

Focus: Listening to Jesus

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
CD: America's 25 Favorite Praise and Worship
Book: The Bible for Children
Costumes for "Act it Out"
Colored papers for Silence Game

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about making good choices, like Jesus always did. Today our Gospel Story tells us that it is important to listen to Jesus as he teaches us about God's rules.

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,

Loving God, you prepared Peter, James and John for all that would happen later by giving them a peek at your Son's dazzling glory. Help us to know Jesus, and to prepare our hearts for the dazzling glory of Easter.

Amen.

Song/Movement

Come Let Us Worship and Bow Down, track: 11, 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.

Come, let us worship and bow
down; Let us kneel before the Lord
our God, our Maker. (Repeat)

And the sheep of His hand, Just the
sheep of His hand.

Repeat all 3 times

For He is our God, And we are the
people of His pasture

Memory Verse

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

This is my Son, the chosen one.

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

Say: When God says this in today's Gospel he makes sure that the disciples know that Jesus is the one they must listen to. They hear many different teachings from the religious leaders in the area, but Jesus is the one with God's true message.

Gospel Story

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

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 Bible for Children, pp. 263-264, *The Transfiguration*

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *Who does Jesus take up the mountain with him?*
- *What happens to Jesus on the mountaintop?*
- *What does Peter say to Jesus?*
- *What does the voice of God say?*
- *How do you think that changed Peter, James and John?*
- *Why do you think Jesus told them not to tell anyone what happened?*

Reflection on Reading:

In today's gospel Jesus brings his friends Peter, James, and John high upon a mountain. While they are there, Jesus becomes radiant with light. Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus. Moses and Elijah had died long before Jesus was born. They were important leaders of God's Word. Their bodies had died, but we believe that the souls of the saints continue to live with God in heaven. Seeing Moses and Elijah, who both had told of the one that would come and save God's people from dying, convinced the disciples that Jesus was the Redeemer they said would come.

This is a strange story, but Jesus gave them this experience to remember when they needed to strengthen their faith. Jesus knew that he would die, but only Jesus could understand what it meant to be raised from the dead. Jesus knew there would be hard times ahead for his disciples and he wanted to make sure they were prepared for it.

Jesus loved and cared for his disciples, just like he loves and cares for us.

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

Act it Out: Read the Gospel story again. While you are reading the children can take part in a small skit:

- Pick three children, Jesus, Elijah & Moses.
- Have Jesus stand in front of the class.
- The two others are off to the side getting black robes put on by the helper.
- Action as follows: (copy of pages from book attached) –Use pages to mark up.

<u>When you read this</u>	<u>Have children to this</u>
Suddenly his face shone	Drop the white costume over Jesus
,two figures appeared beside him	The other 2 come to front
, and they fell to the ground	Have all the other children cower as if they are afraid and close their eyes.** Help Jesus take off the white robe, the 2 others should go back to helper to remove robes
When they opened their eyes,	Have all the other children open their eyes to see Jesus standing there just as he was.
,and they walked back down	Have Jesus walk off

**practice this part with the whole group before you start reading.

Activity 2:

Silence Game:

Say: Our heavenly Father instructs us to listen to Jesus. Listening is a part of praying.

Hand out a colored paper to each child. Have the children bend forward with their heads down, as quiet as they can be so they can listen. Stand by the door and one by one whisper one of the colors of paper, blue, yellow, red, green, pink, white, etc. When the child hears the color of his paper he or she must get up as quietly as possible and tip toe to join you at the door. The children by the door have to be silent, too, so the others can hear.

Afterward discuss how it felt to be so quiet. Silence is a cooperative game. If one person doesn't cooperate, there is no silence.

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 sent Jesus to teach us of his Glory?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who is the glory of God's Love?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us to love God and to love others?

Sending Forth

Say: By being kind to others we can show them the Glory of God's kingdom on earth. We show them we are children of God.

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "Lord I Lift Your Name on High" track 14 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.