

Focus: Jesus helps us to see

Materials:

- Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
- CD: America's 25 Favorite
- Bible: Beginner's Bible
- Bag of items
- Flash Light

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about doing what Jesus wants us to do. Sometimes it's hard, but Jesus is always with us to help us. Today we are going to hear a story about a man that everyone forgot, everyone but 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.

All loving God, you care for each of us. You sent your Son to show us the way to you.

In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Song/Movement

There is Power in the Name of Jesus, track: 19, from America's 25 Favorite

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.

There is _____, in the name
of Jesus. (3x)
There is _____ in that
wonderful name.
Power, Glory, Healing

There's Salvation in the name of
Jesus (3x)
There's Salvation in that wonderful
name (3x) –to fade.

Memory Verse

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

You can see, because you believed in me.

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

Say: Jesus said these words to a man who was born blind. He had never seen any colors or flowers or people ever in his whole life, but he knew who Jesus was. He knew who that Jesus could help him. Jesus helped him to see. He helps us to see too. He helps us to see the good in other people, he helps us to understand, he helps us to know the truth.

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 Beginner's Bible, pp. 438-443, *The Blind Beggar*

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *Why does the blind man call out to Jesus for help?*
- *What does Jesus do?*
- *How does the blind man respond to Jesus calling him?*
- *What does Bartimaeus do after he is cured?*

Reflection on Reading:

Bartimaeus was blind. He couldn't see. He couldn't work. All he could do was sit on the street and call out to others to give him money or food.

Today we call out to Jesus when we pray. We may be calling for help, calling out our thanks and praise or saying we are sorry. Even if we don't say our prayers out loud, Jesus still hears them.

We don't hear Jesus with our ears, we hear him with our heart. Jesus calls to us to show others love, just like he showed Bartimaeus.

Gospel ActivityActivity 1:**What is in the bag?**

One at a time, have children close their eyes and reach into the bag, pick one item but keep it in the bag. Have them guess what it is.

Prompts:

- *Is it hard or soft?*
- *Is it big or little?*
- *What color is it?*

Let them guess what the item is. Have them take the item out of the bag.

Show it to everyone. Let a few others take a turn.

Say: *It's hard to see with our eyes closed. This is what life was like for the blind man until he met Jesus. When he met Jesus his eyes were opened and he could see that Jesus was the Son of God. When we follow the teachings of Jesus, we show others we are children of God. We become the light of the world.*

Activity 2:

Follow the Leader Shadows

Use the flashlight provided to make the shadows

Sometimes we call Jesus "the Light of the World." Without light, it's hard to see what to do. Without Jesus it's hard to know what to do.

Stand 2 children facing a blank wall. Darken the room and shine the flashlight at the children from behind. Ask one child to raise one arm and ask the other child to make his or her shadow follow the leader. Have the children to take turns leading a shadow show while a partner follows. Continue as time permits.

See how hard it would be to follow if we couldn't see? Jesus helps us see how to follow him and do what he would do.

Play the game Simon Says, but say Jesus Says instead:...say a prayer (hands folded together), read a bible story (hands open palms up, looking at your palms), go to church (march in place).

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 gathers and comforts the sick and the lame?
Do you believe in Jesus, who loves us just as we are and has come to heal us?
Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who opens our eyes and helps us to see what we otherwise would not see?*

Sending Forth

Say: Take a nature walk with your family this week. Take time to stop along the way to find pretty leaves or unusual rocks. Say a short prayer to God to thank him for the beauty all around us.

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "Amazing Grace" track 24 from America's 25 Favorite 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.