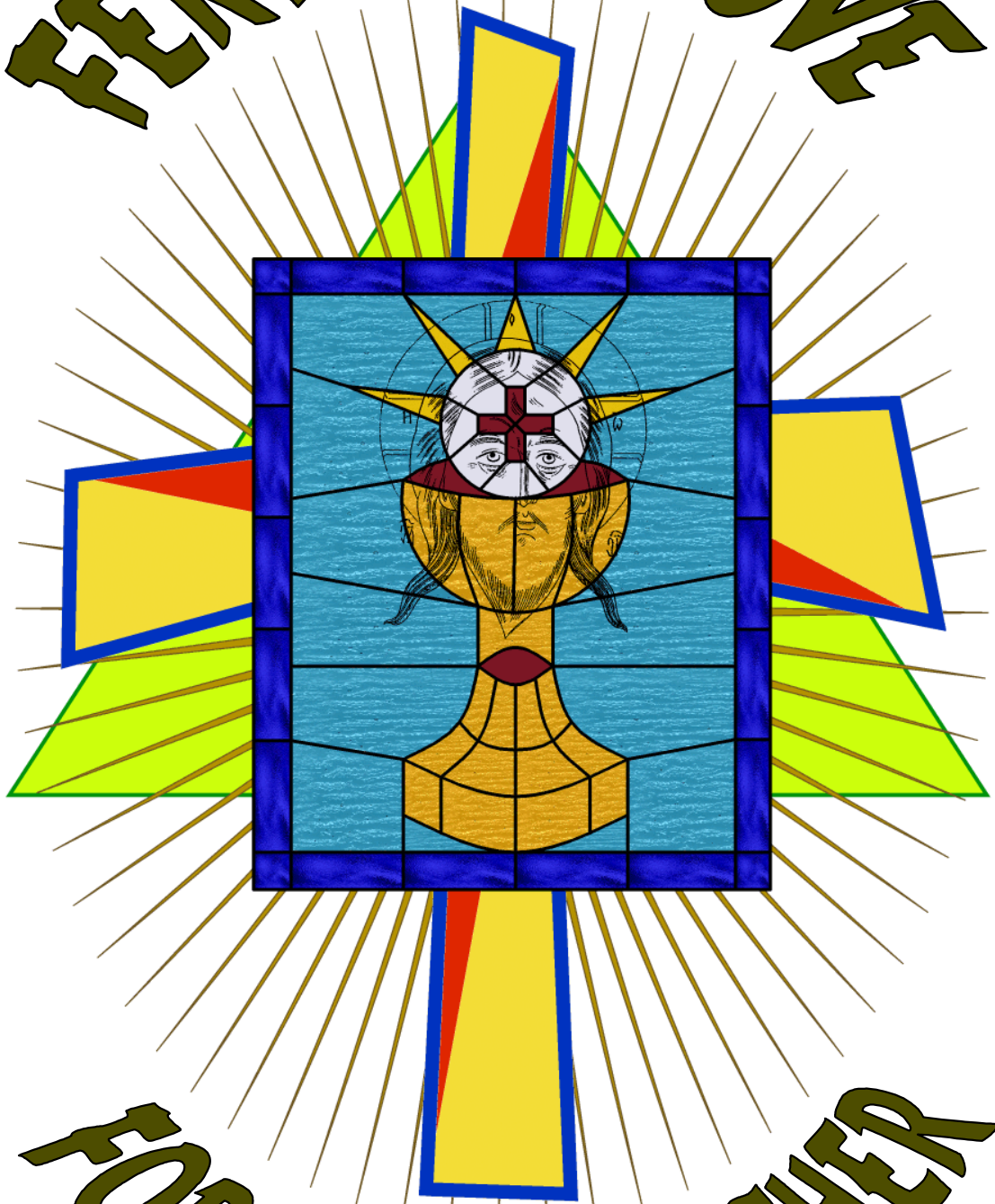


**FERVENT LOVE**



**FOR ONE ANOTHER**

**Sample Packet**

# Craft Project for Fervent Love for One Another

## 4-Paneled Alms Box



### Panel One

Panel teaches how love begins with the Holy Trinity. The Trinity is a fount of love and life through Holy Baptism (represented by water and seashell).



### Panel Two

Panel teaches how Jesus, the Lamb of God, gives His life for us. His blood is given to us (represented by the mosaic stones). In His blood is life and love.



### Panel Three

Panel teaches how Jesus' love is given to us in Holy Communion. We are branches planted into Jesus, and we bear fruit.



### Panel Four

Panel teaches "Love your neighbor as yourself." Pictured in the panel are our neighbors, including enemies.



# FERVENT LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER

## [Sample Packet]

*A Vacation Bible School Program written and published by Pax Domini Press*

Customer Service and Ordering Information - (419)475-6140

[www.pax-domini.com](http://www.pax-domini.com)

### **Who is Pax Domini Press?**

*Pax Domini* is a small but growing publishing company which aims to provide an alternative to the highly commercialized products of the leading Christian publishing houses.

