

Focus: Jesus helps everyone

Materials:

- Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest’s vestment) and Altar Cloth
- The Bible for Children
- The SEED CD
- Happy/Sad Pictures
- Book: 100 Bible Stories, 100 Bible Songs

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about spreading the Good News of Jesus. Today we are going to hear a story about Jesus helping a man that no one else would help.

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.

Dear Jesus, when we are sick or scared, please hold us in your loving arms.

Help us to trust that you will make things better. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.

Song/Movement

Follow Me, track: 10, from Seed CD

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.

Follow me-Follow me-Jesus says
 “come follow me”
 Follow me-Follow me -Come and
 follow me

March-March-March March-
 March-March-Jesus says come
 follow me

March-March-March March-
 March-March –Come and follow
 me.

Hop-Hop-Hop, Hop-Hop-Hop
 Jump-Jump-Jump, Jump-Jump-Jump
 Run-Run-Run, Run-Run-Run

End with falling down-Come and
 follow me

Memory Verse

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

Soon all of Galilee had heard of the miracle.

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

Say: Galilee is the part of the country that Jesus did all of his work. It is a very large area and many people lived there. They heard the story of Jesus healing the man from a disease that no one else knew how to heal. They knew this was a miracle, that Jesus must really have come from God to be able to do such great things and they brought many more people to be healed.

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. pp. 235-236, *Jesus Heals a Leper*

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *Who comes to Jesus asking for help?*
- *How does Jesus help the leper?*
- *What does the healed man do?*
- *How do you think you would feel if you were Jesus and a sick person came to you to be healed?*
- *Why does Jesus help people who are sick?*
- *When would you ask Jesus for help?*
- *When do you share exciting news with others?*

Reflection on Reading:

In today’s gospel a leper comes to Jesus for healing. The sick man boldly begs Jesus to be cured and Jesus lovingly responds.

Jesus feels compassion for the man. He reaches out his hand and the man is completely cured. Jesus urges the man to tell no one about what happened because he knows that people will start coming to him because of the miracles and he has so much to teach them too. But he does tell others and everybody starts coming to Jesus to be healed. Jesus does not send them away, even though he is tired and has lots of teaching to do, he helps those who ask him. This is the same for us, no matter when or what, Jesus always is there for us. He will always love us and listen to our prayers.

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

Happy or Sad

- Have you ever had a pet that was sick?
- What did you do to help your animal feel better?
- How did it feel to help your sick pet?
- When friends or family members are sick, how do you show that you care?

Before we can help someone feel better, we have to be able to tell if they are happy or sad. I am going to show you some pictures and you can tell me if it is of something that is happy or something that might make you sad.

Activity 2:

The man in today's Gospel goes to Jesus to be healed. There are many stories in the Bible about Jesus' healings.

This is a story about a group of friends looking to help their friend who is sick.

Read "A Hole in the Roof" from 100 Bible Stories, 100 Bible Songs, pg. 126 Play the song: "Kumbaya"

Ask for ideas on how we can bring our friends to Jesus. Make sure to include, inviting them to pray for someone who is sick, showing them kindness and love like Jesus did, telling them what you learned in church.

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 share God's healing love with us?
Do you believe in Jesus, who came to heal us and show us the way to heal one another?
Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who lives in us and shares with us the healing power of Jesus?*

Sending Forth

Say: Once we realize how much God loves us, it's easy to want to share that love with others. Let's see if you can find some one who needs to be healed this week and help them to feel better. It might be someone who is sad, or someone that got hurt or is sick. It could be someone who dropped their toys and needs some help. It could be someone who needs help reaching something off the low shelf at the grocery store. Keep your eyes open to see who you can heal this week.

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "Like Jesus" track 6 from Seed CD 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.