

Focus: Doing Good for Jesus

Materials:

- Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest’s vestment) and Altar Cloth
- CD: Bible Songs for Kids Vol. 1
- Gospel: In lesson plan
- Ping pong ball

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about being kind to others and how God loves us all. This week we will hear Jesus tell his disciples anyone being good in his name will live with God forever.*

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.

God our Creator, you have made us in your image and we are your children. Help us to treat one another as members of your family. In Jesus’ name, we pray.

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.*

Loving God is the most important thing we can do.

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

Say: *Jesus spent his whole life showing us how to love God. This tells us how important it is. Can we love a stranger? NO. We can only love someone we know. When we say our prayers or come to church and hear bible stories we are getting to know God and Jesus and how much they love us.*

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 was with his disciples.

[Open arms wide to indicate a crowd.]

One disciple, named John, told Jesus

[Raise index finger to indicate ‘one’.]

that someone they didn’t even know

[Chatty hands, thumb against fingers]

was healing people

[Show ‘laying on of hands’ gesture, arms extended and palms down.]

and telling them the healing comes from Jesus.

[Make the Sign of the Cross]

The disciples asked Jesus:

[Chatty hands, thumb against fingers]

“Should we make him stop?”

[Hold up hand in stop gesture]

Jesus said,

[Chatty hands, thumb against fingers]

“All those who do good because they believe in me

[Laying on of hands gesture]

are sharing my love.

[Cross hands over heart]

These people are my friends.

[Give yourself a hug]

Doing good things, like helping people

[Laying on of hands gesture]

shows love for God.

[Cross hands over heart]

Loving God

[Point heavenward]

in the name of Jesus

[Make the Sign of the Cross]

is the most important thing we can do.

[Cross hands over heart]

It would be better to lose everything else we have

[Spread arms wide indicating everything]

than to lose our love for God.

[Cross hands over heart]

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *What did the disciples see?*
- *Why did they want to stop someone from healing in Jesus' name?*
- *Does Jesus want the person to stop helping?*
- *What does Jesus tell his disciples?*

Reflection on Reading:

The disciples thought only those close to Jesus could help people. This would have been like saying only Fr. Joe can help people and no one else can help.

In the Gospel today Jesus tells us that we should let others help in his name. This way we can help more people. The disciples weren't some special group that could only do things for Jesus. That everyone who hears his words can do good works and helping people in need, then they can call themselves followers of Jesus.

Gospel ActivityActivity 1:

In the Gospel story today we heard Jesus tell us that when we do good things we show our love for God.

All good things come from God. Without God there is no goodness. Who would want to live in a world without goodness? Those who love God are filled with his love and goodness.

Even the simplest prayer or smallest act of kindness, if it's done in the name of Jesus, becomes an act of love for God.

Let's play a game to practice being kind to others. (Clap if it's a good choice, stomp feet if not)

- You see a friend crying and you walk right by.
- You give a friend a hug because it's their birthday.
- You give your unused toys to the homeless shelter.
- You won't share your toys with a friend.
- You ask the new kid at school to play on the playground.
- You help a friend who is hurt.
- You run around inside a store.

Activity 2:**Hot Potato Praise**

Use a song from the lesson CD
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 about a kind thing they did recently or can do. Then everyone shouts: "We love God!" No one is 'out' or has to leave the circle. Play continues 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 loves us all?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who teaches us and blesses us with God's love?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us show God's love to others.

Sending Forth

Say: Halloween decorations are in all the stores, even though Halloween is a month away. Next time you are at the store, ask your parent if you can buy a bag of candy for the people at the homeless shelter or soup kitchen. They don't have money to dress up and go trick or treating, but they sure would enjoy a treat!

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.