

**5th Sunday of Lent Cycle B**  
**TEEN GROUPS**

**Materials:** magnetic strips, cross and heart patterns, scissors, markers, and colored paper or craft foam

**OPENING PRAYER:** Jesus, thank you for drawing us to yourself. We want to be your faithful disciples and respond in generous love to you and others. Amen.

**READING SCRIPTURE:** **Jeremiah** 31:31-34, **Psalms** 51:3-4, 12-15, **Hebrews** 5:7-9, **John** 12:20-33

**LET'S REFLECT:** *Jesus draws everyone to himself.*

**Reader One:** In the first reading, Jeremiah speaks of the depth of God's love. His law of love is written upon our hearts. He will be our God, and we will be his people.

**Reader Two:** The Gospel message challenges us to die to self as Jesus did if we want to share in his glory.

**Reader Three:** Jesus' death showed his immense love for us. Like a grain of wheat, which must die before it can produce fruit, we, too, must die to selfishness and sin in order to bear the fruit of goodness and love in our lives.

**Reader Four:** In the Gospel, Jesus says, "And when I am lifted from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself" (John 12:32).

**LET'S EXPLORE**

*Have several copies of a pattern of a cross and a heart. Each teen will cut out a cross and a heart, using the patterns. Next, teens will write their name on their own paper heart and put a magnet on the back of it. They will also put a magnetic strip on the center front and center back of the cross. Lastly, they will place the heart on the cross. Invite teens to decorate their cross and heart.*

**LET'S TALK!** *Form small groups and discuss the following.*

1. Just as the magnetic heart was drawn to the magnetic cross, so Jesus draws us to himself. Discuss ways that Jesus draws you to himself. How do you respond to that attraction? Explain.
  
2. If the heart magnet is not facing correctly, it will not unite to the cross. What in your life needs to be changed or turned around in order to be more fully united with Jesus? Share.

3. The seed of faith you received in Baptism has gone through stages of growth. What was your understanding of God when you were seven, twelve, and now? Discuss.

4. Jesus says, "Whoever serves me must follow me." Can others recognize you as a disciple or follower of Jesus? Share. How can you serve Jesus by serving others at home, church, school, or in your community? Discuss.

### **LET'S LIVE IT!**

*Select one or more actions and be prepared to share next week.*

1. Each day take time to hold your heart cross and thank God for his love. Ask God to help you respond more fully to his love.

2. One of the corporal works of mercy is "feed the hungry." As a group, bring non-perishable food for a needy family or for the local food bank.

3. Volunteer to serve at a soup kitchen.

4. Take someone to Mass with you. Share your faith with this person.

5. Think of your own "Let's Live It" action.

6. Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week or sometime before Easter.

7. Pray the "Memory Verse" each day.

### **LET'S PRAY!**

*Gather around a small table with a candle, Bible, and a crucifix. Play soft music.*

**Leader:** Dear God, create a clean heart in us that we may be open to the attraction of your love.

*One by one, teens take up their own heart cross, place it around the crucifix, and pray:*  
**"Create a clean heart in me, O God."**

*Conclude by praying the Glory Be and sharing some sign of peace with one another.*

*Heart cross magnets can be taken home as a reminder that Jesus draws us to himself.*