

BIND US TOGETHER IN LOVE

VISUAL AIDS

- > Pictures of families of different nationalities.
- > A model castle or toy fort.
- > Toy building blocks (e.g. Lego).
- > Castle shape cut-outs.

WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Say/sing together:

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Lord is our strength
and our help.
Alleluia!

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

One of the Scribes came to Jesus and asked,
'Which is the first of the commandments?'
Jesus replied,
'This is the first: to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your strength. The second is

DISCUSSION

Who came to Jesus?
What did he ask?
What was Jesus' reply?

How do we love God with all our heart?
Recall the expression 'to set your heart on . . .'
Encourage the children to give

examples of things they have set their hearts on.
How could they set their hearts on God?
And how are we to love ourselves?
- by not hurting ourselves.
And how are we to love others?

SHARING

Show the family pictures and encourage the children to talk about their families, to share memories of the happy times they have had together, and of sad times.

- their love for each other makes the family strong.

A loving person is a strong person.
God's love is the strongest love of all.

What helps a family to be happy?

Today Jesus shares an important message with us: he tells us how our love can be strong.

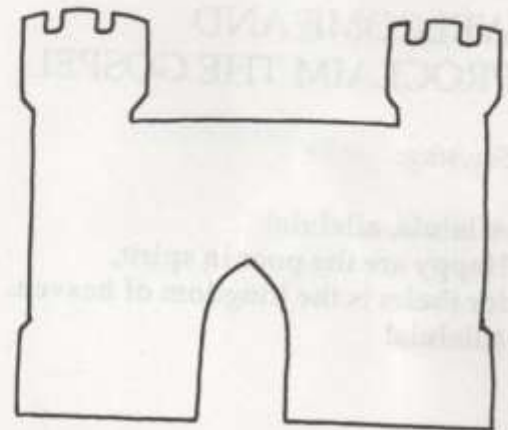
What helps a family when times are sad?

this: to love everybody as you love yourself.'

The Scribe said
'Well spoken, Master.'

Jesus said to him
'You yourself are not far from the kingdom of heaven.'
Because Jesus had answered in this way no one else dared question him.

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



ACTIVITIES

> Have the children build 'walls' with the building blocks.
A castle is made up up blocks and bricks bound together. So too we can be as strong as a castle when we are bound together in love.

> Have the children write or draw on them a prayer asking God to help them be strong in the week ahead.

> Give out the cut-out shapes.