



Friends of Jesus and Mary
Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace

February, 2006
Miami, Florida

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In this month let us try to encourage our children to love God and our neighbors, stressing how important it is to ask for forgiveness from any one we had offended.

Enclosed you will find the most important Feasts and Saints:

February 02	Presentation of the Lord and Mary's Purifications	February 14	San Cyril & Methodius
February 03	St. Blasé- blessing of the throats	February 14	Valentine Day
February 05	St. Agatha	February 18	St. Bernadette Soubirois
February 06	San Paul Miki and Companions	February 18	Leader's Workshop
February 11	Our Lady of Lourdes		

Enclosed Material:

- A) Calendar of the month
- B) Reflection on Sunday Gospel, and brief history of some feast of the month
- C) Game of Hearts
- D) My pure hearts ornament
- E) Book Mark "to make God's love for you"
- F) Valentine Card

Suggested Videos:

- 1. Our Lady of Lourdes
- 2. The Song of Bernadette
- 3. St. Bernadette & Lourdes
- 4. The Princess of Lourdes
- 5. Sharing Quigley's Village
- 6. Friendship (pbs kid)
- 7. Love God Treasure his name
- 8. Penance (shc)

We are planning the IV Congress of the Friends of Jesus and Mary for June 30, July 1 and 2, 2006 in Nicaragua. We invite all to make plans to attend. It is important to share ideas and experiences. If you have a special testimony about your group, please write it and mail it to us. We will choose a number of testimonies to be read at the Congress.

Mary God Bless You Always,
Friends of Jesus and Mary



Friends of Jesus and Mary
Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace

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February 2006



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 <i>Green</i> FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	6 St. Paul Miki, Pr M And Companions, MM—M	7 Love is never rude. Hurry up. Happy Valentine's Day	8 St. Jerome Emiliani, Pr -(M) St. Josephine Bakhita, V-(M)	9 PRESENTATION OF THE LORD—F	10 St. Blaise, BM—(M) St. Ansgar, B—(M) St Scholastica, V—M	11 World Day of the Sick Our Lady of Lourdes—(M)
12 <i>Green</i> SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	13 Washington's Brithday Observed	14 Sts. Mk and Methodius, B—M	15	16	17 Seven Founders of the Order of Serviles, R—(M)	18 Leaders' Workshop Blessed Virgin Mary _ (M)
19 <i>Green</i> SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	20	21 St. Meter Damian, BD - (M)	22 Chair of St. Meter, Ap—F	23 ST. Polycarp, BM—M	24	25 Blessed Virgin Mary _ (M)
26 <i>Green</i> EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	27	28				



Light for the nations

February 2:
Presentation of Jesus
in the Temple

Mal. 3:1-4;
Heb. 2:14-18;
Luke 2:22-40

Talk about the story. Talk with the children about light and darkness. What causes fear in darkness? What is the difference between secrets and lies?

Activities. With the children, make a list of things they can do to bring light to the world. Light a little votive candle for each action you listed.

Final Prayer. Present each child to God. To do this, have each child present him or herself with lighted candles and ask them to state their desire to become light for the world. Everyone should respond: "We want to become light."

You are there

- What do you think of Simeon? Does he seem to be a kind old man? Do you respect him? What you think Mary felt when Simeon told her those things about Jesus?

Jesus, our friend, invites you:

Jesus was a child like you and he came to bring light. Jesus' light is stronger than the darkness of our lies and all those things we are ashamed of.

Do you see any darkness around you? How can you bring light to dark places?

What am I going to do?

Talk with Jesus about what scares or worries you, and also about what gives you joy. Tell him what you want to do this week:

- For example: *I will tell the truth, even if it's difficult.*
- For example: *I will be joyful and bring light to those around me.*

- _____
- _____



WORD SEARCH

Find the following hidden words in Spanish and write a sentence using them:

- LIGHT, PEOPLE,
- TRUTH, CHILD, JOY,
- SAVIOR, FEAR, CANDLE, TEMPLE, DARKNESS

A	C	O	S	P	A	R	J	I	R
M	L	M	I	O	P	O	R	S	T
M	G	N	M	E	S	I	A	S	C
A	G	A	E	E	S	N	M	T	S
R	E	C	O	N	O	C	E	R	A
I	A	I	N	D	E	M	G	H	M
A	H	O	E	S	P	S	Q	N	O
V	E	N	D	L	D	M	R	B	L
P	E	E	O	O	U	A	R	L	A
N	O	S	Q	R	C	Z	A	P	P

THE TEMPLE AND THE SINAGOGUE

The Jewish services were center in the temple of Jerusalem. It was at the service of the priests. It was a place where God was near his people.

There all the big festivities took place, and where thousands of pilgrims, from the entire county came to present their offerings.

Some of these festivities remain them of big events of the Jewish history.

Other festivities celebrate different activities of the countryside like harvest time and the crop gathered. The inner room of the temple was call the "Santus Santorum" it was so holy that only the chief priest was authorized to enter in it once a year, the day of the great purification.

This was the day in which all the nation confesses their sins and asks pardon to God.

