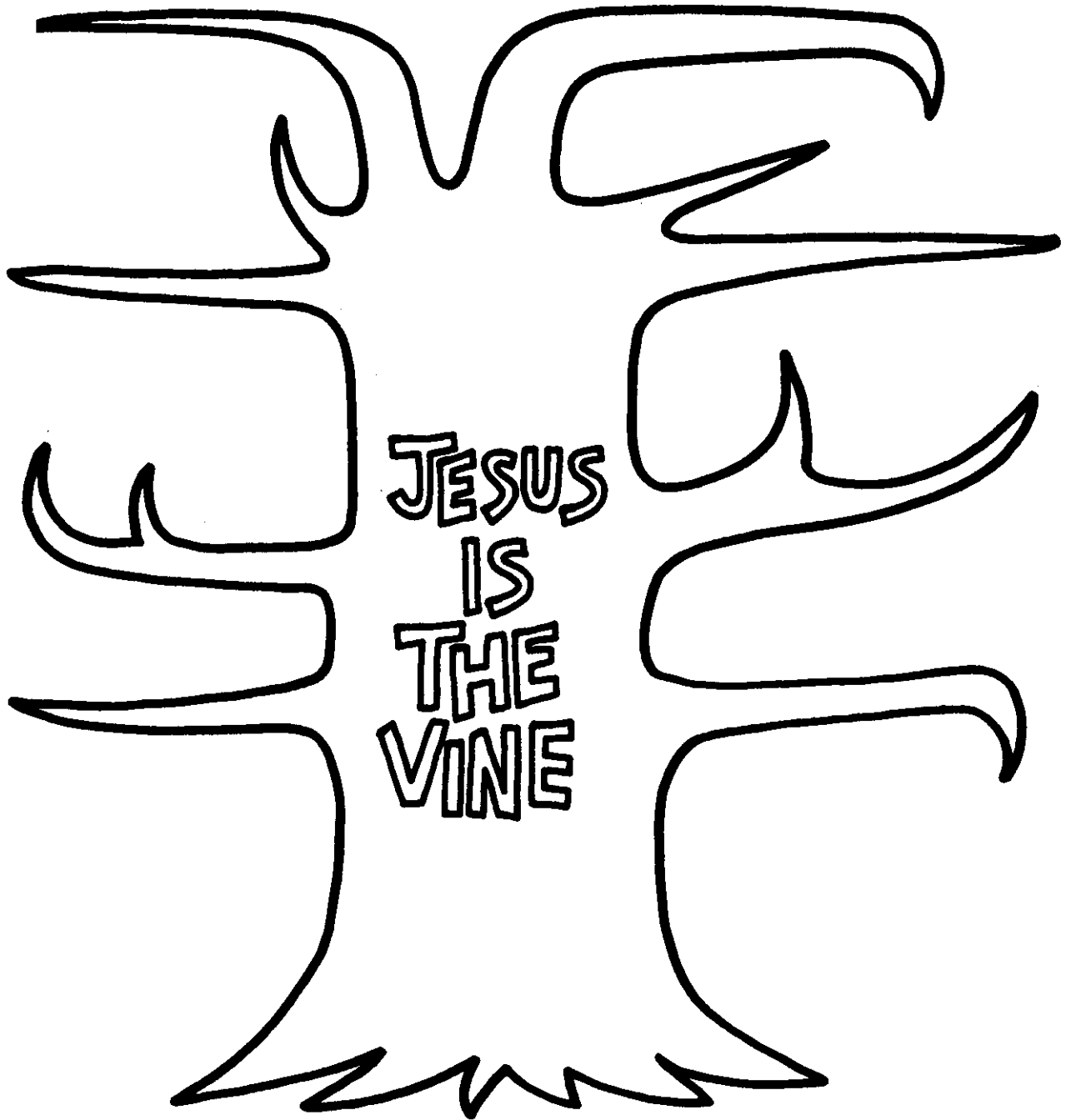
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Silence

Loving Father,
may we faithfully follow Christ
so that our love for you and each other
may make us worthy to be called your children.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



WE ARE THE BRANCHES



Sixth Sunday of Easter

Love each other

INTRODUCTION

Jesus loves each one of us so much that he died on the cross so we could share eternal life with him. He asks us to be generous and to share this love with all of humankind.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and read this prayer:

The candle flame is warm and bright;
it changes darkness into light.

We feel its warmth and see its glow,
and when we look at it we know,
the light of Christ is burning bright,
for we are children of the light.

SORRY

After a few moments of quiet reflection, ask the children to sing Sorry Song 1.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 4.

GOSPEL (JOHN 15:9-17)

One day Jesus said to his disciples: "I love you just as my father loves me. If you do as I ask then you will always be close to me, and my father will love you, too. I want you to love each other in the same way as I have loved you. I have chosen you to be my friends and am sending you out to share this love with the rest of the world."

DISCUSSION

Jesus asked his disciples to love one another as he had loved them. Jesus reminded his disciples many times that the greatest commandments were to love God and to love each other.

What does it mean to love another person? To love someone else means that you care about another person, about their happiness, and the things which happen to them. You want only the

best for them, and for them to grow in love and goodness.

Sometimes when there is a disaster, people behave heroically by saving the lives of others instead of their own. Their love for another person is so great that they put that person's needs before their own.

Jesus' love for us was so great that he did an extraordinary thing for us. "Greater love has no man, than to give up his life for others." Jesus loved us so much that he was ready to die so that we could live and share new life with him in heaven.

Jesus asked us to share his love with each other. We can put our love into action:

—by spending some time with someone who is lonely;

—by offering help to someone who needs it;

—by sharing our happiness with others.

We can put our love into words:

—by telling the members of our family how much we love them;

—by praying for the needs of other people;

—by praising and thanking God for all that we have.

(Encourage the children to make their own suggestions.)

Jesus lives inside each one of us, so whatever we say or do to each other, we say or do it to him. We can make everything we do a little act of love for God.

ACTIVITY

Make a "love is..." booklet for each child with several blank pages for their own drawings and ideas. Either use the illustration here for the cover, or the children can design their own.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly father,

our hearts are brimming over with your love.

Help us to be generous

and always ready to share this love
with everyone we meet.