Level: 2
Title: LOVING GOD AND OTHERS – OUR CALL TO MISSION
Strand: CHRISTIAN LIFE: The flourishing of human persons, the common good of societies, shared responsibility in relation to creation.

Suggested Duration: 3 weeks

Unit Focus
This unit will provide students with the opportunity to relate their experience of the loving actions of family members and others to the example of Jesus. Students will learn how Christians with a sense of mission can love God and others at a personal, local and global level. Students will be encouraged to identify how they can participate in the mission of Jesus by loving God and others through acts of service.

Level Outcome
By the end of Level Two children should be able to:

Explore ways in which Christians in their lives express love for God, self and others.

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

1. Recall examples of loving actions.
3. Identify ways in which they can contribute to the mission of Jesus by loving God and people in their class, school, family, local community and people throughout the world.

STRAND | DOCTRINAL CONCEPTS | CATECHISM REFERENCE
---|---|---
Jesus Christ | 5. Jesus shows us the way he wants us to live. | 1716
God | 2. God loves each of us 5. God invites us to respond in love. | 219, 733 2196, 2822
Christian Life | 2. God invites me to love and care for myself and others. 3. My choices and actions affect others. | 27, 1889, 2822 1970

Key Understandings for Students
- We are called to love God and others as Jesus did.
- Mission is proclaimed and lived when we love and serve others.

Curriculum Links - VELS
Victorian Essential Learning Standards
The unit Loving God and Others-Our Call To Mission can be used to assess a range of VELS. The table below gives examples of how Level 2 standards could be assessed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strand</th>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Key elements of Standards Students…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical, Personal and Social Learning</td>
<td>Interpersonal Development</td>
<td>Building Social Relationships</td>
<td>-“identify the feelings and needs of other people. Students identify and accept that there are consequences for their actions. They take appropriate steps to resolve simple conflicts.”</td>
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</table>
Working in Teams

“work in teams in assigned roles, stay on task and complete structured activities within set timeframes. They share resources fairly. With teacher support, they describe their contribution to the activities of the team.”

Inter disciplinary Learning
Information and Communications Technology
ICT for Visualising Thinking/ ICT for Creating

“students manipulate text, images and numeric data to create simple information products for specific audiences. They make simple changes to improve the appearance of their information products. With some assistance, students use ICT to locate and retrieve relevant information from a variety of sources.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Curriculum Framework Context</th>
<th>Level 1</th>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Level 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Called To Live Like Jesus</td>
<td></td>
<td>Loving God and Others – Our Call To Mission Sharing With Others – Our Call To Mission</td>
<td>Reaching Out Serving Others</td>
</tr>
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Student Context

Level Two students 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 focussed on themselves but are increasingly aware of the requirements of belonging to a group.

Here, students readily relate to the concept of Mission, but they require good modeling and developmentally appropriate Scripture and stories so that teaching and learning experiences are in line with their social, emotional, intellectual, faith and moral development.

The concept of love, for Level Two students, is grounded in family experiences. They understand that parents show their love particularly by the care they offer and by self-sacrifice. The students themselves have learned to express love in a number of ways: What they say (“I love you mummy”), various gestures (kisses, cuddles), sharing with other family members and making allowances (especially for younger brothers and sisters), and doing things that comfort people and make them happy.

Students at this level are becoming more aware of the effects their attitudes and actions have on the lives of others. They are beginning to appreciate the ‘ripple effect’ of their words and actions on themselves and significant adults and friends. This unit encourages the students to explore the ripple effects of their acts of service and how their actions on a personal, local and global level are a part of the mission of the church.

Theological Background for Teachers

- Prior to the Second Vatican Council, 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 the Second Vatican Council. 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
regain 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 baptised 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 of all a search for and recognition of the presence and activities of the Holy Spirit among the peoples to be evangelised.