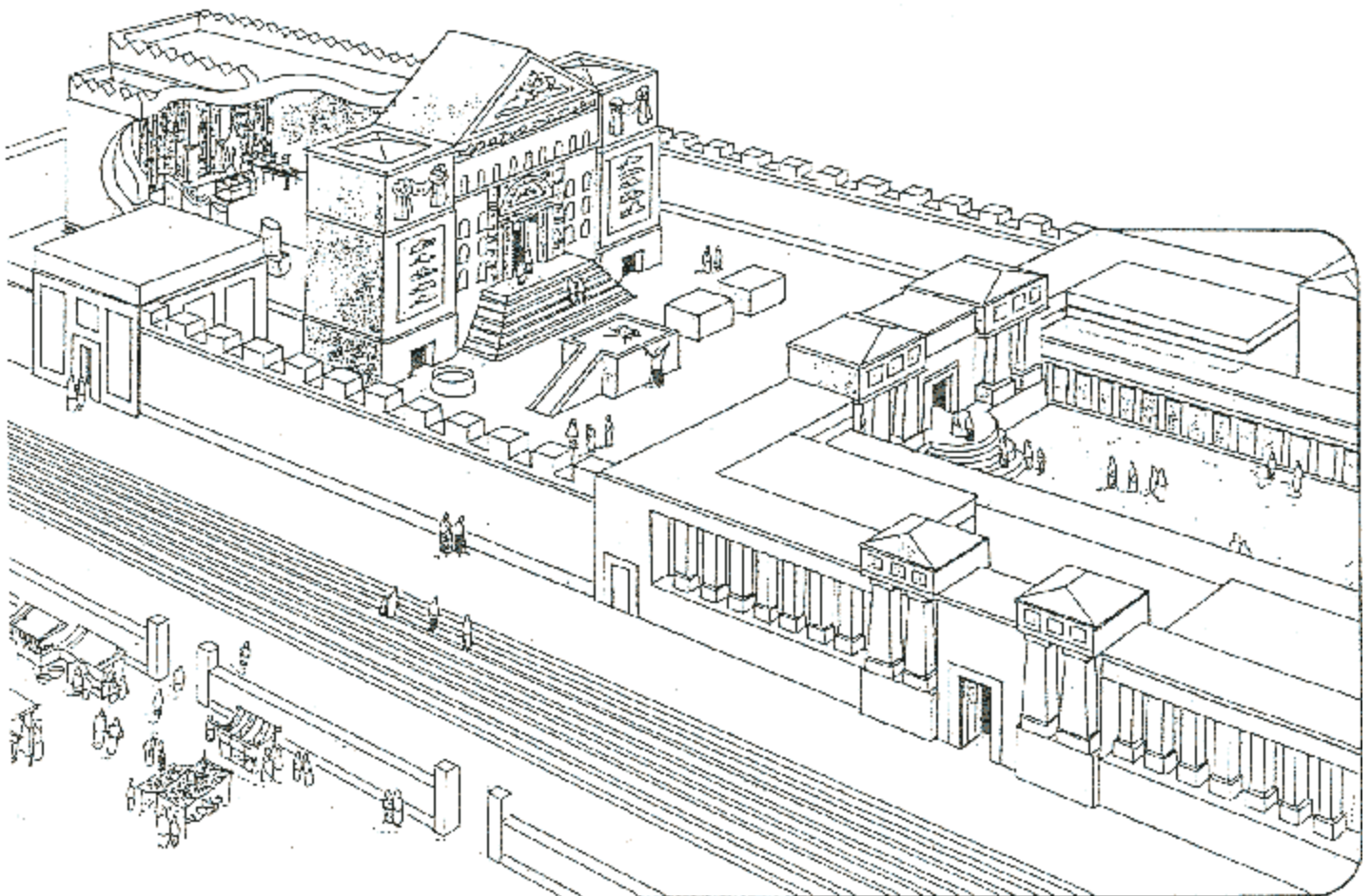
It was a new beginning. An animal was sacrificed to obtain the pardon of their sins and the blood was spill over the "Santus Santorum". Then the priest will take a male lamb, place his hands on top of the head and let it go to the desert.

This was the sign that God had taken away all the sins of the people.

The temple functions constantly. The priest read the scriptures, recites prayers and makes daily morning and evenings sacrifices. It also was the place where the religious teachings were giving and where the people gather for the special celebration as the presentation of a child in the temple there was only one temple, but each town had a synagogue. There the people gather on Saturday (Sabat, the day they did not work) to pray and receive instructions.

It was the school where all the children receive the teachings from the Rabbi and from the local government.

This drawing show the temple of Jerusalem as it was in the time of Jesus.



A SAINT FOR FEBRUARY

SAINT BLASE

Febrero 3

Bellow is the story of Saint Blasé.

Select words from the list to fill in the blanks.

PRAYED

Blasé was a physician and _____

ILL

because he was a _____, he was sent to _____.

STOPPED

One his way to prison, he was _____ by a

CROSS

woman whose _____ was very _____.

CHILD

Blasé _____ over the child, and the child was _____

THROATS

of a throat infection.