### **What are some Pax Domini Press Products?**

*Pax Domini Press* has published nine Vacation Bible School programs, each available for purchase at \$150. These programs include: *Lord, Have Mercy* (on Law and Gospel), *In the Name* (on the Holy Trinity), *I Am* (on the 7 I Am's in the Gospel of John), *According to the Scriptures* (on Christ in the Old Testament), *Take up the Cross* (on the baptismal life), *The Remission of Sins* (on Holy Absolution), *Fervent Love for One Another* (on Christian charity), *Five Words of Understanding* (on the ICHTHUS), and introducing *A New Song* (on the songs of Scripture).

Finally, *Pax Domini Press* has available three Sunday School curricula. Like the VBS program, this curriculum is produced for self-publication. One curriculum is entitled, *Teaching them to observe all things*, which takes the student through the entire Gospel of Matthew. Another curriculum is entitled, *A.D. The Acceptable Year of the Lord*. It follows the Gospels of the Historic Lectionary. Finally, a new curriculum, *The New Song*, teaches Scriptural backgrounds for the texts of the liturgy.

### **What is included in this sample packet?**

Included in this sample packet are a picture of the front cover, a picture of the craft, brief explanations of the materials given in the kit, lessons from each level (1-4), a sample from the puppet show, and a sample from the daily prayer bulletin.

### **How does Pax Domini's Vacation Bible School program work?**

*Pax Domini Press* produces a CD with all the files needed for a congregation to publish a VBS program. Included on the CD are the following:

1. PDF files of a Program Manual with guidance on program implementation, instructions for the craft, and ideas for recreation time.
2. PDF files of teachers editions of each student workbook.
3. PDF files of workbook pages for the student workbooks.
4. PDF file of chapel bulletin with prayer service for each day of the program.
5. PDF file of puppet show script for use with Level 1 material.
6. PDF files of advertising materials (door hangings, bulletins, bulletin headers)
7. Extra electronic images and PDF files to be used with Level 1 material (coloring pages, activity pages, etc.) or for the craft (patterns, verses, etc.)

With these resources, the congregation simply assembles the workbooks, bulletins, and craft materials. The cost of the VBS can cost anywhere from \$10/child to \$20/child (pending on whether the craft kit is purchased or not, also pending on how the workbooks are assembled).

### **How do the workbooks work?**

The congregation receives a CD with color PDF files of workbooks for Levels 1-4. The congregation has permission to do whatever it wants with these files. They may do the following:

- (1) Simply print them off for the children (files may print in black and white as well)
- (2) Take them to a printing professional to make booklets for the children

(3) Advanced copiers/printers may have capabilities to produce booklets from PDF files

**Workbooks can also be ordered through Pax Domini Press for \$6/booklet.  
Call (419) 475-6140 or go to the website, [pax-domini.com](http://pax-domini.com).**

### **What is the age range for this program?**

Level 1	Ages 4-5
Level 2	Ages 6-7
Level 3	Ages 8-9
Level 4	Ages 10-12

### **What is the theme of *Fervent Love for One Another*?**

The post-communion collect prays that God's mercy, as given in the "salutary gift" of Holy Communion, would strengthen us in "fervent love for one another." We see here that Christian love is one of the fruits of Holy Communion. What does this mean?

This VBS teaches the theme, first beginning with God's love in the Trinity, as marked upon us in Holy Baptism (Day 1, John 3). On day 2, the children will learn how Jesus gives His flesh for the life of the world (John 6). Then, on day 3, the children learn how Jesus gives us His love at His last supper, and we participate in His love as a branch abides in the Vine (John 15). Then the children learn what love is, as Jesus teaches it in the Sermon on the Mount (Day 4, Matthew 6). Finally, the children will see an example of Christian love in the charity of the early church (Acts 2). Throughout the VBS, children will also learn other Scriptures that teach the basic elements of Christian love.

### **What is the craft like?**

The craft is depicted in this sample packet. It is both simple enough for younger children, and fun enough for older children. It will easily fill a typical time allotment of 30 minutes each of the five days. *Pax Domini Press* takes pride in developing crafts which use durable materials (cloth, wood, glass, paint, plaster etc.) and which has a cohesive theme, something which children can proudly display in their rooms and which reminds them of the theme. This craft costs \$12/craft plus shipping and handling. This craft is well worth the cost of the kits! It is an alms box, around which are four panels which teach the themes of the program. Children will take home a daily reminder of God's love for them and the call of Christian love for their neighbors. They can use the alms box as part of their weekly piety in giving.

### **What about worship?**

*Pax Domini Press* provides a worship folder which has a simplified Matins service for each day of the week. In the service are the Matins versicle, a Psalm, a hymn, a reading, a message, the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostle's Creed. The hymn uses original words – seven verses summarizing the five lessons of the week – and puts them to the tune of several hymns which may be found in the hymnal. Samples of a day of chapel and the hymn are given at the end of this packet.

