



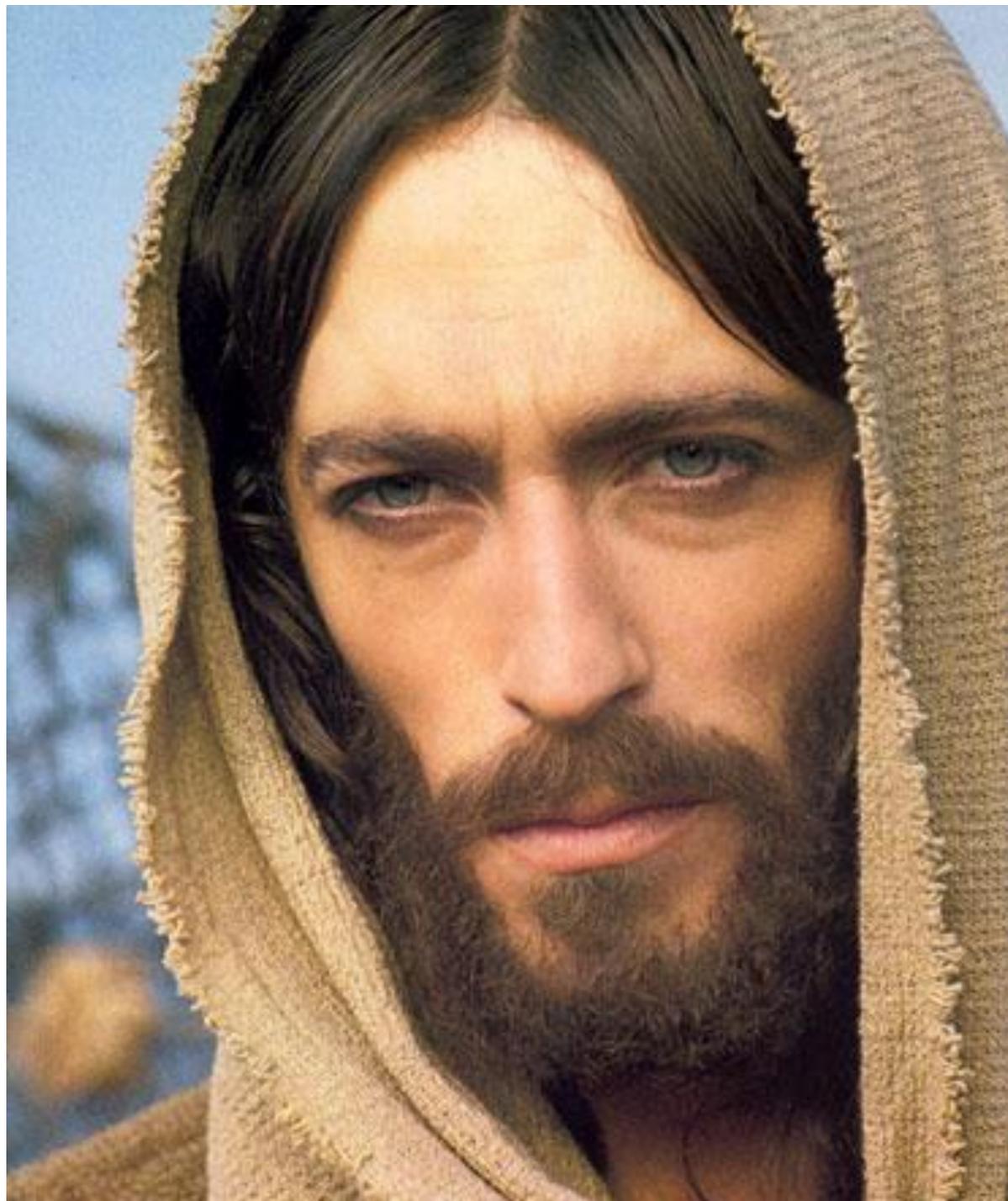
God is love.  
God loves us.  
God does not say “I love you because...” or  
“I’ll love you if...”

God loves us **unconditionally**.  
God wants us to love him with our whole heart, soul, and  
strength.

God wants us to love each other in the same way he loves  
US.

God never wants anyone to hurt us nor does he want us to  
hurt others.

**Note:** It’s really important to explain the word “unconditionally”– it means  
“no matter what”. Have the kids try and say the word “unconditionally”  
and repeat what it means when you ask 😊 Unconditional Love



Jesus shows us how to love God and each other. Jesus tells us to love God **unconditionally** and to love each other just as he, Jesus, loves us.

How did Jesus show his love?

Jesus showed his **unconditional** love for his Father by doing what his Father asked him to.

What did he do?

He freely offered up his life for us so that his sins could be forgiven and we could have a relationship with God.

Through his obedience and sacrifice, Jesus also shows God's **unconditional** love for us. Because of God's love and forgiveness, we can have a relationship with God as a beloved son or daughter and we can have a relationship with each other as brothers and sisters in Christ.



There is nothing we can do to earn or deserve God's love.

Through our baptism, we belong to Jesus and should try to be like him.

This means we should love God and each other **unconditionally**.

This means we should not try to make anyone do something special to deserve our love... nor should we ever have to “prove” our love to someone else.

# Unconditional Love



No one has to look or dress a certain way to deserve to be loved.

No one has to do what we ask of them to deserve to be loved.

No one has to be famous or popular or talented to be loved.

**Every person deserves to be loved because God made them and loves them.**

If someone says to us

“I will not play with you if you do not do what I want...”

“I only love you because you are [pretty, smart, strong]”

“You have to prove to me that you deserve to be my friend...”

These messages do NOT express unconditional love. They are not what God wants for us.

\*Have the kids signal “thumbs up” or “thumbs down” for showing love (give good examples mixed in with the non-examples listed above.)



Respect

How do we show the love we have for one another?

\*Forgiveness

We show love in many ways

- We show respect for one another
  - We use kind words
  - We follow the rules
- We pray for one another
  - We help others
- We forgive each other

“Showing love” worksheet (circle pictures that show love)  
Rules and Boundaries



Through Baptism, we belong to Jesus and should try to be like him.

Throughout his life, Jesus forgave the sins of many people.

When he was dying on the cross, he forgave the thief who was sorry for what he had done.

Even though they were not sorry for their actions, Jesus even asked his Father to forgive the people who crucified him.

Jesus wants us to be sorry when we do something wrong and ask the forgiveness of the person or persons we have hurt.



JESUS and the Children, by Ruth, 2003  
© Ruth Elliott, 2003

Jesus wants us to forgive others when they hurt us, even if they are not sorry for what they have done.

God forgives us and asks us to forgive others. When we are sorry for our sins and ask God to forgive us.

God asks us to do the same thing for other people.

Forgiving can be hard but we can pray for God's help to forgive others like God forgives us.



Read the first part of the scenario before showing them the pictures

\*Be sure to ask them to explain HOW THEY KNOW 😊

(This activity is in place of the worksheet.)



Mark



James



Matthew



John



Luke



Elizabeth



Mary

Mark and James were asked to help shovel the snow from the front porch. They played in the snow instead.

One of them is sorry for not completing his chores.

Can you tell which one is really sorry?  
How can you tell?

Rules and Boundaries

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Matthew, John, and Luke were asked to help clean up. Which one is doing something to make things “right”? How can you tell?

Rules and Boundaries

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Elizabeth and Mary played in the leaves instead of raking them as their parents asked. Which one is trying to not sin again?

Rules and Boundaries