REMEMBER

Blasé was to prison and was _____ in A.D. 316. Today we

BISHOP

_____ him on February 3rd. On his day people may

PRISON

have their _____ blessed. The priest holds two candles in

CURED

the form of a _____.

CHRISTIAN

While holding the candles at the people's throat, the priest prays

MARTYRED

this prayer.

Through the merits and intercession of Saint Blasé, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from all diseases of the throat and from every other evil. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Decorate the prayer card with symbols to help you remember Saint Blasé

Jesus is compassionate

February 5:
Fifth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Job. 2:12-18;
1Cor 9:16-19; 22-23;
Mark 1:29-39

Talk about the story. Talk with the children about the times when they felt sick. What helped them get better? Is there a sick person in their family right now? What do the other members of the family do? How do they feel –concerned, sad, trusting in God?

Do you know people who are always serving others?

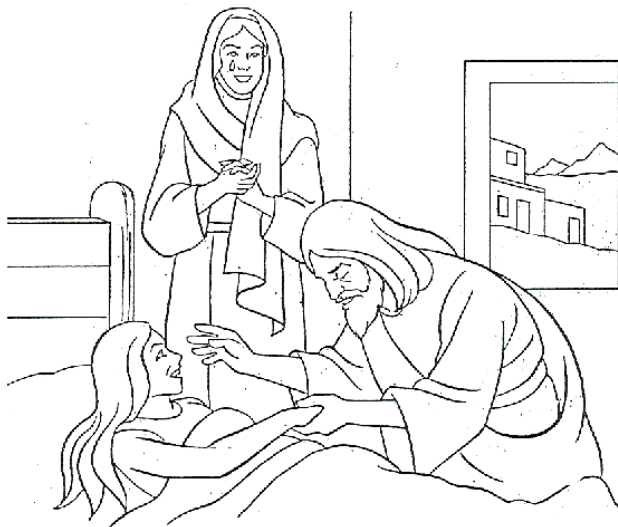
Do they pray to God each day to present the needs of people around them?

Activities. Represent the story of the healing of Peter's mother in law. What do they all do to thank Jesus for his healing?

Final prayer. Have each child light a little votive candle and invite them to pray for a person who is sick, or who has a problem. All respond: "Jesus, you are compassionate".

You are there.

Are you surprised to see Peter's mother-in-law rise and continue her works as if nothing had happened?



Jesus, our friend, invites you:

Jesus prays and then worked in the mission that God had given him.

Do you pray before doing something or when you get up in the morning?

Jesus told us to be compassionate toward those who suffer. Do you know someone who might be needing your help?

What can you do? Jesus had the mission to announce the Good News of God. What are your assignments? Do you do your homework? Do you help at home?

What am I going to do?

Speak to Jesus and tell him your chores and homework. Tell him of people in need of help. Tell him what you want to do:

- For example: *I will pray before going to school.*
- For example: *I will encourage my friends to do their homework.*
- _____
- _____

CRUCIGRAMA

Find the following hidden words in Spanish and write a sentence using them:

- CHORES, JESUS, HEAL,
- PETER, JOHN, MOTHER-IN-LAW, COMPASSION, PRAY, JAMES

A	D	O	R	A	R	R	T	I	R
M	L	R	N	O	J	N	R	S	T
I	G	O	S	N	E	I	C	N	I
G	G	H	I	L	S	N	M	N	S
M	Q	V	E	I	U	T	W	X	E
S	A	B	I	O	S	Z	G	H	D
J	H	R	E	A	O	Z	Q	N	O
V	E	R	I	A	J	M	U	B	R
M	I	R	R	A	N	E	R	L	E
E	S	T	R	E	L	L	A	V	H

☛ *Peter's mother-in-law had a fever, but Jesus made her well again. Have you ever been sick? What does it feel like to be well again?*

February 6th
ST. PAUL MIKI
 AND COMPANIONS

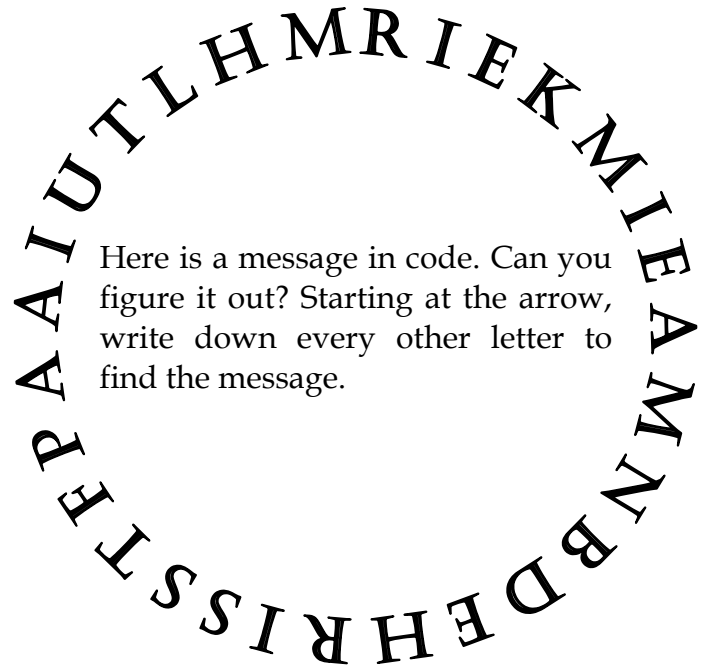
These twenty-six martyrs are sometimes called the martyrs of Nagasaki and the martyrs of Japan. St. Francis Xavier brought the Good News of Christianity to Japan in 1549. Many received the Word and were baptized by St. Francis himself. Although Francis moved on and eventually died near the shores of China, the faith had grown in Japan. By 1587 there were over two hundred thousand Catholics. Missionaries from various religious orders were there. Japanese priest, religious and lay people lived the faith joyfully.