### **What about the pre-schoolers?**

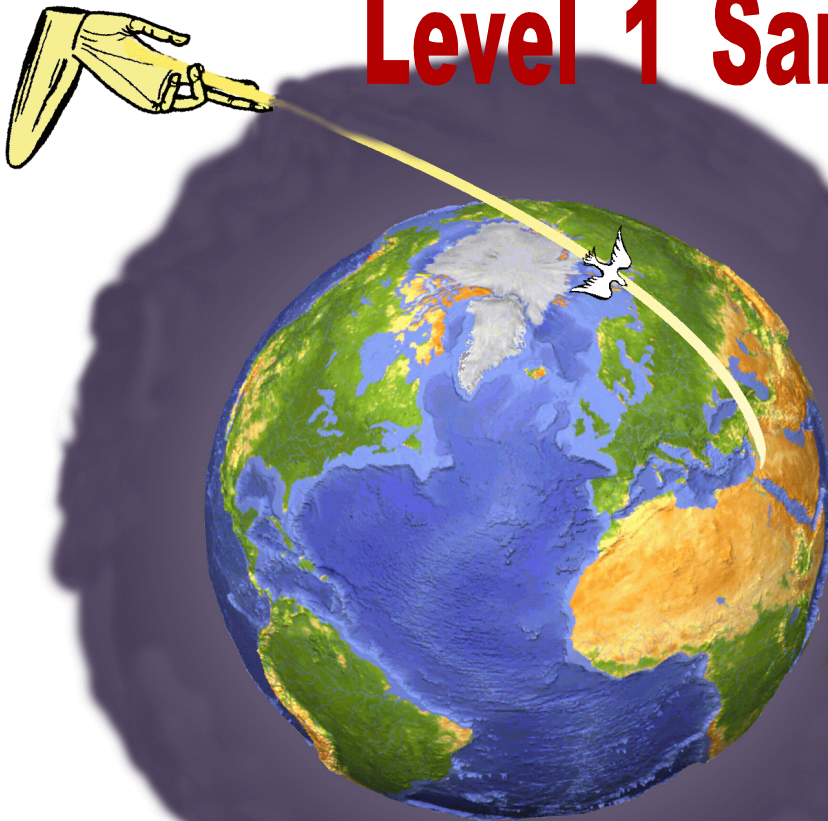
The Level 1 material includes a puppet show (which older children may also enjoy) and a story booklet written in simple language. Also included is a teacher's book with suggestions and ideas for songs, games, and activities which will emphasize the theme for the day.

### **What else does the kit come with?**

The kit also comes with ten recreation ideas. These recreation ideas are activities which incorporate the theme of the VBS. The kit also includes masters for canvassing, posters, and bulletin inserts. Finally, the kit gives some guidance and advice on running a VBS; it includes a check-list of things which must be done 3-4 months prior, 3-4 weeks prior, 3-4 days prior, during the VBS, and after the VBS.

# For the Life of the World

## Level 1 Sample



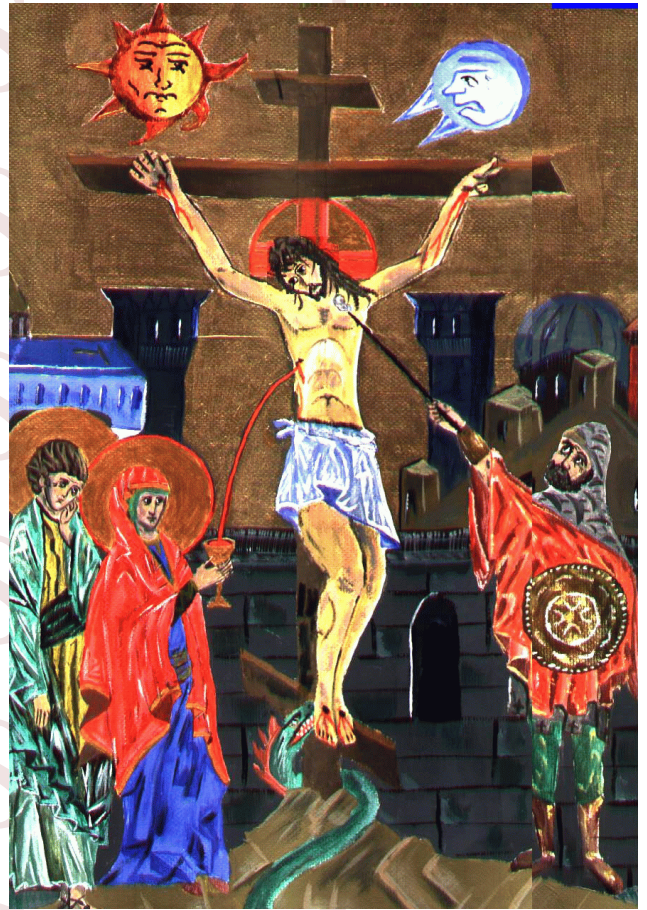
The world is a dark place. Adam and Eve sinned.

We all sin. We all do bad things.

Because of sin, we all die one day. That makes the world a very dark place.

God the Father sent His Son Jesus to bring Light into the world. He is God of God and Light of Light. He shows us the way to heaven.

Jesus is God. He is also a man. He has a body, and He has blood, just like any other man.



One day, Jesus taught that His body and His blood give life to the world. The world is a place where people die, but Jesus gives His body for the life of the world.

