

Love

Pages J-1 through J-4
Fireside Catholic Youth Bible - NEXT

Song: God Is There
Words and Music by: Aaron Thompson

CD 1, Track 10
FCYB Music CDs

Materials Needed

Fireside Catholic Youth Bible - NEXT, FCYB Music CDs, CD player, pens/pencils, large index cards for “The Meaning of Love” Small Group Discussion.

Setting the Stage – Opening Prayer (10 minutes)

Before the Opening Prayer, listen to the song “*God Is There*” by Aaron Thompson. CD 1. Track 10 of the FCYB Music CDs. Then, read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 from page J-2 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**. Ask the teens to share if and where they might have heard this Scripture before. Why was it important at that time?

Small Group Discussion – “The Meaning of Love” (30 minutes)

Give each teen an large index card and a pen/pencil. On the back of the card have written one of the Scriptures found on page J-2 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT** (except for 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8). Ask the teens to write their definition of love beneath the Scripture verse. Next have the teens divide into groups by gathering with everyone who has the same Scripture reference written on the back of his/her index card. The small groups should look up the Scripture and read the full story of the Scripture around this particular verse to better understand the context in which it was written. Their assignment is for each teen to write on the front of the card what this Scripture passage tells them about love. Encourage the teens to share what they wrote with other members of their group.

Examples of their findings might include the following summations:

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| * John 15:12-13 | Love involves sacrifice. |
| * 1 John 4:11 | Our love for each other should imitate God’s love for us. |
| * Matthew 5:43-44 | Love involves choice, not necessarily an emotion or good feeling. |
| * John 4:16 | God is Love, when we love God He manifests Himself in others. |
| * John 14:23 | Love involves faithfulness and obedience. |

Large Group Discussion – “Be Careful How You Use That Word” (10 minutes)

After the discussion, ask the teens if they would like to change their definition of love on their index card? Then, read the article (in the blue insert) at the bottom page J-1 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible - NEXT**. Suggest to the teens that each one of them complete the task suggested at the end of the article - the very next day.

Love

Pages J-5 through J-8
Fireside Catholic Youth Bible - NEXT

Song: God Is There

CD 1, Track 10

Words and Music by: Aaron Thompson

FCYB Music CDs

Materials Needed

Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT, FCYB Music CDs, CD player, DVD of either the movie “*The Passion of The Christ*” or “*Jesus of Nazareth*” for the Opening Prayer, a poster or markerboard or chalkboard to summarize the teaching of Christ in the What Jesus Said Large Group Discussion, supplies to make the “Mezuzah” in the What Jesus Said Large Group Activity.

Setting the Stage

As the teens are gathering, have the song “*God Is There*” by Aaron Thompson, playing in the background. CD 1, Track 10 of the FCYB Music CDs.

What Jesus Did

Opening Prayer (10 minutes)

Without an introduction, show the crucifixion scene from either the movie “*The Passion of The Christ*” or “*Jesus of Nazareth*”. Immediately after showing this scene, read the What Jesus Did article on page J-5 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**. Conclude with a minute of silence.

What Jesus Said

Large Group Discussion – “The Greatest Commandments” (15 minutes)

Read Matthew 22:37-39 at the top of page J-6 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT** or, ask a couple of teens to “act” this scenario out as if the Pharisee was a news reporter quizzing Jesus. Discuss the teens’ answers to the following questions:

What do you think the Pharisee asked Jesus that prompted this answer?

Why do you think the Pharisee asked this question?

How well do you think the Jews around Jesus knew the 10 Commandments?

What do you think it means to love God “with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind?”

What do you think this kind of love would look like in practice?

Why do you think the second part of Jesus’ answer is so important?

Together (using a markerboard or chalkboard) summarize this teaching of Jesus in five words or less. Conclude the discussion by having one teen in the group read aloud the What Jesus Said article on page J-6 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**.

What Jesus Said

Large Group Activity – “Making a Mezuzah” (15 minutes)

Explain to the students the Jewish people’s custom of hanging a Mezuzah on their doorposts to remind them of Scriptures in The Book of Deuteronomy that give instructions for living. (If time permits, share some details about this practice that you have researched.)

After the explanation, have the teens make a small tube (or any other shape they desire) out of cardboard. Have them write the text of Matthew 22:37-39 on a small piece of paper. Then, have the teens roll up their paper and place it in the tube or whatever container they make. Suggest that they hang their Mezuzah by the light switch in their bedroom to remind them of these instructions Jesus gave us for living.

Putting My Faith Into Action

Small Group Discussion – “Lessons in Love” (15 minutes)

Divide the teens into groups of two or three to discuss the To Make or Break and Tips for Talking entries on page J-7 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible - NEXT**.

Break - Share what you think it means to love others unconditionally. Give an example of a time when you felt this kind of love in your life.

Tips for Talking - Role-play how you could answer this question differently yet remain consistent with Catholic teaching.

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Proclaim 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13 from the text pages in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible - NEXT**. Follow the Scripture with a moment of silence. Conclude with:

A Disciple’s Prayer for Love

*Heavenly Father, thank You for the abundance Your love for me creates in my life.
Help me to show my love for You in my love for my family, my friends and my neighbors.
Give me the courage to love my enemies and teach me to love the helpless,
the homeless and the poor. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.*

Mindful in the Morning

When you wake up in the morning, before you get out of bed . . .

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you today to love as Jesus loved.

(Type this message on a small piece of paper and give to each teen as they leave.)