In 1597, forty-five years after the arrival of Francis Xavier, a powerful Japanese official Hideyoshi, listened the gossip of a Spanish merchant. The merchant whispered that the missionaries were traitors of Japan. He suggested that these traitors would cause Japan to be defeated by Spain and Portugal. The claim was false and absurd. But as an overreaction, Hideyoshi had twenty-six people arrested. The group included six Franciscans from Spain, Mexico and India; three Japanese Jesuit catechists, including St Paul Miki; and seventeen Japanese Catholic lay people, including children.

The twenty-six were led to the place of execution outside Nagasaki. They were fastened to individual crosses with chains and cords and had iron collars clamped around their necks. Each cross was hoisted and the base was lowered into a hole dug for it. They died almost at the same moment. Their blood-stained clothes were treasured by the Christian community and miracles happened through their intercession.

Each martyr was a gift to the Church. St. Paul Miki, a Jesuit catechist, had been a great preacher. His last valiant homily came from the cross as he encouraged the Christian community to be faithful and his companions were proclaimed saints by Pope Gregory XVI in 1862.

We can pray every day for people who live in parts of the world where they are persecuted for their beliefs. We can also ask St. Paul Mike and his companions for courage to be faithful to Jesus.



Here is a message in code. Can you figure it out? Starting at the arrow, write down every other letter to find the message.

BOOKMARKERS – TO MARK GOD’S LOVE FOR YOU!

The works and pictures will help you to recall what Sister Jane said about God in the video.

Color each picture. Cut out all 3 bookmarks.

Glue each one on a harder paper to make it stronger.

Keep the bookmarks in your books.

When you look at them, thank God in your heart for loving you, forgiving you and trusting you. You can give a bookmark as a present, too!

All Loving



Trusting

Almighty



Loving

All-Knowing



Forgiving

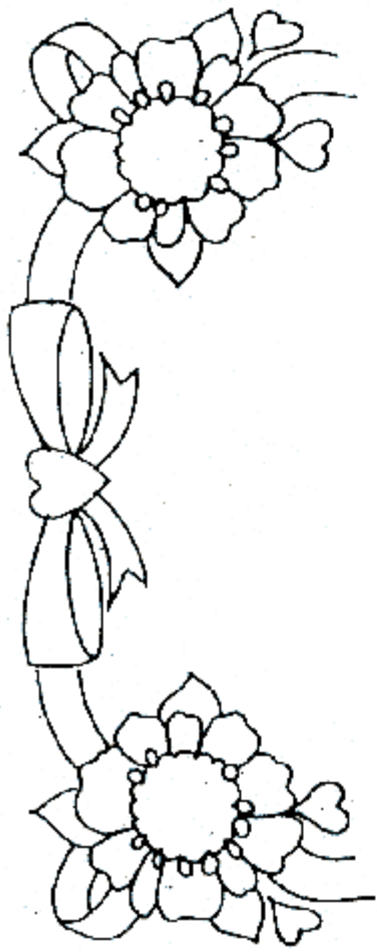
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



Jesus loves little children and gives them
His blessings.

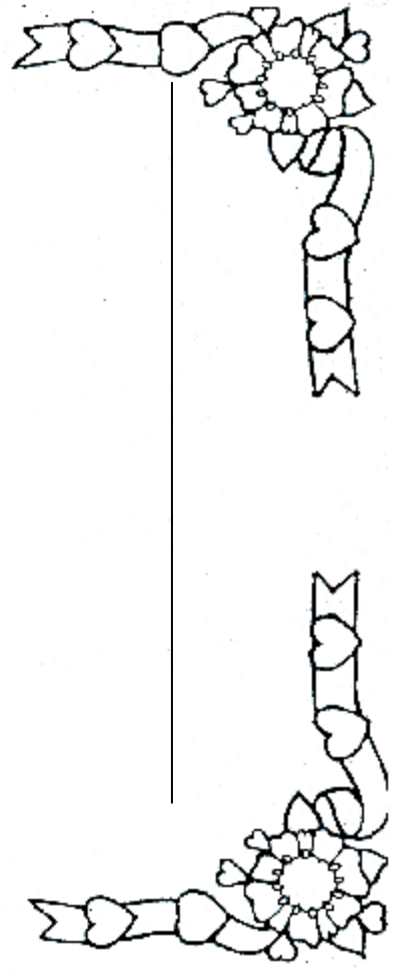


Jesus said, "Let the little children come
to Me.."



