

Focus: Jesus is our Teacher

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
CD: Bible Songs for Kids Vol 2
Bible: Reading in Lesson Plan
Basket and slips

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about trusting that Jesus loves us and always listens to our prayers. This week we are going to hear a story about Jesus returning to the town he where he was born and what happened when he taught about God there.

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.

Dear Lord, we listen to your stories so we can be more like you and learn more about you. Help us to love others as you have taught us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Song/Movement

Standin' In the Need of Prayer, track: 8, from Bible Songs for Kids-Vol. 2

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.

It's me, it's me, O Lord
Standing in the need of prayer;
It's me, it's me, O Lord
Standing in the need of prayer.
Not my father, not my mother, but
it's me, O Lord
Standing in the need of prayer.

Not my sister, not my brother. but
it's me, O Lord
Standing in the need of prayer.

Repeat both verses 2 more times.

Last time repeat last line: "Standing in the need of prayer."

Memory Verse

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

We believe in you, Lord Jesus.

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

Say: *Jesus came to teach us about God's Kingdom. He teaches us to love others by being kind to them and sharing and caring for them. We can show others we believe in Jesus when we show them God's love.*

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: None, pp. n/a,

Jesus went to his home town.

[Walk in place]

He went to the synagogue to teach.

[Chatty hands, thumb to forefinger]

The people were amazed at everything he said.

[Raise your eyebrows and put your hands on your cheeks]

“Where did he learn all of this?”

[Chatty hands, thumb to forefinger]

“How is he able to heal people?”

[Shrug shoulders and raise wondering hands]

They could not accept Jesus as someone special because they knew him as a carpenter and the son of Mary.

[Shake head slowly]

Jesus said to them:

[Chatty hands, thumb to forefinger]

“Teachers of God’s way are always honored,

[Hold hands up in praise]

“but not by their own people.”

[Wave finger in the air]

Jesus could not do many miracles there.

[Shake head slowly]

He was surprised how hard it was for them to believe.

[Touch center of each palm with middle finger of opposite hand, then close hands in prayer.]

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *Where did Jesus go?*
- *What did he do when he got there?*
- *How did the people react?*
- *Why didn’t they think he was special?*
- *Why couldn’t he perform many miracles there?*

Reflection on Reading:

Jesus went home to spread the Good News to all his friends and neighbors. They didn't think he was special and didn't listen to his teachings. They didn't believe that he was the Son of God. Nazareth was far away from where he was baptized by John and they probably hadn't heard about the voice that claimed him as his son. They knew Jesus as a young boy and a carpenter. They knew his parents. Then he grew up and moved away and changed. He learned what God wanted him to do. He learned that he was to teach others about God's Kingdom. The people in his hometown did not understand how he could have changed so much.

Gospel ActivityActivity 1:

Jesus Says--Jesus said, "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." Sometimes we say we believe but our actions don't show it. Let's play a game to remind us of how we should act.

Jesus Says:

This game is played like Simons Says. Anyone who follows a direction that wasn't preceded by the words, "Jesus says," or doesn't follow one that was, becomes an assistant watching to find more assistants.

Sample Actions:

- Hug your neighbor
- Close your hands in prayer
- March in place
- Say peace be with you to your neighbor
- Say Alleluia
- Clap your hands
- Jump one time
- Shake hands with your neighbor
- Raise your hands up high
- Listen to Jesus (cup hand around ear)

Dear Jesus, Help us show others that we believe in you. We love you and believe that you love us always. Amen.

Activity 2:**Jesus Teaches Us Relay:**

Jesus teaches us very clearly what we need to do to be his followers. Let's play a game to help us follow directions. Divide the children into at least 2 teams or more. Place the basket of instructions written on little pieces of paper across the room from the lines. Say "GO", the first team member of each group will run across the room. You will take one slip of paper with an instruction and read it out loud. Each player will quickly DO what the paper says as they run back to their team and tag the next player, who will run to the "direction basket" and will do what the next paper slip says to do. Put the slip back in the basket after each child. The children will love to watch what everyone is doing and no one will be doing the same direction at the

same time probably. Some actions in the basket will be hop on one foot to your team line, jump, walk like an elephant, tap your head and rub your tummy as you run to your team, crawl quickly to your team, walk backwards to your team line, etc. Continue until everyone has a chance to do something or as time permits.

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 speaks to his people by the stories told in the Bible?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who teaches us about God's love?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives us the power to understand the love of Jesus?

Sending Forth

Say: Listen to our parents is good practice for listening to Jesus and it is what Jesus wants us to do so when we listen to our parents we are listening to Jesus.

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "*All Things Bright and Beautiful*" track 16 from Bible Songs for Kids Vol 2 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.