

SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR: Easter 7A

Please refer to [Guidelines for Children's Addresses in Worship](#) document produced by the LCA Department of Liturgics and Grow Ministries - download guidelines [here](#).

MAIN POINT

Jesus prays for protection

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. (John 17:11)

AIDS

Photo of your family, pet, or someone you love

ADDRESS

Have a look at this photo. This is someone I really, really love.

Tell the children why they are special to you

Do you have someone in your life that you love that much? I think I would do anything to protect them. I'm not sure I'd die for them, but I certainly would try my best to save them from getting hurt.

In the reading today, Jesus is talking to his Father, God, whom he loves very much. But you also hear how much he loves his people. He's about to die for his people, so they can be saved from the sin that is destroying their lives. He is actually pleading with God that once he dies, and goes to be with him in heaven, that God will love and care for his people just as much as he loves and cares for his people. And did you know it wasn't just his disciples he was talking about? He was actually talking about all of God's people. That's us! You and me, and all those people sitting behind you.

Point to the congregation

When Jesus says, "so that they may be one as we are one", he's actually saying he wants us to have the same close, loving relationship with our heavenly Father as he, Jesus, has with his Father. How great is that?

Can you imagine Jesus with a photo of you saying, "Look at them. I love them so much, they are amazing to me and I can't imagine being without them. I would do anything for them! I even died for them!"

Let's thank God for loving us so much!

PRAYER

Dear loving God, thank you for loving us so much that you sent your only Son to die in our place. Please continue to protect us in all we do. Help us to always look to you as a loving, caring and protective Father. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

You may wish to hand out *Growing Faith at Home* or another resource before the children return to their seats.



For more information about Grow Ministries and other resources for ministry to children, young people and their families, please contact:

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