**Friends love one another
Happy Valentine's Day
to my friend**

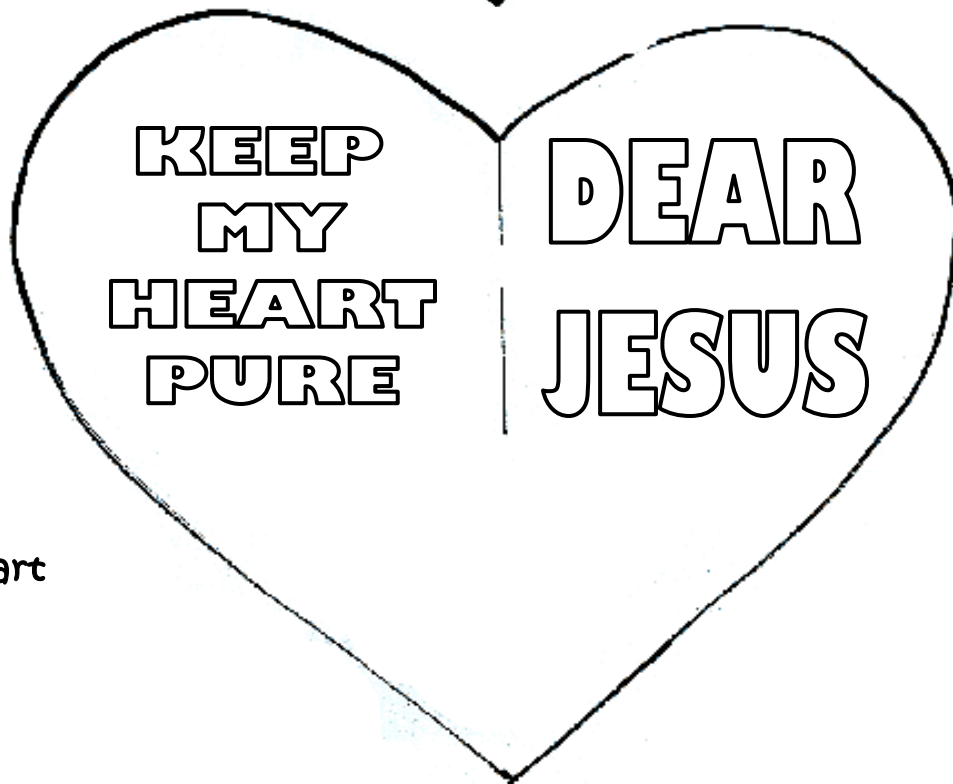
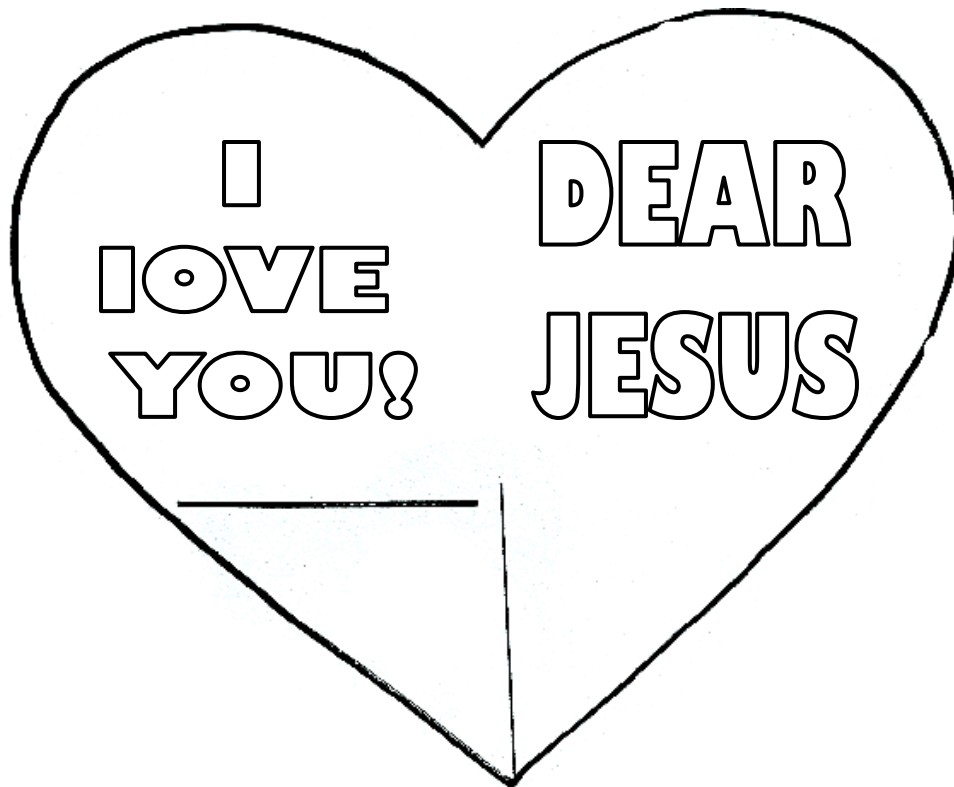
From,



*"Dear Friends,
If this is how God loved us,
then we should love one another*

1 John 4:11





**My Pure Heart
Ornament**

Color both hearts neatly.

