

Focus: Spread the Good News

Materials:

- Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
- CD: Bible Songs for Kids – Vol 2
- Gospel: In binder/lesson plan
- Ping Pong Ball
- Book: Colorful Creation

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about when Jesus was baptized by John and how we are blessed by the Holy Spirit at our baptism. This week John tells others that Jesus is the Son of God and we learn that we need to tell others about Jesus too.*

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.

O God, thank you for loving us. Thank you for sending your Son Jesus to become one of us. Help us to live as followers of Jesus. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.

Song/Movement

Get On Board Little Children, track: 4, from [Bible Songs for Kids - Vol 2](#)

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. Have children sit on their carpet squares when finished.

*The gospel train is comin'
The wheels go 'round and 'round
Everyone is happy
This train is heaven bound*

*Get on board little children
Get on board little children
Get on board little children
There's room for many a-more*

*I hear that train a-comin'
Comin' down the track
I'll be getting on it
And I won't be lookin' back*

*Get on board little children
Get on board little children
Get on board little children
There's room for many a-more*

*You won't need a penny
To ride this glorious train
Just give your heart to Jesus
And ride away with Him*

*Get on board little children
Get on board little children
Get on board little children
There's room for many a-more*

*Get on board little children
Get on board little children
Get on board little children
There's room for many a-more
There's room for many a-more...*

Memory Verse

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

The Lamb of God who takes away our sins.

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

Say: *In the Gospel today we find clues about who Jesus is. Jesus is given the title, "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" "Son of God" and "God's Chosen One" These names teach us the truth about Jesus. The names for Jesus found in today's gospel show that Jesus was sent by God. Jesus was sent by God to do good things for others and take care of others. God knows each of us and calls us to care for others too.*

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: None, pp. n/a,

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming

[Point into the distance]

And said to the people around him:

[Chatty hand, thumb against fingers]

"Look!

[Open eyes wide and point emphatically]

It's Jesus!

[Make the Sign of the Cross]

He's the one I've been telling you about!

[Chatty hand, thumb against fingers]

Jesus is God's lamb who takes away the sins of the world.

[Make the Sign of the Cross]

Remember when I told you that someone more important than me would come?

[Tap forehead]

Jesus is the one!

[Point heavenward]

I've been baptizing with water

[Scoop imaginary water with cupped hand and pour out slowly]

to make everyone ready for him.

[Point heavenward]

I saw God's Spirit come over him like a dove.

[Reach high and slowly float your hand downward]

I did not recognize him before

[Cover and uncover your eyes]

but the one who sent me to baptize told me

[Chatty hand, thumb against fingers]

that the one on whom the Spirit rested

[Reach high and slowly float your hand downward]
is the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.
[Make the Sign of the Cross]
Now I have seen with my own eyes.
[Cover and uncover your eyes]
Jesus is the Son of God!"
[Point heavenward]

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *Who did John the Baptist see coming?*
- *Who did John say Jesus was?*
- *What did John baptize with?*
- *How does Jesus baptize us?*
- *Who is God's Son?*

Reflection on Reading:

John the Baptist did what God wanted him to do. God wanted John to tell others about Jesus. John told his followers that Jesus was the Son of God, that he was mightier than John and would save all the people and that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist got people ready by opening their hearts to Jesus. He helped people know who Jesus was. We are to help others know who Jesus was too.

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

Popping the Good News Around

Use a song from the CD for the opening and closing song and a Ping Pong Ball

Have the children sit in a circle, passing the ball as quickly as possible while the music plays. When the music stops, the player holding the ball must tell one thing we can do to tell others about Jesus. When they are done, everyone else shouts: 'Tell Others!' alternating with 'About Jesus!'

No one is "out" or has to leave the circle. Play continues as time permits.

Activity 2:

I come to do your will

Point out to the children the way creation does God's will. The sun does God's will by shining and providing light. Water does God's will by providing drink for the thirsty and a way to clean up in the bath.

Read the book: Colorful Creation

At the end discuss ways we can spread the Good News that creation is a precious gift from God and that Jesus came to teach us how to be good caretakers of the earth and the people of God.

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 created us to know, love and serve him?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who is the Lamb of God and gave his life so we could live forever in God's loving care?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who lives in us and helps us to tell others about Jesus?

Sending Forth

Say: God created us to serve others and care for creation. This week remember to be like Jesus and show love and care to others so that they will know that Jesus loves them.

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "*All Things Bright and Beautiful*" track 16 from Bible Songs for Kids - Vol 2 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.