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Jesus said, "This is the truth. He who believes in Me has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. My body is the bread that came down from heaven. If you eat of this Body, you will not die.

**FOR YOU**

"I give My Body for the life of the world."

Some people heard Jesus say these words, and they were upset. They said, “How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?”



Jesus said, “Unless you eat My flesh and drink My blood, you will not have eternal life. Anyone who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

**“Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I abide in him.”**

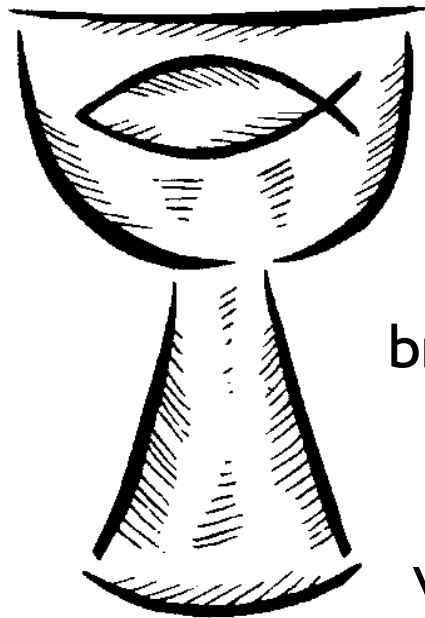
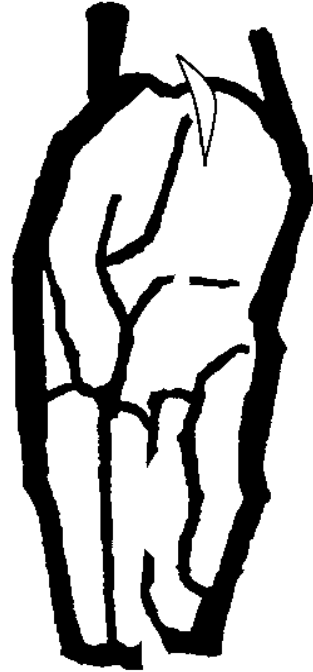
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“My Father gives life, and I live because of the Father.

Whoever feeds on Me will have life because of Me. I am the bread of life, and whoever eats of this bread will live forever.”

FOR YOU



# Abiding in His Agape

## Introduction

## Level 2 Sample

To review, fill in the blanks in the following sentences:

1. Fervent love begins with \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Father loves us with fervent love. He sent His \_\_\_\_\_ to us.
3. Jesus loves us with fervent love. He \_\_\_\_\_ for us.
4. The Holy Spirit loves us with fervent love. He gives us \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ and the Word.
5. Jesus gives us His life in His \_\_\_\_\_.
6. He who eats Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ abides in Him.



An example of an early Greek New Testament

Today we will learn more about abiding in Jesus. We will learn that we abide in Jesus at Holy Communion. In Holy Communion, we abide in Jesus' flesh. We abide in Him, and we abide in His love.

## Agape

Here's how we say "agape": uh - GAH - Pay. What does this word "agape" mean? "Agape" is the Greek word for "love." The New Testament was written in Greek.

Look at the word in Greek:

αγαπη

There were three words for love in Greek. One word for love was "eros." This is the love that a boyfriend has for a girlfriend. He may say, "I'm in

love with my girlfriend.” That’s “eros.”

“Philos” was another Greek word for love. This is the sort of love that friends have. We see “philos” in the city, “Philadelphia.” Philadelphia is called “the city of brotherly love.”

This word “agape” is the love that God has for us. It is a love that is constant and unending. It is a fervent love.

**Look at the following verse. Guess how the red words are translated in English and write out the word in the blank space:**

As the Father **agape** \_\_\_\_\_ Me, I also have **agape** \_\_\_\_\_ you; abide in My **agape** \_\_\_\_\_ .... Greater **agape** \_\_\_\_\_ has no one than this,

**Read John 15: 1-13. Underline all the places where the word "love" comes up:**

### Jesus teaches about the Vine and the Branches

[Jesus said,] "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you.

"As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

"If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

"By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love



has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."

**Discuss the following questions:**

Who is the Vine? Who are the branches?

What is the only way we bear fruit as branches?

What example does Jesus give of how He has loved us?

How has Jesus shown His love for us?

**Abiding in His Agape**

What does it mean to "abide"? To abide means "to stay" or "to dwell" or "to live in." If a family were to build a house in the country, they might say, "Here we will abide."

**Fill out the following blanks to learn how we abide in Jesus' love:**

**John 8: 31 – Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed."**

To abide in Jesus is to abide in His \_\_\_\_\_

**John 1: 14 – And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.**

The Word in which we abide is Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_.

**John 6: 56 – [Jesus said,] "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him."**

We abide in Jesus when we \_\_\_\_\_ His flesh.

**Luke 22: 19 – And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My Body which is given for you."**

When we eat Jesus' Body, this is called Holy \_\_\_\_\_.

How do we abide in Jesus' love?

At first, communion was called the "agape meal." Why might this have been?

## The Vine and the Branches

In Holy Communion, we abide in Jesus the way a branch abides in the vine. Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches. A branch will grow no fruit unless it is in the Vine. We also will bear fruits only if we abide in Jesus.

