

Focus: Living in God's love

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
CD: 25 Sunday School Songs
Gospel: In Lesson
Book: Teach Me To Love

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about how we can shine our light on others. This week Jesus tells us how to shine our light by following God's laws.*

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, you create us in your own image, and give us freedom to choose right and wrong in thought, word and deed. May we always look to your Son, Jesus, and the path he illuminates toward true life and union with you. We pray this through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Song/Movement

God Is So Good, track: 4, from 25 Sunday School Songs Kids Love to Sing

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.

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| 1. God is so good. (3 times)
He's so good to me. | 3. I love him so. (3 times)
He's so good to me. |
| 2. He answers prayer. (3 times)
He's so good to me. | 4. I praise his name. (3 times)
He's so good to me. |

End: I praise his name; he's so good to me.

Memory Verse

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

Live by the law

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

Say: *We have rules in our families, homes and at school too. God also taught us some rules. God's rules mak our lives and the lives of other people happier and healthier. We call God's rules the Ten Commandments or God's Law. Birds obey God's law by singing and flying. The seasons obey God's law by changing from winter to spring to summer to fall. We obey God's law by loving him and one another. Today, we are going to share a Gospel story that tells about the goodness of God's law.*

Gospel Story

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

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,

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Jesus said to the people:

[Chatty hand, thumb against fingers]

“I’ve come to show you how to live by the law.

[Cross hands over heart]

If you don’t live by God’s law,

[Wag a scolding finger]

and make loving choices,

[Cross hands over heart]

you won’t enter God’s kingdom.

[Point heavenward and shake head]

You’ve been taught that you must not commit murder,

[Wag a scolding finger]

but I say that you must not hurt anyone in any way.

[Cross hands over heart]

You’ve been taught that you must not make promises to God that you cannot keep,

[Wag a scolding finger]

but I say you must not make promises to anyone that you don’t intend to keep.

[Cross hands over heart]

Say yes when you mean yes,

[Nod head]

and no when you mean no.

[Shake head]

Live by the law of love.

[Cross hands over heart]

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *Why did Jesus come to us?*
- *Why should we live by God’s Law?*
- *What should we do to live by God’s Law?*
- *What do we show, when we live by God’s Law?*

Reflection on Reading:

Love is caring about others as much as we care about God and as much as we care about ourselves. When we love someone, we want that person to be happy. We want to help that person as much as we can. Love is much more than trying to not hurt someone. God's Law is the law of love and so we should make sure we are always creating peace by our love and actions.

Jesus loved everyone. He helped people and cared for people. He even gave his own life so that we could live forever with God. We show love for God by obeying his Law, by spending time in prayer, by praising God, thanking God and telling God that we're sorry when we don't do what we're supposed to do. We also show love for God by loving each other because God loves us all.

Gospel ActivityActivity 1:**Teach Me To Love**

God is love:

God is love. God loves us very much and we can love others because of God's great love for us.

Read the book "Teach Me to Love"

What do the children learn about love?

What can we learn about love?

Activity 2:**Jesus Says:**

This game is played like Simons Says, but instead of saying "Simon Says", you say "Jesus says"

Pick a few actions ahead of time when you won't say – Jesus Says.

The gospels tell us what we should do to be like Jesus. We should pray, listen to and learn from the stories of Jesus, love and serve God and each other. Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone in the world were the best sheep, followers of Jesus they can be.

Let's practice what Jesus has taught us to do.

Sample Actions-. No one is out, everyone gets another chance:

Hug your neighbor

Close your hands in prayer

Go to Church-(March in place)

Say peace be with you to your neighbor

Say Alleluia

Clap your hands

Jump one time

Shake hands with your neighbor
Praise God-Raise your hands up high
Listen to Jesus (cup hand around ear)

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 loves everyone?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who teaches us to love others?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who is our guide to peace and making good choices?

Sending Forth

*Say: This week is a good week to remember that we love others always and not just on certain days.
Show others you love them by doing something special for them.*

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "*Whisper a prayer*" track 16 from 25 Sunday School Songs Kids Love to Sing 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.