

Focus: Jesus is the King of Goodness and Kindness

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
CD: Toddler Bible Songs
Bible: The Children's Bible in 365 Stories
Book: Goodness Gorillas
Crown and stickers-one crown for each Mass.

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about What is important to God. This week we are going to talk about the type of King Jesus is.*

Opening Prayer

Together we make the Sign of the Cross (do in reverse so children can mirror).

Say: *Now let's put our hands together and bow our heads.*

Let us pray.

Jesus, you are ruler of all. Thank you for your kindness and love.

In your name we pray.

Amen.

Song/Movement

Praise the Lord., track: 7, from Toddler Bible Songs

Play music, encourage children to stretch or move to the music (clapping, stamp feet march in place to the beat), turn to each other and shake hands, saying hello, etc.

- The people on the bus say, "Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord"
- The people on the bus say, "Praise the Lord", All through the town
- The driver on the bus says, "Go to church"
- The mommy on the bus says, "God loves you"
- The daddy on the bus says, "Pray each day"
- The baby on the bus says, "Waa, waa, waa"
- The children on the bus are full of joy
- The people on the bus say, "Praise the Lord"

Memory Verse

Say: *Now let's take a moment together to learn a verse from the bible.*

Whenever you helped a follower of mine, you helped Jesus.

Have the children repeat the verse after you a couple of times.

Say: *Jesus loves everyone, so he feels what we do to other people. When we help someone, we make Jesus happy. When we fail to help someone, we make Jesus sad. Doing God's work helps us to build his kingsom on earth.*

Gospel Story

Say: *Today we are reading from the Gospel of Luke.*

Have children make sign of the cross on their forehead, mouth and heart saying. *“Lord, open my mind, my lips and my heart so that I may learn it, speak it and love it.”*

Read: The Children’s Bible in 365 Stories, pp. 345, *Sheep or Goats*

After the reading say: *The Gospel of the Lord*

Children respond: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

Discussion Starters:

Who will come and be a part of God’s Kingdom?

What did Jesus say about helping those who are hungry or need clothing or needed a friend?

Why is this the same as helping Jesus?

What did Jesus say about ignoring those who are hungry or need clothing or needed a friend?

Why would Jesus be sad?

Reflection on Reading:

On this last Sunday of the liturgical year, the Church celebrates the feast of Christ the King. In today’s feast we recognize and honor Jesus as ruler of goodness and kindness.

Feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty and all the other things Jesus spoke of are ways we can help do God’s work here on earth. This is what good sheep do, they follow their shepherd.

Sometimes it is hard to do what Jesus wants from us, but always remember that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are always with us to help us.

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

Read the book "Goodness Gorillas"

Talk to them about the blessings they have because they are followers of Jesus. Family, friends, a place to live and sleep, food to eat, etc. Ask how they can become Goodness Gorillas too?

Activity 2:

Crown of Love—

Show the crown to the children. Tell them that we are going to be decorating Jesus’ crown.

Allow each child to tell something good they did last week or will do this week to show they love others and then give them a sticker to add to the crown.

After everyone has a chance to add a sticker, place the crown on the prayer table and gather all the children around the prayer table.

Have them say and do the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Have them hold hands as you pray:

Jesus we ask you to help us spread more goodness because we love you. You have shown us the love of the Father and we gather together to ask for the strength of the Holy Spirit to guide us in love and courage to be good followers of you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Complete the weekly bulletin as a group-let the children color them if there is extra time

Closing Prayer

(Children respond: "I Believe!")

Ask: *Do you believe in God, who sent Jesus to establish God's Kingdom of goodness and kindness?
Do you believe in Jesus, who is the Shepherd that teaches us to be good and kind?
Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives us the strength to give our lives to God as Jesus did?*

Sending Forth

Say: *Jesus invited the criminal into his kingdom; remember to welcome someone into your life this week and show them kindness.*

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "Father We Thank Thee" track 13 from Toddler Bible Songs while children put away any materials and lineup. Hand out weekly bulletins. Remind them it is important that they return to their family quietly so that we may all listen and pray together in church.