- Mission is directed to the whole world, including the cosmos, with less distinction between believer and non-believers. This takes into account 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.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before Vatican II</th>
<th>Since Vatican II</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What is mission for?</strong></td>
<td>The church’s work for the salvation of souls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>To whom?</strong></td>
<td>Carried out for the benefit of the pagans abroad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>By whom?</strong></td>
<td>Mainly by priests, religious brothers, nuns, and specially-commissioned lay people, mostly from Europe and America.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>With whom?</strong></td>
<td>With the financial and spiritual support of the laity back home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>How?</strong></td>
<td>By planting the church in these “mission fields”.</td>
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Scripture

Teacher Reference (NRSV)

1 Cor 13:4-7
Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Mt 28:18-20
And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’

Student Reference (CEV)

Acts 2:44, 46-47
All the Lord's followers often met together, and they shared everything they had. Day after day they met together in the temple. They broke bread together in different homes and shared their food happily and freely, while praising God. Everyone liked them, and each day the Lord added to their group others who were being saved.

Acts 4:32 Sharing Possessions
The group of followers all felt the same way about everything. None of them claimed that their possessions were their own, and they shared everything they had with each other.

1 Cor 13:4-7
Love is kind and patient, never jealous, boastful, proud, or rude. Love isn't selfish or quick tempered. It doesn't keep a record of wrongs that others do. Love rejoices in the truth, but not in evil. Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful, and trusting.

Suggested Assessment Tasks

Assessment tasks for this unit may include:

Outcome 1 Recall examples of loving actions
- Using magazines or other resources ask the students to create a collage of people who show love in our world.
- Use the current World Mission Week materials with the class. Students underline words and actions in stories and articles that tell about people sharing in the Church's mission of loving God and others like Jesus.

Outcome 2 Recount the probable daily actions of the Apostles in the light of Acts 2:44;46-47 and Acts 4:32
- Use a graphic organiser to show the daily actions of the Apostles after Jesus died.
- List the actions of the apostles in Acts 2:44 46-47 and Acts 4:32 draw or paint or create a sculpture that shows some of their actions.

Outcome 3 Students identify ways they can contribute to the mission of Jesus by loving God and people in their class, school, family, local community and people throughout the world.
- Make a paper chain/contribute to a class chain (of words) of ways that they can show love for others.
- Using a graphic organiser (eg. mindmap/concept map) students identify ways they can contribute to the mission of Jesus.
- Prepare and participate in Mission day activity.

N.B Outcome 2 lends itself to reporting in the dimension of Knowledge and Understanding.

Suggested Teaching & Learning Experiences

Focusing Activity

Put the following in a large envelope/bag: one packet pencils, one pair scissors, one glue stick, a magazine and a few sheets of paper (half the number of children in the class). Place the envelope in the middle of the circle.

- Read the instructions on the envelope: ‘Your task today is to make a poster titled, Love Is, using only the materials in this envelope. You have 30 minutes to complete the task and everyone must participate’.
After completing the task, reflect on the experience by recalling what happened in the group, share their feelings, name the things that contributed to the success of the task.

Read the story 'St Mary MacKillop, Friend and Helper'. Discuss/write/draw how Mary showed love for others.

Design and draw a badge or a heart shaped mobile, entitled, ‘Christian Mission is to Love’.

Work through the appropriate stories and activities in the Catholic Mission materials. Participate in fundraising activities for the missions

Prepare a class Liturgy of the Word for the conclusion of this unit. Use resources already created throughout the class activities.

Acts 2:44, 46-47 To PREPARE TO HEAR the Word – this is a snapshot of what was happening after Pentecost. The Apostles lived in a way that showed they were true followers of Jesus.

Acts 2:44, 46-47 To ENCOUNTER the Word after reading the text from the Bible, students create a story board of what the believers in the early Church did together.

Acts 2:44, 46-47 To RESPOND to the Word – This was how the Apostles kept Jesus’ teaching alive. How do we keep Jesus alive?

**Resources**

For resources to support this unit, refer to the online planning tool. For additional resources, refer to the Resource Centre Catalogue: [http://www.ceoballarat.catholic.edu.au](http://www.ceoballarat.catholic.edu.au) and follow links to Resource Centre.