

Focus: We Shine for Jesus

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
CD: America's 25 Favorite Bible Songs
Gospel: The Big Picture Story Bible
Bag of items
Book: 100 Bible Stories-100 Bible Songs

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about how God's love is for everyone. This week we will hear a story about how Jesus healed a man so that he could let the light of God's love shine for all to see.*

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,
Loving God, bless us and be with us today and always. Thank you for the gift of your son, Jesus.
Help us to shine his light always. We ask this through Jesus Christ.
Amen.*

Song/Movement

I Will Call Upon the Lord, track: 17, from America's 25 Favorite 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.

*I will call upon the Lord
Who is worthy to be praised
So shall I be saved from my enemies*

*(Echo in parentheses)
I will call upon the Lord (I will call
upon the Lord)
Who is worthy to be praised (Who is
worthy to be praised)
So shall I be saved from my enemies
(So shall I be saved from my
enemies)*

*Chorus:
The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock
And let the God of my salvation be exalted
The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock
And let the God of my salvation be exalted*

*(Echo in parentheses)
I will call upon the Lord (I will call upon the
Lord)
Who is worthy to be praised (Who is worthy
to be praised)
So shall I be saved from my enemies (So
shall I be saved from my enemies)*

Repeat the Chorus 2 times

Memory Verse

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

The man saw who Jesus was and he believed.

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

Say: *The Gospel story we are going to hear to day is about a man born blind. Jesus heals the man, but other people tell him that Jesus can't do that. The man knew Jesus had made him able to see, something no one but God could do. Jesus helps us all see what is good and right.*

Gospel Story

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

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 Big Picture Story Bible, pp. pp. 323-335, *A Blind Man Sees*

After the reading say: *The Gospel of the Lord* Children respond: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

Discussion Starters:

- *Why did the disciples think the man was blind?*
- *Did Jesus agree with this?*
- *What did Jesus put on the blind man's eyes?*
- *What happened when the man opened his eyes?*
- *What did he do after he could see again?*
- *Did the leaders believe him when he said Jesus was from God?*
- *What did they do to the blind man?*
- *What did Jesus tell the man was the reason God had sent him?*
- *Who did the blind man realize Jesus was?*

Reflection on Reading:

Jesus restored the man's sight to show that Jesus was sent from heaven to do teach others about God. The man didn't ask to be healed, Jesus healed him any way. God gives us many gifts, even if we don't ask for them. The sun comes up in the morning and flowers grow because God is generous. Jesus is the Light of the World and wherever he is welcomed good things happen.

Some people were angry with Jesus because he could heal others, so they made up stories that he really wasn't from God. These others wanted all the power for themselves and they were jealous because they could not heal like Jesus did. These other people couldn't see Jesus' light because they were too selfish. They didn't care about others, but when we care about others we show Jesus' light to the world.

What do you think the blind man did after he worshipped Jesus? Do you think he went home and sat down? Or do you think he went out and told people about Jesus? What did the woman at the well do last week? (she went and told all the towns people)

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

What is in the bag?

One at a time, have children close their eyes and reach into the bag, pick one item but keep it in the bag. Have them guess what it is.

Prompts:

Is it hard or soft?

Is it big or little?

What color is it?

Let them guess what the item is. Have them take the item out of the bag.

Show it to everyone. Let a few others take a turn.

Say: It's hard to see with our eyes closed. This is what life was like for the blind man until he met Jesus. When he met Jesus his eyes were opened and he could see that Jesus was the Son of God. When we follow the teachings of Jesus, we show others we are children of God. We become the light of the world.

Activity 2:

From the book: 100 Bible Stories-100 Bible Songs

Shine for Jesus-pg. 114/song CD 2: Track 5

Read the story and play the song. As the song plays have the children march around in a circle, when the music stops the first one to stop marching can share something they can do to Shine for Jesus.-Continue as time permits.

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 gives light to the world?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who is the light of the world?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us to see God in others?

Sending Forth

Say: This week is the first week of Spring, when the days are getting warmer and sun is shining higher in the sky. Remember to let your light shine bigger and brighter because we believe that Jesus is our Lord and we will live with him forever.

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "Change my heart o' God." track 23 from America's 25 Favorite 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.