One of the fruits of Holy Communion is love. This is why we pray that the Jesus' Body and Blood might strengthen us to have "fervent love for one another."

May this be so for all of us!

## Activity: Word Search

Find the following words in the word search:

communion

abide

agape

love

blood

word

Greek

vine

fruit

given

world

Trinity

goodness

fervent

constant

unfailing

voice

Nicodemus


born

Father

serpent

branch

water



D T R I N C O N S T A N T I  
T O Y S N E T D R R E T A W  
P E O C R W R O L F L E S H  
U N T L O A I C B R A N C H  
O N M M B T N U N U O I O T  
S G F I U E I N F I A W V N  
S R D A L R T T N T I N O E  
E E B L I D Y U N O D N I P  
N E O O D L M G O E E E C R  
D K W L O M I G S S V N E E  
O R D R O W I N L D G R I S  
O R E C E V K A G A P E E V  
G G I V E G E B R E H T A F  
R A U N I C O D E M U S C H

# Love Your Neighbor As Yourself

## Level 3 Sample

### Introduction

We have learned many things so far. We have learned about fervent love. Fervent love is a love that is constant and unending. We have learned that fervent love begins with the Father, Who is the Fount and Source of all goodness.

We have learned that Jesus was sent for us because the Father loves us. He was sent to give His flesh for our life. He gives us His flesh to eat in Holy Communion.

We have also learned that the Holy Spirit gives us new birth by water and the Word. He grafts us into Jesus as a branch is grafted into a vine. By the Holy Spirit, we bear fruits of fervent love for one another.

Today we will learn what it means for us to love our neighbors, even our enemies.

**Read Matthew 5: 38-48 and answer the questions after the reading:**

### Jesus Teaches about True Love for Neighbors



[Jesus said,] "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'

But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your

brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

## Discuss the following questions:

Instead of "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," write down what Jesus teaches:

Instead of "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy," write down what Jesus teaches:

How does Jesus show that the Father loves the evil as much as the good?

How does Jesus teach that loving neighbors is really not that special because anyone can do that?

## "You have heard that it was said"

Mack was a fourth grader. He was also a hothead! If anyone sat in his seat, or cut in line in front of him, or gave him a mean look, he would get angry.

Mack had a friend named Toby. One day, Toby asked Mack, "Why do you always get so mad if someone does any little thing to you?"

Mack said, "I want everyone to know: If you mess with ME, I'll mess with YOU."

This made sense to Toby. Still, Toby wasn't sure about what Mack said. He wondered if this was the right way to act.

Later that day, Toby was playing basketball with Mack. Toby was just about to shoot, when suddenly some boys came up and took the ball from him. They played with the ball for a few seconds, and then shot a basket. After that, they went on their way just as quickly as they came.

Mack said to Toby, "Why did you let those guys do that to you?! I'd have punched one of them! If someone messes with ME, I mess with THEM. You should have clocked 'em!"



For Toby, what does "You have heard that it was said" mean?

What does Jesus teach instead?

**In the following situations, determine what "has been said" about how to deal with the situation, and then determine what Jesus teaches about that same situation:**

1. Carrie has many friends, but there is one girl in her class, Mandy, who always picks on her. It seems like Mandy is mean to her for no reason at all! One Friday, Carrie was having a slumber party. Her friends started talking about Mandy. Carrie wonders what she should say.

2. Jake had to leave class and go to the bathroom. On the way, he ran into an older boy named Vince. Vince was the school bully. Vince said to Jake, "I want a Coke. Give me a dollar or else!" Jake wonders what he should do.

3. Dora is in church on Sunday morning, but she is very sad. There is a boy up the street from her who is always saying mean things to her. Just that Friday, he said, "Hey Dora goody-two-shoes! Are you getting ready for church? Ha Ha! What a nerd!" Dora wonders how she should think of this boy during church.



## Jesus Loved His Enemies

Let's think about what Jesus did when He died on the cross.

Judas was going to hand Jesus over to the soldiers. Still Jesus gave Judas His Body and Blood at the Last Supper.



Peter denied Jesus three times. Still, Jesus forgave Him three times.

The soldiers came to arrest Jesus. Still, Jesus did not fight. He let them arrest Him.

Later, the soldiers beat Jesus and scourged Him. They nailed Him to the cross. Still, Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

How hard it must be to love men like this! But Jesus loved even His enemies so much that He died for them and asked His Father to forgive them.

Jesus loved them so much because He is full of love. He knows that all people are cursed by sin and death. He has mercy and compassion for them. As He said, "They do not know what they are doing."

Jesus loved His enemies because that is what He taught in today's Gospel. Jesus did not teach something and then do something else! He loved even His enemies.

When Jesus was arrested, Peter took out a sword and cut off the ear of a servant. He did not love his enemies! Even though Peter was taught by Jesus to love his enemies, he did not do it.

## Can we love as Jesus loved?

The answer to this question is simple: No! It is very hard for us to love our enemies. If someone hits us or picks on us, we want to hit back or say something back to them. We will never love as Jesus loved.

