

Journey of Faith



The Sacraments: An Introduction

"Today we're going to talk about love," Mrs. Evans announced.

Terrence and Tomás looked at each and rolled their eyes. Tomás said, "What does love have to do with being Catholic? I didn't think we had to be in love to be Catholic!"

Mrs. Evans smiled. "Not romantic love. Today we're going to talk about God's love. God loves all of us very much. So much that he even died for us."





How does God show he loves you?

Ways to Say, "I Love You"

Your grandmother is coming to visit. You haven't seen her in a long time. When you greet her at the door, how will you say, "I love you, Grandma"?

You can say, "I love you" with a hug.

Your best friend is sick in bed. You miss him very much. You know he misses you, too. How will you say, "I love you" to your best friend?

You can say, "I love you" with a card or visit.

It's your mom's birthday. You want to give her something, but you have no money. How will you say, "I love you, Mom"?

You can say, "I love you" by helping her around the house.

Your father comes home very tired. You want to show him love and comfort. How will you say, "I love you"?

Best of all, you can just say, "I love you, Dad."

How Does Jesus Say, "I Love You"?

Jesus said, "I love you" to people in many ways. We can read about Jesus' love in the Bible.

Jesus Cures the Leper

One day, Jesus was walking with a crowd of people. A man with leprosy asked him, "Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean." Jesus touched him, saying, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Right away, the man was cured.

Adapted from Matthew 8:1-3



How did Jesus say, "I love you"?

Jesus Feeds the Crowd

Jesus was speaking to a crowd of 5,000 people. It was late, and the people were hungry. The disciples said, "Send them away so they can get something to eat." But Jesus said, "Feed them yourselves." They had only two fish and five loaves of bread, not enough to feed everyone. Jesus then said, "Ask them to sit in groups of fifty." Jesus looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the food. The disciples took the pieces of fish and bread and fed all the people. And there was some left over.

Adapted from Luke 9:12-17



How did Jesus say, "I love you"?

Jesus Serves His Friends

At the Last Supper, Jesus got up from the table, took off his robe, and tied a towel around his waist. Then he washed his disciples' feet and wiped them clean with the towel. Jesus said, "I have set an example for you. You are to serve others just as I have served you."

Adapted from John 13:4–15



How did Jesus say, "I love you"?

Jesus Cares for Children

People were bringing their babies and children to Jesus so that he could bless them, but his disciples tried to make them stay away. Jesus became angry and said, "Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to them." Then he blessed and hugged the children.

Adapted from Mark 10:13–16



How did Jesus say, "I love you"?



There are many other Bible stories about how Jesus said, "I love you" while he was in this world. Jesus touched, fed, cured, and helped people. Look up the following stories in the Bible and see what a loving teacher Jesus is. What did he do in each story?

- John 9:6–7
- Luke 19:1–10

Jesus Still Says, "I Love You"

Jesus promised his disciples that he would be with them always. Jesus is with us today in the sacraments. A **sacrament** is a visible sign of something that's real but can't be seen. When the priest pours water on someone during baptism, it's a sign that God is *really* washing away that person's sin. The seven sacraments of the Church are Jesus' way of touching, feeding, and healing us today.

All the sacraments began with something Jesus did or said. The words, things, and symbols are not magic or pretending. Through each sacrament, Jesus *really* comes to us and cares for us in the world.

Write down three ways you can say or show love like Jesus did.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



SEEK AND FIND

The following words are hidden somewhere in the jumble. Can you find them all?

FEEDING	G	B	M	S	V	H	I	D	F	S	T	C	F	S	N
HEALING	J	O	J	Z	F	E	O	W	W	E	N	K	S	O	S
LOVE	I	Q	Z	B	O	A	L	J	S	P	E	I	U	N	E
PRESENCE	D	F	C	S	G	L	O	E	C	E	M	D	Y	H	Y
SACRAMENT	T	P	I	L	A	I	C	G	D	J	A	Y	I	P	V
SIGN	L	G	S	V	E	N	E	V	O	L	R	O	U	N	G
TOUCHING	N	X	I	W	E	G	B	T	O	U	C	H	I	N	G
	O	P	Q	S	H	P	O	V	S	Q	A	X	T	L	A
	F	X	E	F	M	T	T	N	G	K	S	Z	J	I	W
	Y	R	W	X	A	C	Q	E	V	C	U	K	A	U	V
	P	E	P	T	E	U	A	T	L	F	C	V	U	Y	V

In Short



- The Church has seven official sacraments.
- Jesus started the sacraments on earth.
- Sacraments are physical signs of God's love.

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