

**Preparation:** Have a picture of your mom or dad or another family member that you may resemble. Doesn't have to be exact.

Say, "I have this picture of my mom (or whomever) and share some similarities. (Example: We have the same color hair, eyes, height. But more than that, she and I both like fish, both play piano, and both like to ski.)

We are alike in many ways. Some of this is that we are related and so we share genetic traits, some of this is that we spent a lot of time together. Families are very important. They shape us and we tend to be like someone in our family. Who are you like in your family? Do you and your siblings like similar things? Or with your mom and dad, aunt uncle? Has anyone in your family ever told you that you are like someone else in your family? Yes, we can be like our family members and share likes, dislikes, hair color, words we use, etc.

Do you ever wonder what Jesus means when he talks about the fact that God is in Jesus and Jesus is in us and we are a part of each other? That we share life together? It's really confusing and hard to think about isn't it? We can't really explain it well because we can't see God in us and in others but just like we share traits with our families, Jesus says that we share traits with him and with God.

The biggest trait that we share is love. Jesus says this is how everyone will know that you are part of God's family is by showing love. Just like people may know that you are part of your family you live with by how you look or act, Jesus says by showing love you for every person, then everyone will know that you are part of God's family. When we all share this love, it connects us like family. Jesus says that everyone is in God's family and promises to be with us always to help us remember that.

What are ways that Jesus showed love? (Accept all answers) What are ways that we can show love? (Accept all answers) These are great ways to show God's love and to include everyone in the family of God!

*Dear Jesus, thank you for being with us always. Thank you for showing us how to be like God and love everyone. Thank you for making us one big family in your love! Amen.*