Sign your name on the line. Cut out. Cut along the lines in the center. Slide the 2 hearts together along the slits.

Punch a hole on top. Hang with yarn or ribbon.

Jesus touches a leper

February 12:
Sixth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Lev. 13:2,44-46;
1 Cor. 10:31 – 11:1;
Mark 1:40-45

Talk about the story. Talk with the children about the story and how many times people are look different, or have some limitation, are rejected. Are there any people in the school or neighborhood who give them the creeps? Are there some children whom others ridicule or bully? Have they themselves ever felt rejected or left out? How did they feel?

Tell them the story of Saint Damian who, in the island of Molokai, served a whole population of lepers until he was sick and died.

Activities. Relate the story to modern times. Who is rejected or left out? How do we invite those people to come into the circle?

Final Prayer. Invite the children to pray for a person whom they have rejected or been afraid. All answer” “Jesus, you are compassionate”.

You are there

Do you move away when you see or hear the leper coming? Do you feel repugnance? Do you feel it is not right for Jesus to touch him either?

What do you do when you see the man is healed?

Jesus, our friend, invites you:

Jesus is near even to those that seem rejected by everyone else. Is there anyone in your school or neighborhood that seems to be rejected or feared? Do you reject anyone? The leper went to tell everyone what had happened, because he was grateful. When someone does something for you, do you show gratefulness?

What am I going to do?

Speak to Jesus and tell him about some person who, even if you don't intend to, you reject. Ask him to help you feel compassion for that person. Tell him what do you want to do:

- For example: *I will share with a classmate who is always left out.*
- For example: *I will be grateful for what I receive every day.*

• _____



Q: *Jesus is not afraid to talk to and touch a leper and heals him. Are there certain people who you are afraid to talk to or be near? Why? How can you make those who others reject feel better*

WORD SEARCH

Find the following hidden words in Spanish and write a sentence using them:

- LEPROSY, UNCLEAN,
- JESUS, COMPASSION,
- TOUCH, HEAL,
- ANNOUNCE, HAPPY,
- REJECTION, SKIN,
- SICKNESS

C O M P A S I O N E
M L M N N C F P S N
I J E S U S A I D F
G G H R N S N E E E
O Q A S C U T L I R
S R B D I A I H M M
R E C H A Z O Q P E
T O C A R D M R U D
P E R D O L E P R A
N O P Q R C T U O D

People try to come to Jesus through the roofs

February 19:
Seventh Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Isa. 43:18-9,21-22, 24-25
2Cor 1:18-22
Mark 2:1-12

Talk about the story. Have they ever seen someone make an extraordinary effort to help someone else? What sacrifices have they had to make to help others (for instance, leave their room for a guest). Speak about what forgives means. What is more difficult forgiving or helping?

Activities and Prayer. Have the children draw stretchers and write on them something that is hard for them to forgive and so paralyzes them. They can leave them on the altar saying: "Jesus, I want to walk with you".

You are there

What is most surprising to you in this story? Imagine you are the paralyzed man. Are you a little disappointed at first because you still cannot walk? Imagine now you are one of the people. What do you expect the man to do when he is healed?

Jesus, our friend, invites you:

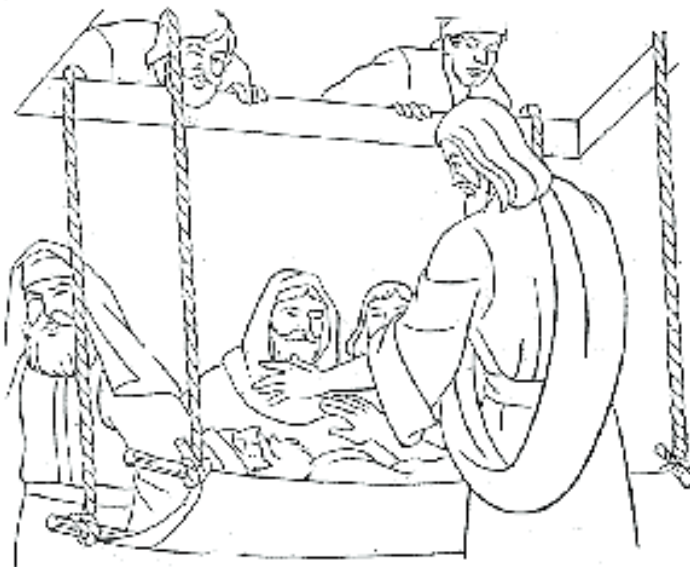
The man's friends made great efforts to help him come to Jesus. How do you help others? Jesus says he forgives. Do you also forgive those who have hurt you?

What am I going to do?

