

Focus: Listening to Others

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
CD: Bible Songs for Kids-Vol 1
Gospel: The Children's Bible Storybook

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about how following Jesus isn't always easy and that we should do our best to make good choices. This week Jesus tells us how to be peaceful people.*

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,
Jesus help us to be peacemakers and to listen carefully to others so we can know them better. In your 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

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Replace Praise Him, Praise Him for verses 2-4 and repeat Praise Him on the final verse.
Love Him
Serve Him
Thank Him
Praise Him

Memory Verse

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

When two or more are together, Jesus is there with them.

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

Say: *Jesus promises us that we are never alone. Jesus is always there to listen to us. He is a good listener because he knows us so well.*

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. 277, *Not Alone*

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *What did Jesus' disciples ask him?*
- *What does Jesus tell them they should do first?*
- *What if that does not work?*
- *What did Jesus say about listening?*
- *Who is always listening to us?*

Reflection on Reading:

Jesus tells us that, when someone does something that bothers us or hurts us, we should first try talking to that person. When we live together or play together or go to school together, we might do something that hurts someone else without even knowing it.

If a friend wants to play with a toy at playtime, but you always play with that same toy, that might make your friend sad. What would you say if your friend came and said they wanted a turn with the toy? By talking together you'll get better at working as a team to solve problems and make your friendship stronger. If the rest of class sees you share, it might make the classroom stronger because you showed them how easy it is to share toys!

Our Church is like the Lord's team. When Jesus started his ministry, the first thing he did was gather his disciples to help him spread the word about God's love for us.

Today we work together, as Jesus' disciples, to live as Jesus taught us and to teach others about Jesus.

Gospel ActivityActivity 1:**Listen with Open Hearts and Minds**

Sit the children in a circle.

Say: *In order to make up and make peace with someone, we have to listen to that person with love and understanding.*

Tell the children that this game will help everyone learn to do that.

Play begins with one person saying his or her name and something he or she likes to do.

(Example: My name is Lilly and I like to eat ice cream.) Then the next person says the last person's

name and what they like and their name and what they like. (Example: This is Lilly and she likes ice cream. My name is Nick and I like soccer.) Continue this in the circle; each child just refers back to the person next to them.

Activity 2:

Talking it out.

Propose the following scenarios to the children. Ask how they might approach the wrongdoer in each situation to talk about the problem. Talk about what might be scary about approaching the person doing wrong. If the children are enjoying the activity, you might add a few more scenarios of your own.

- ✚ -Your little sister sometimes plays roughly with your toys and breaks them.
- ✚ -You tripped and fell in the hall at school and one of your friends laughed and made fun of you.
- ✚ -You would like to try playing goalie on the soccer team, but the captain always puts you on offense.
- ✚ -A child in your class sometimes shoves you on the playground when you don't let him have his way.

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 us and cares about what we do?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who promises to be with us when we pray to him?

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

Sending Forth

Say: This week let's see how many times we can gather together with one or more people to do a good deed or to pray together...saying a good morning prayer with your family...saying grace at meals...cleaning up the classroom or after a playdate.

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "*His Banner Over Me is Love.*" track 15 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.