Do we just ignore what Jesus taught? No! Of course not! How can we ignore what Jesus teaches and say that we really believe in Him?

How, then, do we love as Jesus loved?

In the Our Father, we pray, “forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.” Here, we pray that our Father might work in us love for our enemies. We pray that He would strengthen us to love others fervently.

Here is the great thing. Our Father answers our prayer! He gives us His love in Holy Communion and forgives us our trespasses. As He forgives and loves us, we pray that we might forgive and love others.



### Now, consider the following example:

Hannah went to church on Sunday. She took communion and received Jesus' Body and Blood. As she sat in her pew, she prayed, “Dear Father, thank you so much for sending Jesus. Thank you for giving me life in His flesh and blood. Help me to love others as you love me.”

After church, Hannah went back home, and she went outside to play. Soon, her neighbor Cassandra came over to play with her. Not long afterward, the two of them were fighting about the rules of a game they were playing.

That night, Hannah prayed before she went to bed. She began to cry. She prayed, “Dear Father, why did I get in a fight? How could I get in a fight just after I went to communion? How did I get in a fight after you showed so much love to me?”

What might we say to make Hannah feel better? What might we show her about the vine, the branches, and the fruit that will make her feel better? Does fruit grow quickly? Or does it take time? Does the fruit of love grow quickly from communion? Or does it take time? How long does it take?

We will pray for God to strengthen our love until we die, because we will always be sinners until we die. But that does not mean we get down on ourselves. It means that we continue to pray for God's grace and go to communion, because we are grafted into Jesus there.

## Activity: Skit

Break up the class in groups of 3-4. Let each group make a skit that teaches one of the following themes for the day:

Love those who curse us

Give to him who asks you

Turn the other cheek

Praying for God's grace to help us love

Grafted in Jesus through Holy Communion



# The Greatest of These Is Charity

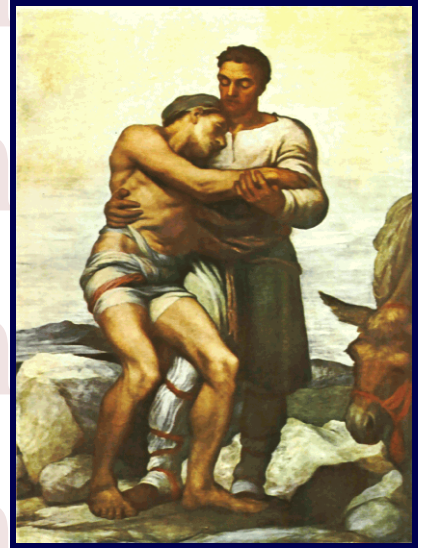
## Level 4 Sample

### Introduction

Today is our last day. So far, we have learned about God's fervent love for us. We have learned how He sent His Son to die for us, and how the Holy Spirit gives us new birth in Holy Baptism. We have learned that Jesus gave His flesh for the life of the world, and when we commune with that flesh, we abide in His love. We have learned that the love Jesus teaches is far-reaching, for Jesus loves even His worst enemies.

We have learned that we have fervent love for others when we are grafted into Jesus as a branch is grafted into the vine. Holy Communion pours God's love into our hearts by Jesus' Body and Blood, and this love leads us to love even our worst enemies.

Today, we will learn more about love. We will learn about Christian charity.



### Charity

“Charity” simply means “love.” “Charity” comes from the Latin word for love, *caritas*. When we hear “charity,” we think of giving money for the poor. Charity indeed means giving money for the poor, but it means much more.

St. Paul wrote what Christian love, or charity, is all about. He wrote about love after writing about Holy Communion. Holy Communion is about love, first God's love for us, and then our fervent love for one another. He describes love this way:



Love suffers long and is kind;  
Love does not envy;  
Love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;  
Love does not behave rudely,  
Love does not seek its own,  
Love is not provoked,  
Love thinks no evil;  
Love does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;  
Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.  
Love never fails.  
And now abide faith, hope, love, these three...  
But the greatest of these is love.

That last line is where we get today's lesson title from, because the word "love" is the same as "charity." Among faith, hope, and love, "charity" is the greatest, because if our Christian faith is not producing fruits of love, it is not a faith at all.

**Read the following about Charity in the First Church:**

### Charity in the First Church



Then those who gladly received his word [that St. Peter preached] were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers.

Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

#### Fill in the blanks:

1. Those who received the Gospel were first \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The baptized continued in (1) \_\_\_\_\_.  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_.  
(3) \_\_\_\_\_.  
(4) \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The baptized held all things in \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The baptized divided their goods as anyone had \_\_\_\_\_.

## All Things in Common

In today's reading, we can see how the first Christians held all things in common. They held all things in common because they held the most important thing in common, their Lord and their faith.

