

Focus: Trusting God

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
CD: 25 Sunday School Songs
Gospel: Children's Bible Story Book
Book: 100 Bible Stories/100 Bible Songs
Book: No, No, Noah

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about doing more than we are asked to do and how we can spread God's love and peace in the world. This week Jesus tells us a story about birds and how the birds trust God to take care of them and Jesus tells us we can trust God 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.

*Loving God,
You surround us with your love. Even when we think we are alone, you are with us. Help us always to remember your great love. Help us show that same love to others. In Jesus' name we pray. 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.

Put God first in everything.

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

Say: If we put our love of toys, tv or even people before our love for God, we won't be happy forever. If we love God first we will do the right things in life to make us happy. If we share, even though we don't really want to, if we listen to our parents when they ask us to do our chores, if we are kind to those around us, then we will be truly happy.

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: The Children's Bible Storybook, pp. pg. 244, *The Treasure Hunt*

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *What does Jesus tell us about the birds and the flowers?*
- *Who loves us?*
- *Why should we trust that God will take care of us?*

Reflection on Reading:

Jesus told the people that the birds get everything that they need to live from God. God created everything in nature and provides twigs to build nests, berries, bugs and seeds for them to eat. Wildflowers need sun and water from creation to survive. God made the soil for them to grow big and tall. Jesus tells us that we can trust God to take care of us too.

What kinds of things do we need?

How does God give us the things that we need?

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

Trust God to Watch Over Me:

Read 100 Bible Stories/100 Bible Songs Page 32, Jacob's Ladder
Play the song. Disc 1, Track 12.

Activity 2:

Read the book: No, No, Noah

Little monkey had some trouble trusting that God wanted what was best. He was scared because it was something new and wasn't sure that he wanted to try it. But Noah was a man who trusted God and he had built the ark because God told him to. Noah got the little monkey to trust God too. God knows what will be best for us and if we trust him we will have a happy life.

Dear Jesus, help us to trust God like you taught us to. We ask this in your name. 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 always takes care of us?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who taught us to trust God, our Father in heaven?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who reminds us of God's love for us?

Sending Forth

Say: *What is one thing you might worry about this week? Tell God about what it is that is worrying you. When you pray ask God to help you not to worry so much and help you find ways to make the worry go away.*

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.