

Focus: Jesus teaches us to care for others

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
Ping Pong Ball
CD: 25 Sunday School Songs
Cones and blindfold (bandana)

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about Jesus sending the disciples to tell everyone the Good News of Jesus. Today we will hear a story about what happens when they come back. All the people they have taught want to meet Jesus.*

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. Thank you, God, for your love and care. Show us how to care for people who need our help. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. 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.*

Jesus cares for us like a shepherd and his sheep.

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

Say: *Shepherds take care of their flocks. They give them whatever they need. Water, a place to eat grass and safe place to sleep and stay out of the weather. Jesus cares for us and teaches us what we need to know to live with him forever. He knows what will make us happy.*

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,

When the disciples returned

[Walk in place]

They told Jesus everything they did and what they had taught

[Chatty hands, thumb against fingers]

Many more people came to see Jesus

[Spread arms wide and then move toward you, as if gathering them in]

They did not even have time to eat.

[Shake head ‘no’]

Jesus said to them:

[Chatty hands, thumb against fingers]

“Come with me and we will go to a quiet place to rest.”

[Gesture arm to indicate someone should follow you]

So they went in a boat to a place where they could be alone.

[Walk in place]

Some people saw them leaving.

[Cup hands around eyes]

They told others where they were going.

[Point to the distance]

Soon people from all around ran to the place and got there before Jesus.

[Run in place]

When Jesus saw them waiting for him on the shore.

[Cup hands around eyes]

He felt sorry for them, because they were sheep without a shepherd.

[Put your hand on your heart]

They didn’t have anyone to lead them and take care of them.

[Shake head ‘no’]

Jesus stayed with them and taught them many things.

[Chatty hands, thumb against fingers]

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *What do the apostles tell Jesus?*
- *Why does Jesus want the apostles to rest a while?*
- *When do you need time to rest?*
- *When do you need time to rest?*
- *Why is Jesus like a Good Shepherd?*
- *How does Jesus care for the crowd of people?*
- *How does Jesus show us how to live as his followers?*

Reflection on Reading:

In today's gospel, the people keep coming to Jesus and the apostles for help. Jesus understands that his disciples need a break. He invites the twelve apostles to come away and rest. This is the first and only time in Mark's gospel that the twelve are called "apostles." This new title shows that the disciples have been faithful to Jesus.

In this passage, Jesus responds to the needs of those around him. He cares for the crowd of people who are like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, begins to teach and help them. Like Jesus, the apostles are to teach and help others too.

Gospel ActivityActivity 1:**Hot Potato Praise**

Use the song "Trust and Obey" from the CD: 25 Sunday School Songs Track 8
Ping Pong Ball (for the potato)

Have the children sit in a circle, passing the "hot potato" as quickly as possible while the music plays. When the music stops, the player holding the "hot potato" must tell one thing about that Jesus did (He taught us about God, he loves us, he takes care of us, he made people feel better, he took care of the sick and hungry, he taught us to take care of others.) Then everyone else shouts: Listen to Jesus! No one is "out" or has to leave the circle. Play continues as time permits.

Activity 2:

Trust Obstacle Course: Make an obstacle course with the cones. Ask for a volunteer to be blindfolded. The remaining children will take turns telling the player where to step so they don't step on a block. The blindfolded player will have to TRUST their classmates to tell them where to walk and what to do.

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 be our shepherd and guide his flock?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who was loved and followed by many people?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who lives in our hearts and helps us to love as Jesus loves?

Sending Forth

Say: Remember to show others how Jesus loves us. How can you bring love to someone who is hurt or sad this week?

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.