

Focus: Telling others about Jesus

Materials:

- Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest’s vestment) and Altar Cloth
- CD: Bible Songs for Kids Vol. 1
- Gospel: Children’s Everyday Bible
- Book: 100 Bible Stories and 100 Bible Songs
- Book: A-Z Jesus

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about doing what God wants us to do. This week we hear that Jesus is the Messiah, the one God promised to teach us about God's love and how to spread his Kingdom by making good choices.

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 take care of us all. May you fill us with the courage to follow Jesus with all our heart, so that we will live with you forever and ever. We ask this in Jesus’ name.

Amen.

Song/Movement

Praise Him, Praise Him All ye Little Children, track: 29, from [Bible Songs for Kids-Vol 1](#)

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.

Praise Him, Praise Him
All ye little children
God is love, God is love

Replace Praise Him, Praise Him for verses 2-4 and repeat Praise Him on the final verse.

Praise Him, Praise Him
All ye little children
God is love, God is love

Love Him
Serve Him
Thank Him
Praise Him

Memory Verse

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

You are the Messiah

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

Say: Jesus asks his disciples "Who do people say that I am?" His disciples answer with the names of different people who came before Jesus to preach God's word. When Jesus asks his disciples who they think he is they answer--"You are the Messiah" -- They were close to Jesus and saw everything he did. Their eyes had been opened by God to all of the work that Jesus did and knew that he must be from God and not just like the other prophets.

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: Children's Everyday Bible, pp. 261, *Peter's Declaration*

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *What was Jesus doing before he asked the questions of his disciples?*
- *What is the first question Jesus asks?*
- *What do his disciples answer?*
- *What is the second question?*
- *Who answers it?*
- *What does he say?*
- *What is the Messiah? Messiah is special name for Jesus because he is a messenger from God. Remember when we say the Sign of the Cross, we are saying a prayer to all the parts of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

Reflection on Reading:

Jesus teaches us to always follow God. Because he is from God, he knows very well what God wants for us and what God wants us to do. He tells us that we must share, even when we don't want to, tell the truth even if it might get us in trouble, being cheerful when we are asked to help. Some things are really hard to do. We have to ask forgiveness when we've hurt someone, miss a sports game or practice in order to go to church and accept that we can't always have our way. Being faithful to God means showing love for God and for each other. Even when we don't feel very loving, we can still choose to treat others with love. That can be hard, sometimes this is called "carrying our cross" sometimes it seems too hard to care carry our cross. We can pray to God to help us. God won't always make the hard stuff go away, but God will give us the strength to do the right thing.

Gospel ActivityActivity 1:

In the Gospel today one of the disciples said that others thought Jesus might be one of the prophets from long, long ago named Elijah. Elijah was a very special prophet. He told everyone about God. Where Elijah lived there were many people who did not believe the Elijah's God, Our God, was the one true God so they set up a contest.

Here is a little story about the contest and who won.

After reading page 70 from 100 Bible Stories and 100 Bible Songs, Elijah's Victory, play track 31 Disc one, Climb Sunshine:

Climb, climb up Sunshine Mountain
Heavenly breezes blow.
Climb, climb up Sunshine Mountain
Faces all aglow.
Turn, turn from sin and sorrow,
Look to God on high
Climb, climb up Sunshine Mountain
You and I.

Repeat all.

Climb, climb up Sunshine Mountain
You and I.

Activity 2:

For us to be able to spread the Good News about Jesus we have to know everything we can about Jesus. Here's a book called "A to Z Jesus" It tells us 26 different things about Jesus, one for each letter of the alphabet. Let's see what new things we can learn about Jesus.

Read the book "A to Z Jesus" Go in order or skip around, read as many as time allows.

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, the Son of God, to bring us everlasting life?
Do you believe in Jesus, who is the Messiah, promised by God to come and bring freedom to all people?
Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us make good choices and pray?*

Sending Forth

Say: Have you ever been asked to share when you didn't really want to? Have you ever been asked to tell the truth even though you thought it might get you in trouble? Remember when you have to do hard things for God, to pray and ask for his help to make the right choice.

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "Jesus Loves the Little Children" track 1 from [Bible Songs for Kids-Vol 1](#) 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.