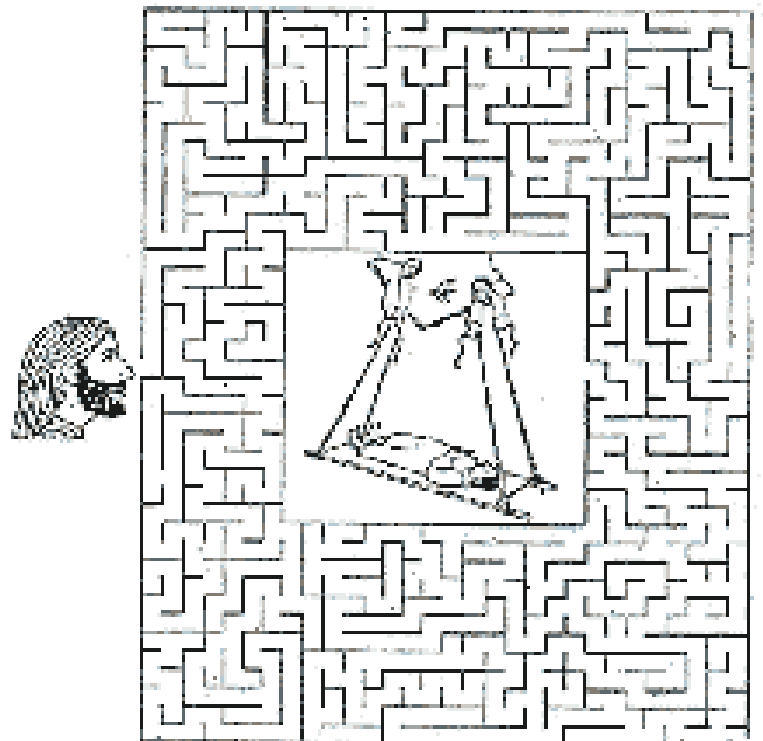
Speak to Jesus and tell him how you have helped someone this week. Tell him you want to forgive someone who has hurt you. Tell him what do you want to do:

- For example: *I will help at home.*
- For example: *I will forgive someone who hurt me.*
- _____

The paralyzed man and his friends will do just about anything to get a chance to see Jesus. Can you help them find their way?



Q: *A paralyzed man and his friend had so much faith in Jesus that they ignored the obstacles to him. What type of things are obstacles for you as you try to follow Jesus and his message?*



Jesus makes all things new

February 26:
Eighth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Os. 2:16-17, 21-22;
2Cor 3:1-6;
Mark 2:18-22

Talk about the story. Speak with the children about the people they really admire. Are there some people they sometimes imitate?

What would they like to change in their family or neighborhood? Do they hear the adults say things like, "this has always been done this way"? Could some of those things be some differently? What are some of the things they would never change? What habits do they have that they are often scolded for? Would they like to change?

Activities. If Jesus were to write a letter of recommendation for them (for school or a job), what would he say? Ask the children to write a letter pretending Jesus is speaking about them.

Final Prayer. Have the children present their letter saying: "I want to be the letter of Jesus".

Jesus are there

What do you think about these strange saying of Jesus? Do you understand? Have you ever attempted to repair something new? What was the result?

Jesus, our friend, invites you:

What old habit do you think Jesus wants to you give up?

Jesus says that while we are with him, we have joy. Do you enjoy being with Jesus every day for a little while?

Do you thank God for each new day?

What am I going to do?

Speak to Jesus and tell him about a bad habit you want to get rid of. Tell him what do you want to do:

- For example: *I will not leave a mess in my room so that my mom or someone else will have to pick it up.*
- For example: *I will do my homework before I get distracted and forget about it.*

