

Focus: Trusting God

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
CD: Bible Songs for Kids, Vol 1
Gospel: In Lesson Plan
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 the Holy Trinity—God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. This week Jesus tells us a story about how we should trust God.*

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

Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children, track: 29, from [Bible Songs for Kids, Vol. 1](#)

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.

Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love;

Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love.

Love Him, love Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love,

Love Him, love Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love.

Serve Him, serve Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love,

Serve Him, serve Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love.

Thank Him, thank Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love;

Thank Him, thank Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love.

Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love;

Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love.

Memory Verse

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

God loves us most.

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. God loved us first we show God we love him by doing the right things. God knows what makes 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: None, pp. N/A

Jesus said:

[Chatty hands, thumb against index finger]

"Aren't two sparrows sold for only 1 penny?"

[Hold up 2 fingers on your right hand and 1 finger on your left]

Not one of them falls to the ground outside without your Father knowing it.

[Drop your hands to your sides]

He even counts every hair on your head!

[Put both your hands on your head]

Don't be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.

[Shake head 'no', then hold your arms wide open]

If someone says in front of others that they know me?

[Point to head then place hands on your heart]

I will also say in front of my Father who is in heaven that I know them.

[Point to head then place hands on your heart]

If someone says in front of others that they don't know me?

[Point to head, shake head 'no', then place hands on your heart]

I will say in front of my Father who is in heaven that I don't know them."

[Point to head, shake head 'no', then place hands on your heart]

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 tells us that God knows what happens to us. He loves us and wants us to be happy. If we show our love for Jesus, God will know our love is true and he will take care of us. God takes care of the birds and knows more about us than we do, 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 sees everything and 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 "To God Be the Glory" track 31 from Bible Songs for Kids, Vol.1 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.