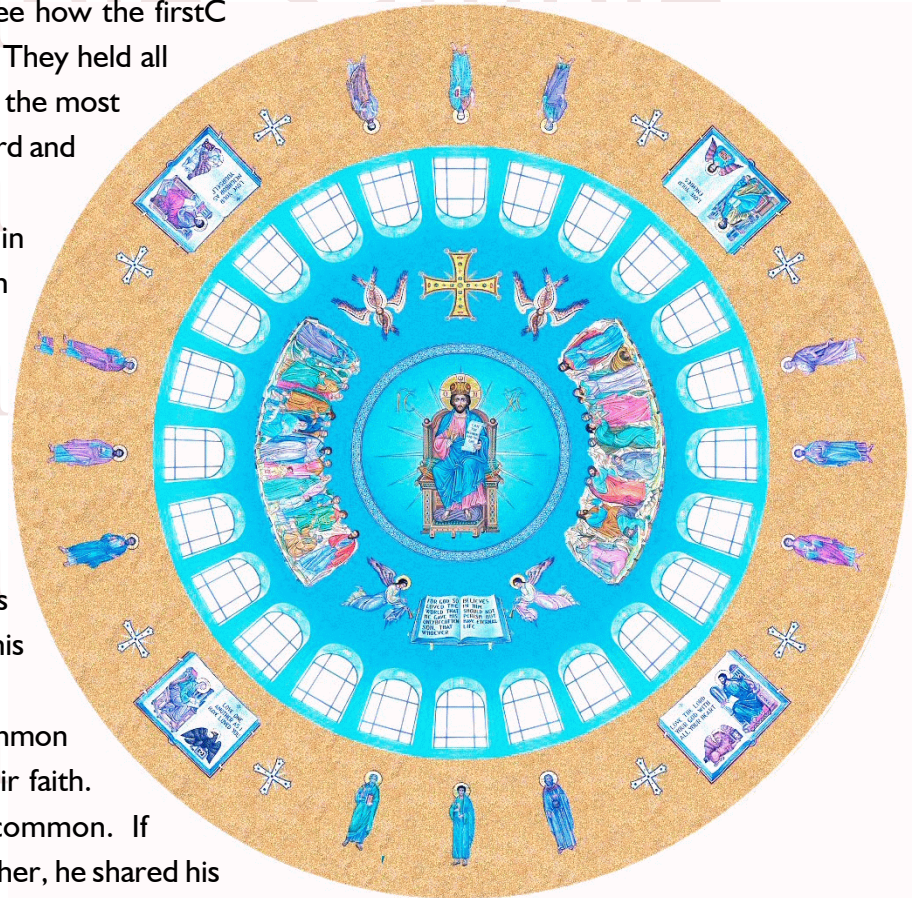
They held their Lord in common in Holy Communion. Each baptized Christian received Jesus in His Body and Blood. They all held Him in common.

They held their faith in common because they all learned the teaching of the apostles. We learn this same faith today in the Apostle's Creed. Scores of Christians hold this common faith!

But the things they held in common did not end with their Lord and their faith. They also held their possessions in common. If one person had more food than another, he shared his food. If one person had more clothes than another, he shared his food. In fact, no one saw his possessions as his own, but as the Lord's!

That is true Christian charity! When we are given money, food, clothing, or possessions, we see these as God's, to be used according to His will. Even as Jesus hates to see us hungry or poor, so also do we hate to see others hungry or poor. We want to help them.

We are hungry and poor when we go to communion, and Jesus feeds us. How can we not have the same mercy on others who come to us? This is why we pray that the Lord would strengthen us in fervent love for one another after Holy Communion. Fervent love is what He has for us in Holy Communion. If we abide in Holy Communion, we pray that His fervent love will grow in us for others.



## Activity: Bible Study on Christian Charity and Alms-giving

One act of charity is alms-giving. Christians have been giving alms since the beginning. Christians especially focus on alms-giving during penitential seasons like Advent and Lent. Alms are given to the poor, so that they might have something to eat or something to wear.

Look up the following Bible verses and answer the questions:

Read Matthew 6: 1-4.

How should we not do our charitable deeds?

Where should we do our charitable deed?

What should the left hand know of the right hand in a charitable deed?

Reading Matthew 6: 5-7, what goes along with giving alms and charitable deeds?

**Read about Cornelius in Acts 10: 1-4.**

What two things did Cornelius do, according to verse 2?

How did the angel describe that Cornelius prayers and alms-giving came before God?

**Read Acts 3: 1-7 about the lame man.**

What was Peter not able to give this man, according to verse 6?

According to that same verse, what was Peter able to give him?

According to this story, does charitable giving always have to be money? What else can it be?

**Read Mark 12: 41-44 about the widow's gift.**

What does Jesus teach about even giving just a little bit?

**Read I Corinthians 13: 3 about giving.**

Charitable giving is useless unless it is done how?

# Puppet Show Sample

## Day One – Fount and Source of All Goodness

[Jessie is on stage ferociously gnawing on a bone, making growling noises and absorbed in her feasting. Nickolai comes on the stage to this display.]

Nickolai: Whoa! Jessie! Slow down a bit! The bone's not going anywhere. Whatever cow that bone came from has been dead for a LONG time! He's not going anywhere. Enjoy it, why don't you.

[Jessie ignores Nickolai and keeps on eating.]

Nickolai: Look, kids, how FERVENTLY Jessie is eating the bone. Have you ever seen a dog eat anything so FERVENTLY?

