

Focus: Jesus is the King of Love and Truth

Materials:

- Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
- CD: America's 25 Favorite
- Bible: Children's Bible Storybook
- Crown and stickers
- Book: What is God like?

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about God's forever Kingdom. While we wait for Jesus to come again he wants us to be kind and loving to others. Today we are going to talk about Jesus, King of Glory.*

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 our Lord, your love is powerful and everlasting.
Thank you for always loving us and caring for us.
In your name we pray. Amen.*

Song/Movement

There is Power in the Name of Jesus, track: 19, from America's 25 Favorite

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.

There is _____, in the name
of Jesus. (3x)
There is _____ in that
wonderful name.
Power, Glory, Healing

There's Salvation in the name of
Jesus (3x)
There's Salvation in that wonderful
name (3x) –to fade.

Memory Verse

Say: *Now let's take a moment together to learn a verse from the bible.
All power and glory belong to Jesus.*

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

Say: *Jesus is the only one who reigns in our hearts. Jesus tells us all about who God is, God is love, and how God wants us to live, with kindness and love for others. All our good deeds belong to Jesus. We shouldn't say, I am the best one because I did these great things. We say Jesus is the best one because he showed me to do these good things.*

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: Jesus and Pilate, pp. 334-335 (stop at: “the truth is My follower.”), Children’s Bible Storybook

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *What does Pilate ask Jesus?*
- *How does Jesus answer Pilate?*
- *Where does Jesus say his kingdom is?*
- *What did Jesus bring to the world?*
- *Who are followers of Jesus?*

Reflection on Reading:

Jesus said his kingdom does not belong to this world. Jesus wasn’t interested in having money, a palace, an army or any of the other things that kings in this world think is important. Jesus loves God and he loves all people. His kingdom is love and his throne is in our hearts.

Sometimes we see pictures of Jesus wearing a crown, but it is a crown that reminds us to serve others. Imagine that the gold is serving others and acts of goodness, kindness, forgiveness and patience decorate the crown with jewels.

Our love, service, kindness and goodness are better than any jewel we can imagine because they are made possible because of the love we receive from God. God gives us love and we give love to God by loving others in the name of Jesus. Jesus is the king of love and truth. When we live in love and believe the truth of the Bible we celebrate Jesus as king of our hearts.

Gospel ActivityActivity 1:**Crown of Love—**

Show the crown to the children. Tell them that we are going to be decorating Jesus’ crown.

Allow each child to tell something good they did last week or will do this week and then give them a sticker to add to the crown.

After everyone has a chance to add a sticker, place the crown on the prayer table and gather all the children around the prayer table.

Have them say and do the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Have them hold hands as you pray:

Jesus we ask you to help us become more and more loving. You have shown us the love of the Father and we gather together to ask for the strength of the Holy Spirit to guide us in love and courage to be good followers of you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Activity 2:

What is God Like?

These last few weeks we have been hearing about God's Kingdom. What do we know about God?

Read the book—*What is God Like?*—

Ask what they remember about God from the book.

- *Does God love only when you do good?*
- *Does anyone know what God looks like?*
- *Where can we hear God? (waves and a whistling breeze)*
- *Where can we see God? (in all creation)*

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 rules with mercy and love?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who is the King of Glory?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who fills us with the glory of God?

Sending Forth

Say: As we leave here today, remember all the good things we can do to add jewels to Jesus' crown and try to always make the right choice and follow Jesus.

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "*Amazing Grace*" track 24 from America's 25 Favorite 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.