

Reading across the miles



Theme

Help with transitions
Family love
Family traditions
Honor the power of stories

Books to read
together

The Kissing Hand (Audrey Penn)

Reading the Bible
together

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall have eternal life.

Looking at the Book
of Common Prayer
together

Baptismal Liturgy, p. 308 Book of Common Prayer
“you are sealed as Christ’s own forever...”

What we need to do
this work together

Small heart-shaped box (could be brown cardboard from a craft store, a plastic heart box, etc.)

Items to put in the box

Copy of the liturgy for deployment found in this “Across the Miles” resource.

Little heart stickers

Talking or writing
together

Sacraments are an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. The bread and wine at Eucharist, the water and oil at baptism are such signs. We wear crosses to remind us that we are Christian. We kiss one another to show our love for each other. We have birthday cakes with candles and special gifts, Christmas trees, Easter baskets. Chester’s mother kissed his hand and he knew that he would always have her love.

As family members we can use the family ritual for those leaving.

Reading across the miles

Making something together

Singing and praying together



*Armed Services Edition
Office of the Bishop for Federal Ministries
The Episcopal Church
www.episcochap.org
Lifelong Christian Formation
The Episcopal Church
www.episcopalchurch.org*

The heart shaped box can contain things that remind children that they are loved. Have the child choose such objects. Make a similar box for your deployed family member. Include heart stickers, a small cross and “Jesus Loves Me” written on a small card.

To go with the family liturgy for the deployed person include reminders of your family celebrations during the year - Christmas, Easter, birthdays and other special events that you observe as a family such as first day of school, piano recitals, sporting events to be given as reminders of the family. Perhaps the deployed family member can include some such symbols for the rest of the family as well.

For your family center for your devotions include your heart box. Look at the items in the box and talk about how much you are loved.

Sing “Jesus Loves Me”

Jesus loves me this I know
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong.
They are weak but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me - the Bible tells me so.

Perhaps you can sing together and say bedtime prayers together when you can talk to each other on the telephone or Skype.