Love One Another
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Storybook: Love One Another
Summary: Jesus is born, grows up, starts teaching people how to live and what they ought to do. He teaches us not to worry; he teaches us how to pray; he teaches us to love one another, etc. The book is out of print and offered for free on the internet which means that we can make copies and send them home with the kids! This book was designed for PreK/K, but it is appropriate to use with grades 1 & 2 as well.

Lesson: Jesus taught us how to live, how to love, and how to pray. He loves us more than we can ever imagine, and he asks us to love others the same way!

Condensed Class Outline:
*Love One Another Book (available free online if you Google the Episcopal Children's Curriculum, or for easier access, via Amazon… it is out of print).
*Discussion: How much he loves us, and how we can show others that we love them
*Picture Frame Making Activity

Discussion questions for use with the kids:
1) What did the story teach us about Jesus? What did we learn about him?
He was born a long time ago in Bethlehem; Christmas is his birthday. When he grew up, he gathered some disciples (people who wanted to follow his teachings and learn from him) and he taught them and lots of other people about God and God's love.
2) Jesus was born, sent by God, to teach us many things. What are some of the things the story tells us that Jesus taught us?
Jesus taught us how to live, how to pray, and not to worry because God cares for us and loves us.
3) **Jesus taught us that the most important thing for us to do is to love each other like Jesus loves us. Did he mean just to love our families? Or are we supposed to love other people too?** Jesus taught us to love all people, our neighbors; even those people who aren't nice to us.
4)How can we show people that we love them?
5) What should we do when it is hard to love someone? (ask this question only if you are prepared for a free-wheeling discussion!

Idea for Hands-On Activity (or chose your own!)
*Wooden picture frames with hearts cut out in the middle and the text "Love one another, as I have loved you" are in your boxes (also available from Michael's crafts). Instruct kids to decorate the picture frame however they like. Tell them they can then bring it home and put either their own picture in it, or a picture of their family. It will remind them to love others as Jesus loves us.
Show them the book. Some of them may have read it. Affirm their comments as appropriate and then ask them to put their eyes on you so that everyone can hear you read: Todd Parr's "It's Okay to Be Different". As you read, pause every other page or so and ask questions or make your own comments. For example, you might read, "It's okay to have wheels." And then, depending on the age group, you could ask either, "What is that boy riding in?" –a wheelchair- or "Do you know anyone who uses a wheelchair?" **Important: Try and avoid words that might subconsciously diminish the characters in the picture.** For example, don't say, "This poor boy has to use a wheelchair." Rather, say, "This boy uses a wheelchair to get from place to place. What are other ways that some people get from place to place?" **When you finish the book, drive home Theme 3 from above, and bring back in Themes 1 & 2 as you transition to the activity.**

Activity options (choose one appropriate for your age group or create your own!).
*Show the kids two different painted maracas (blank maracas available from Oriental Trading). Emphasize that both the maracas are made from the same material (wood with beans inside to make noise), but that they are different, just the same way that people are all made with the same materials but are different. Let the kids decorate their own special maracas. For younger kids, you could also consider spraying theirs with sticky glue and letting them drop glitter on it if their fine motor skills aren't tuned yet. *This would work with other items, too (they can decorate boxes, flowers, etc).