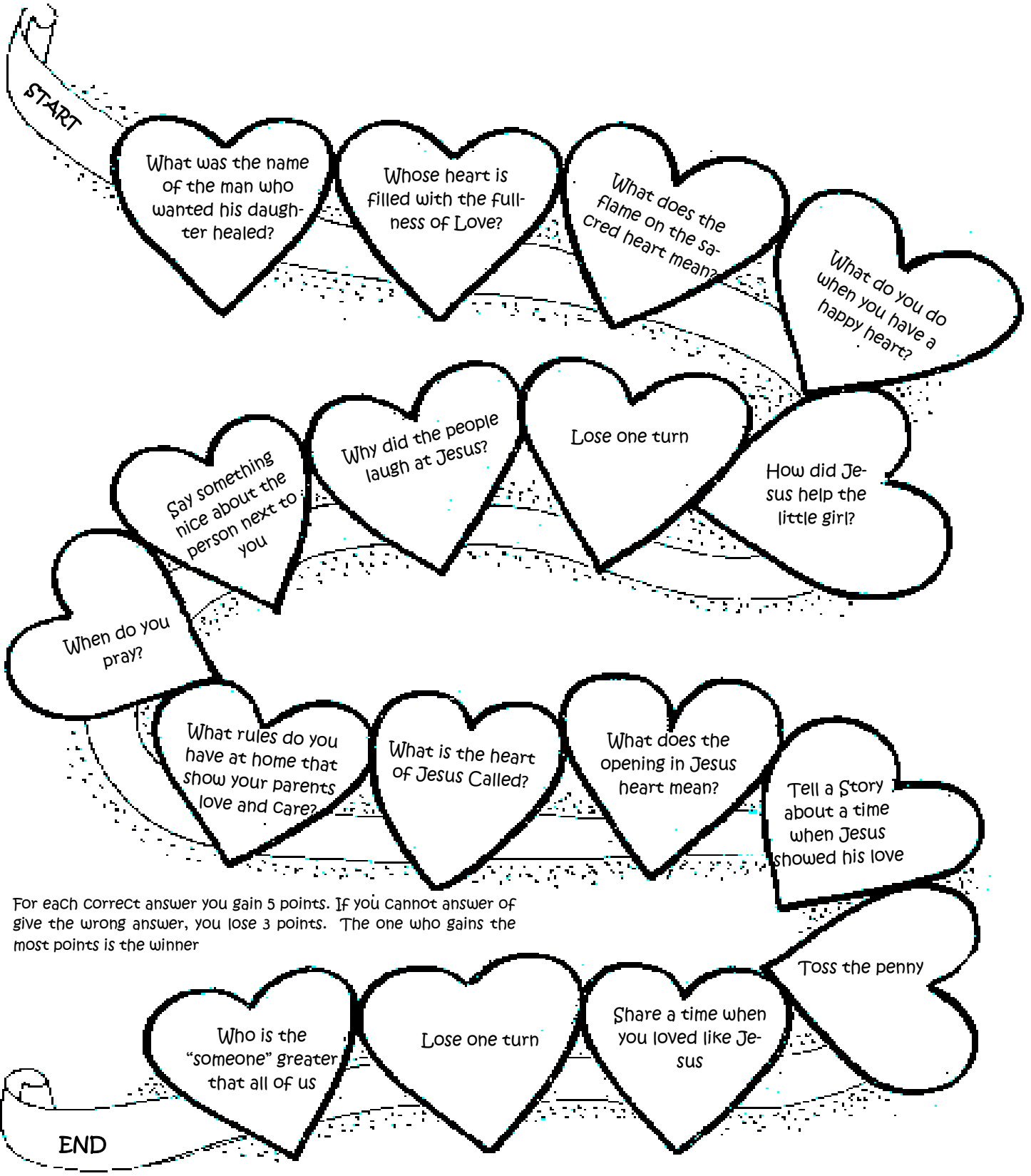
Today, Jesus gives us an important lesson about rules. Some rules, he says, are more important than other rules. From everything you have learned about Jesus, what do you think are some of the more important rules Jesus would like us to follow? List as many as you can below.

Favorite Rules of Jesus

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.



Set up markers (buttons or pebbles) on the "Start". Toss a penny and make move. (2 steps on the head, 1 on the tail). Answer the questions in the heart where your marker lands. The game is finished when everyone reaches the "End".



For each correct answer you gain 5 points. If you cannot answer or give the wrong answer, you lose 3 points. The one who gains the most points is the winner

Theme Discussion before you play the game.

1. Discuss what we mean we say that someone has a warm heart, a cold heart, a greedy heart, etc. The heart represents the person. We do not think of the physical heart when we talk about someone's "warm heart". We think of a man or a woman, a boy or a girl who is kindly, generous and easy to approach.
2. When we talk about the Sacred Heart, we are talking about Jesus. What do the symbols on His Heart tell us about the Person of Jesus?

The Burning Heart is full of love and warmth. Read the Scripture story of the little girl whom Jesus healed (Lk 8:41-42,49-52). How do you see the loving Heart of Jesus in that story? Do you feel loving when you help someone?

The Crown of Thorns points to Jesus who suffered from being "pricked" by suspicion, e.g. healing on the Sabbath. It hurt him when some people said he heals by the power of the devil. His Heart was aching. Does your heart ache sometimes?

The Cross is a sign of Jesus' Love for us, which is stronger than death. Jesus died a painful death to save us. He died willingly; He told His friends ahead of time that it would happen. Peter did not even believe him. (Mt. 16:21-23; Mk 8:31-33) Do you know about people who give themselves willingly to save others? Think of firemen, policemen and women, parents sacrificing their lives, children saving their little brother or sister from fire or from drowning.

The Wound is a "window into His Heart". Jesus gave His life for us; this is what He is like, this is how much He loves us. Read the story of a martyr who followed Jesus and gave his/her life out of love for other people, e.g.

The Rays Around the Heart show us that Jesus is our radiant Risen Lord. Read the accounts of His Resurrection (Mt. 28; Mk. 16:20-24). He is the "Someone who is greater than I am" in the song, the One Whom we can trust and love totally. Help the children to learn the song and to understand each phrase. Discuss how our hope of rising with Jesus us the strength to overcome fear and sadness.

3. Look up and discuss the following Scripture passages and see what the many dimensions and expressions of Jesus' Love are.

Daughter of Jairus (Mk. 5:21-43)

The Man with a Withered Hand (Mk. 3:1-6)

The Paralytic (Mk. 2:1-12)

The Leper (Mk. 1:40:45)

Zaccheus (Lk. 19:1-10)

Widow's Mite (Lk. 21:1-4)

Crucifixion (Lk. 23:32-43)