

# Christ-ian Love

(Explain that *Christ-ian* is written as such in order to emphasize that it is Christ whose life we—his followers—seek to imitate)

## *Session Objectives*

In this session, students will be invited to:

1. Describe Christ-ian love in an array of its physical and spiritual incarnations.
2. Develop a list of ways they can (and will attempt to) personally reach out to others in Christ-ian love.
3. Create an artistic rendering of Christ-ian love (in any medium, such as: paint, song, word, sculpture, etc.).

## **Materials needed:**

- paper
- pen/cils
- a CD of secular songs with the word “love” in the title or chorus
- a CD player
- bag of Hershey's kisses
- photocopies of biographies (or the books themselves, if feasible) of the saints—including Jan Hus, Mother Teresa, St. Bede, St. Francis, St. Monica, and others
- NRSV bibles
- markers
- crayons
- acrylic paints
- paint brushes
- water paints and bowl(s)of water
- glue
- random found objects (yarn, scraps of cloth, buttons, pop tabs, rubber bands, cardboard, etc.)
- other arts and crafts supplies
- copies of the Moravian motto (*In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty/diversity; in all things, love.*)

## **Gathering**

As students arrive, play the “love” CD you've compiled as background music. Have them gather into groups of 2 or 3 and come up with a list of secular songs (commonly played on the radio or in pop culture) that have the word “love” in the title or chorus. Tell them that it's a competition and that the winning group will get Hershey's kisses. After about 10 minutes, share the song titles aloud, group by group. Be sure to have each group count their total. After giving the winning group their Hershey's kisses, tell the large group that you are going to distribute Hershey's kisses to all the members of the other groups as well—as an example of Christ-ian love.

Follow this activity with a discussion about whether or not the songs on their lists are about Christ-ian love? Ask them to talk about the depth (or lack thereof) of the love mentioned in the songs they've listed. (Perhaps this could launch into a discussion about Christ-ian love being unconditional, self-giving, up-building, joy-promoting, non-competitive, healing, etc. Ask the students to help you think of other words to add to this list describing Christ-ian love. Have the students open the bibles up to Galatians 6:2 and read it aloud in unison: “*Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*” Encourage them to memorize this verse. Invite dialogue about what bearing one another's burdens means. Ask them to share ways in which they can bear one another's burdens.)

## Session

1. In groups of two, read through the stories of the lives of the saints and choose one saint to report on to the large group. This saint should be one whom they think best exemplifies Christian love. Ask them to make note of the “turning point” (if there is one described) in the life of their saint—an experience or event which turned the saint away from wrong-living/fear/despair/selfishness/sadness to right-living/hope/joy/service. Ask them to make a list of the attributes and/or actions which they think renders their saint an exemplar of Christian love. Have each group take a turn (2-3 minutes) presenting their saint to the large group. [Visual aids are encouraged.] While the students are listening to the various group presentations, have each student make a personal list of ways they—like the saints—can (and will attempt to) personally reach out to others in Christian love.
2. Invite each student to create an artistic rendering of Christian love (in any medium, such as: paint, song, word, sculpture, etc.) using the provided materials. Encourage them to work on their own art piece. Give them 15 minutes to finish. Invite them to share their pieces with the large group.
3. Review the memory verse together. Share relevant parts of the vision statement of the non-profit movement To Write Love on Her Arms (TWLOHA). This can be found at: <http://www.twloha.com/vision/>  
Involve all the students in writing a closing prayer with the words from the TWLOHA vision statement. Write it out clearly on a chalkboard, marker-board, or large sheet of paper. Prayerfully speak the words together in closing.