



YEAR LEVEL	Foundation
TITLE	Called to Live Like Jesus
STRAND	CHRISTIAN MORALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
SUGGESTED DURATION	3-5 weeks
ENDURING QUESTIONS	What does it mean to be Christian? How do I choose to share God's love with all?

Unit Focus

In this unit the students will find a purpose for acting as Jesus did. They will understand that when they do this, they are living as Jesus showed us. They will relate it to how they care for themselves and others in the world.

Achievement Standards

By the end of **Foundation**:

Students identify ways that Christians love and care for others as God asks. They express ways in which they share their God-given gifts with others.

Unit Outcomes

By the end of this unit students should be able to:

1. Identify their own needs and the needs of other people in their world.
2. Demonstrate ways in which they can be kind and care for people as Jesus showed us.

Key Understandings for Students

- We are to be kind and loving like Jesus.
- I live the way of Jesus when I care for others in the world.

Student Context

Students at this level display a vivid imagination which gives rise to lifelong religious images and concepts, incorporating images of God from loving and powerful adults and from stories and symbols. They are focused on themselves but are increasingly aware of the requirements of belonging to a group. They are ready to be introduced to the concept of Mission, but they require good modelling and developmentally appropriate stories so that teaching and learning activities are in line with their social, emotional, intellectual, faith and moral development.

This unit enables students to address their needs and wants and then to relate this to how they can care for themselves and others. It presents Mission in a way that is relevant to their own lives whilst at the same time introduces them to how Jesus invites us to live. This unit enables children to be led by their curiosity and to

engage in a hands-on exploration of their world, expressing themselves through talking, drawing, creating, moving and playing.

Theological Background for Teachers

- Prior to Vatican II, Mission was understood to refer to the church's work for the salvation of souls, which was carried out for the benefit of non-Christians abroad, mainly by priests, religious brothers, nuns, and specially commissioned lay people, with the financial and spiritual support of the laity back home. The goal of mission was to establish the church in these "mission fields." Mission, at this time, meant *foreign mission*, that is, mission in all the continents that were not considered already Christianised.
- The understanding of church and the understanding and practice of mission has changed since Vatican II. The contemporary church's identity is rooted in the mission that Jesus received from his Father. Thus, the church has as its mission the establishment of the reign of God.
- Jesus lived and preached the values of the reign of God. Many of his parables speak of the reign of God, and his miraculous deeds are signs that the reign of God had drawn near in his ministry. This new world order is said to be of God because its arrival signals the gracious, forgiving, and redeeming presence of Yahweh in the world, and is not the fruit of human efforts. This way of being is open to all people, and all are invited to transform their lives according to its values, but it is given especially or "preferentially" to those who are marginalized, that is, the poor, the afflicted, the oppressed, the captives (Luke 4: 18).
- The present-day work of mission is a continuation of the establishment of the reign of God, and all the baptized are called to this task, even though some are more engaged in "missionary" activities than others.
- This understanding of mission prompts cooperation with all Christians, and with the followers of other religions as well, since they too are called to the reign of God, even though not all of them will join the church.
- Mission is proclaimed through personal witness, dialogue and through projects of evangelism, healing, teaching, development or liberation. The Holy Spirit through the whole community of believers inspires and directs the mission of the church. Christian mission is no longer a one-way proclamation of a message of salvation to a world of pagans bereft of God's self-revelation and grace, but first a search for and recognition of the presence and activities of the Holy Spirit among the peoples to be evangelized.
- Mission is directed to the whole world, including the cosmos, with less distinction between believer and non-believers. This considers that many people are nominally Christian but have yet to grasp what the gospel means.
- Whilst the content threads of mission education are woven throughout the primary syllabus, these units explicitly focus on Jesus, the reign of God and the call to mission. The aim of these units is to develop a contemporary understanding and appreciation of mission, which is to realize more fully the reign of God.

	Before Vatican II	Since Vatican II
What is mission for?	The church's work for the salvation of souls.	For the full realization of the Kingdom of God, which is already-but-not-yet, present-and-future, realized-and-eschatological.
To whom?	Carried out for the benefit of the pagans abroad.	To the whole world in all its dimensions and arenas, including the cosmos, to all peoples whatever their religious faith.

By whom?	Mainly by priests, religious brothers, nuns, and specially commissioned lay people, mostly from Europe and America.	By God, first, because the Church's mission is nothing but a continuation of God's mission in Jesus; and secondly, by all, hierarchy and laity, even though some are more engaged in "missionary" activities than others.
With whom?	With the financial and spiritual support of the laity back home.	With all Christians, and not only with Catholics, without denominational confrontation and competition; and furthermore, with the followers of other religions as well, since they too are called to the reign of God, even though not all of them will join the church.
How?	By planting the church in these "mission fields".	By personal witness and dialogue.

Scripture

John 13:34

You must love each other, just as I have loved you.

Suggested Teaching & Learning Experiences

Focussing Activity:

Read a story about being kind to others. Discuss how kind acts can affect others. Illustrate the part of the story that shows caring for others.

- Discuss with the class a time when someone was kind to you. How did you feel? When were you kind to someone else? What did you do?
- Brainstorm actions and words that show kindness. Put these on cards and display.
- Read the story "One Smile" by Cindy McKinley or view on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxEEgr0BkLo> (N.B. Some American words may need to be explained) Before reading or watching the story ask Why do you smile? How does a smile show kindness?
After reading or watching the story, recap the chain of smiles that changed people's feelings (**Appendix 1**)
- Brainstorm a list of emotions that a smile could change. Ask students to think about others around them (in class, at recess, at lunch, on the bus, at home, in neighbourhood) to see if a smile could help change them. Create a Chain of Smiles to hang in the classroom as a reminder of how powerful a smile can be.
- Show the YouTube clip <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ku9a7coYlog> and teach the students the song. The students can make up actions for the song.
- Display key words from the scripture John 13:34. What was Jesus asking us to do? How can we love others as Jesus loves us?
- Students create individual Posters: 'I am kind when I ...'

- Create a mural of people who care for us.
- Together, write a class prayer thanking God for all who are kind to us and asking God to help me be a kind person.

Prayer Ritual

Gather students around the prayer space. Students bring their individual posters reflecting when they are kind. Teacher says *I am kind when ...* and students show their posters and state when they are kind.

Students sing the song *Love One Another* from the unit outline with the actions they created.

Conclude the prayer ritual by reciting the class prayer written during the teaching and learning sequence. Ask students to share any special intentions they may have.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Post Reading Summary: *“One Smile”*.