

Jelly Tots | 17 May 2020

Love

Hi Jelly Tots parents and carers!

This week's Jelly Tots focuses on love. It's a big topic, but the main message is that we were created for love - for God to love us and us to love Him and others.

1 John 4 v 11

“¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

We love because He first loved us. We really cannot hope to love others if we don't receive the love that God has for us. Jesus said the first and greatest commandment is this: love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and love your neighbour as you love yourself. So not only do we need to receive God's love in order to love Him; we also need to be able to love ourselves in order to love others. And that loving of self only comes from receiving God's love.

I'm hoping to have a short Zoom chat with any Jelly Tots kids who are free to join in this Sunday – watch out for details! We'll touch on the above topic, but it will mostly just be a chance for the kids to see each other and say hi. Nothing too in-depth!

If you can't make the call, or you want to explore this week's theme further with your child, below are a few ideas and resources from Urban Saints. As you'll see, they are designed for a group setting, but they can easily be adapted for one to one use. As always, just pick and choose whatever you have the materials / time for (and please don't feel you have to make cookies!).

Have fun!

James

Urban Saints Resources

Story – You Are Special

Equipment

You Are Special by Max Lucado - available as a book, movie and on the internet.

Read the story or show the film to the children. If you don't have the book, all the pictures and text are easily found on the internet. The film can be found [on YouTube here](#), but it is not great quality. The DVD is not hard to find on the internet. It is about 30 minutes long.

After the story or film, ask the children how Eli felt about Punchinello and Lucia. He loved them! Say that this story shows how God feels about us. He loves us very, very much and he wants that to matter to us more than anything else. Say that it's hard for us to really love anyone else unless we know how much God loves us.

The Point: To show God's great love for us.

Food and Cooking – Heart Cookies

Equipment

Ingredients as detailed (or as per your preferred recipe!), rolling pins, heart-shaped cutters, paper plates or baking trays.

Ingredients:

175g plain flour

100g softened butter

50g caster sugar

50g plain dark chocolate, grated.

Method:

Preheat oven to 180c.

Mix all ingredients to form a dough.

Roll out thinly and cut into heart shapes.

Place on baking trays and prick lightly.

Bake for 12-15 minutes.

The Point: A story reminder.

Craft – God Loves Me

Equipment

Colouring sheet below, colouring pens/pencils, heart stickers.

Give the children a colouring sheet to colour. They can decorate it with heart stickers. They might also draw pictures from your story activity.

The Point: A story reminder.

ROOMS

!OVS

me

Activity - Love Languages

Say to the children that God made us so that he could love us, so that we can love him and so that we can love each other. Ask the children how you show somebody that you love them. Say that you are going to learn five different ways to love someone today. (These are adapted from Gary Chapman's 5 love languages- www.5lovelanguages.com.)

Say that the first way you might show someone that you love them is by what you say. Ask the children what kinds of things you might say. If the parents/carers are with the children, ask the child and their adult to say something to one another which shows they love each other. Get the group to come up with an action to remember that 'We love each other by what we say'.

The second way we can love one another is by spending time together. What sort of things might you do with someone that you love? Ask the adults and their child to tell each other what they most like doing with the other. Ask the group for an action to remember that 'We love each other by being together'.

The third way we can love one another is by doing things for each other. What might you do for someone you love? Ask the parents to tell their children some of the things they do for them to show them that they love them. Ask the group to come up with an action for 'We love each other by doing things'.

The fourth way we can love each other is by giving presents. Ask the parents and children to tell each other what the best thing they have ever given them is. Ask the group to come up with an action for 'We love each other by giving presents'.

The fifth way we can love each other is by giving each other a hug or kiss. Get the parents and children to have a cuddle. Ask the group to come up with an action for 'We love each other by giving hugs and kisses'.

See if the group can remember all five actions.

The Point: To think about how we love one another.

Craft - We Love Each Other By...

Equipment

Activity sheet below, coloured pens/pencils, magazines, glue, scissors.

Children will need their parent's help with this activity. Let the child and their parent draw or collage appropriate pictures to show how we can love by doing each of the five things.

The Point: A teaching reminder.

We love each other by...

| Speaking | Doing | Giving | Being | Hugging |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
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