Jessie (rising from her bone, quite sophisticatedly): Actually, Nickolai, you could probably have used a better word than "fervent." How am I eating this bone? Excitedly? Yes. Passionately? Yes. Frantically? Yes. But do you know what fervently means in the Bible?

Nickolai: Doesn't fervent mean excited and passionate, the way you were eating that bone?

Jessie: Well, it sort of means that, but it means so, SO much more.

Nickolai: What does "fervent" mean?

Jessie: It means "constant" and "unfailing." It means forever and ever and ever and ever without end. It means that you will keep at something over and over and over again for ever and ever and ever. That's what "fervent" means in the Bible.

Nickolai: So, it doesn't just mean excited?

Jessie: You know what Nickolai? I was really excited about eating this bone, but now I'm kind of bored with it. I got all the good stuff out. The taste is sort of like chewing gum after the first few minutes. You chew it for a little while, and then all the flavor goes away. So now I'm not so excited about this bone. My love for this bone is not fervent.

Nickolai: Ahhh, OK. Now I understand. Well, can you give me an example of "fervent" love? When have you ever seen someone have fervent love?

Jessie: That's the problem! No one on this earth can love with a "fervent" love. Many people love their pets, or their moms, or their dads, or their children. But will that love last forever?

Nickolai: How can it? No one lives forever.

Jessie: That's why I said that no one on this earth can love with a "fervent" love. Did you hear what I said, kids? NO ONE ON EARTH can love with a "fervent" love.

Nickolai: I know what you're getting at, Jessie. No one on earth can love with a "fervent" love, but I know someone who CAN love with a "fervent" love. It's...

Jessie: Shhhh! Let's see if the kids can figure this out. Who is the only One Who can love with us with "fervent" love?

[When someone says, "God" or "the Lord" or "The Father" or "Jesus", the script continues.]

Jessie: That's right! Our Heavenly Father loves us with "fervent" love. His love will never end. His love is constant and unending. He will keep on loving us over and over and over again forever and ever and ever. He doesn't just get excited about us for a day or two. His love is fervent.

Nickolai: That's good to know! I'm glad to know that the Father will love me over and over again, because I'm always getting in trouble! Sometimes I don't think that ANYONE loves me, especially when I stink up the house with my...

Jessie: OK, OK...don't go there, Nickolai, we get the point. Yes, the Father loves us even when we sin. Because you know what the Bible says?

Nickolai: What?

Jessie: It says that fervent love covers a mountain of sins.

Nickolai: Really? Fervent love covers a mountain of sins? That's a lot!

Jessie: That's right. And today, the kids are going to learn a very important story about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. They are going to learn how God loves us.

Nickolai: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? Wow! It's like "fervent love times three"!

Jessie: Yup! The Father loved us by...

Nickolai: Shhh! My turn to interrupt YOU. Kids? How did the Father show us He loved us?

[The puppeteers may have to help the children figure out: "By sending His Son."

Nickolai: That's right. And how did the Son show us He loved us?

["By dying on the cross."]

Nickolai: Good! This next one is a bit more tricky: How did the Holy Spirit show us He loved us? Let me give you a hint: Water.

["By giving us life in Holy Baptism."]

Nickolai: Very good! You kids are pretty smart. That's what we're going to learn about today, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We're going to learn that fervent love begins with the Holy Trinity. And this whole week, we will learn how we also have fervent love for one another.

Jessie: Hey, I've got a tricky question for the kids. When do you hear that phrase: "Fervent love for one another"? Can you kids think of when we hear those words?

[When someone says, "After communion" or "in Church", Jessie continues.]

Jessie: That's right. We hear this prayer in church. And does God always answer our prayers?

["Yes!"]

Jessie: He most certainly does! Have fun this week, kids!

# Chapel Sample

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## Monday Prayer

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Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Children: Amen.**

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips.

**Children: And my mouth will declare your praise.**

### Psalm 8

Pastor: O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens!

**Children: Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.**

Pastor: When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,

**Children: What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?**

Pastor: For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor.

**Children: You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,**

Pastor: All sheep and oxen -- Even the beasts of the field,

**Children: The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas.**

Pastor: O LORD, our Lord, How excellent *is* Your name in all the earth!

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Hymn**                      *With Fervent Love Our Father Gave* [pg. 7]

Scripture Reading                      John 3: 1-16

The Apostles' Creed                      [back page]

Message                      *Fount and Source of All Goodness*

Lord's Prayer

Prayers

Benediction

# The Program Hymn

(To the tune of "From Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry")

## **With fervent love our Father gave**

(for other tunes, see back of hymnal: L.M.)

With fervent love our Father gave  
His only Son our lives to save.  
By water and the Spirit's grace  
We're born again a heav'nly race.

With fervent love God came to earth  
In flesh and blood was given birth.  
All this He did His life to give  
That by His flesh we too might live.

With fervent love did Jesus say,  
"As I give up my life this day  
Abide in all My love for you  
And show this love to others too."

With fervent love up on the tree  
Lord Jesus loved His enemy  
He teaches us to do the same  
As we go forth and bear His Name.

All Christians share this fervent love  
By grace that comes from up above.  
The hungry and the poor we feed  
And look first to our neighbor's need.