

# A GIFT FROM JESUS

## VISUAL AIDS

- > Pictures of friends enjoying life together.
- > Picture of Jesus with people.
- > Either heart shape cut-outs, and a 'caring tree' on which to hang the hearts (e.g. a branch upright in an appropriate container).

- > Or attractive gift wrapped packets but with dull contents e.g. an old sock, a piece of used soap, etc.
- > Large gift tag marked 'A GIFT FROM JESUS'.
- > Small gift tags.
- > On individual cards, the letters P E A C E .

## SHARING

Give out the letter cards, and have the children discover the word.

Jesus promises his Spirit and the gift of peace to all who are his friends.

But who are his friends? Jesus will tell us clearly twice in today's Gospel.

## WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

*Say/sing together:*

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Anyone who loves God listens to his Word.**  
**Alleluia!**

A reading from the Good News given to us by John.  
**Glory to you, Lord.**

Jesus says,  
'If you love me you will do what I have taught you. I will ask my Father to send you the Holy Spirit to be your friend for ever. He will help you remember all I have told you.'

I leave you my peace.  
I will not leave you,  
but I will come back to you  
If you are my friends you would be glad to know I'm returning to my Father.  
As the Father loved me so I have loved you.  
To show that you love me do all I have taught you.  
And when you love me, my Father loves you.

Love one another as I have loved you.  
The proof of a true friend is their readiness to die for you.  
You didn't choose me. I chose you.  
I am sending you out to carry on the work the Father gave me.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## DISCUSSION

Did the children notice what it was that Jesus said twice?  
- that if we love him, we will do what he has taught us.

What does he promise us if we do this?  
- that he will not leave us;  
- that he will send us his Spirit;

- that his Father will love us;
- that he will give us his peace.

What else is a sign of being Jesus' friends?  
- that we have to carry on Jesus' work in the world.

What is this work?  
- spreading the good news of love and peace.

## ACTIVITIES

Either:

- > Give out the heart shapes.
- > On them have the children write or draw how it is they will spread Jesus' love and peace by a special act of caring in the week ahead, e.g. by promising to visit a lonely person.
- > Fasten the completed hearts to the branch to make a 'caring tree'.

Or:

- > Give out the gift tags.
- > On one side have the children write 'A gift from . . . (their own name)'.
- > On the other side, have them write or draw a way they will help share Jesus' gift of peace with someone in the coming week.
- > Gather the children's tags on to a display around the larger tag 'A gift from Jesus'.