

Focus: Helping others walk with Jesus.

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
CD: Bible Songs for Kids-Vol 3
Gospel: The Children's Story Bible
Book: Atlas of the Bible
Flash cards of good deeds
Book: 100 Bible Stories, 100 Bible Songs

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about coming to Church to share a special meal with Jesus. This week we are going to talk about 2 disciples that spread the stories of Jesus in the first church and how we can help others walk with Jesus today.*

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.

You are our rock O' God. We know you are there when we need you. Help us to learn from the strength of Peter and Paul. Help us to remember your love for us. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Song/Movement

My God is So Great, track: 24, from Bible Songs for Kids- Vol. 3

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.

My God is so great, so strong and so
mighty, there's nothing my God
cannot do.

The mountains are his, the rivers
are his, the stars are His handiwork,
too.

My God is so great, so strong and so
mighty, there's nothing my God
cannot do.

My God is so great, so strong and so
mighty, there's nothing my God
cannot do, for you!
Repeat All Verses

Memory Verse

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

You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God

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

Say: *When Peter, one of the followers of Jesus, said this he meant that Jesus was God's Chosen One, strengthened by God to be the Savior of the World. Jesus is God's only Son. Jesus is the one whom God sent to take away our sins and give us everlasting life.*

Gospel Story

Say: *Today we are reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*

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 Children's Bible Storybook, pp. 273, *The Rock Man*

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *What question does Jesus ask his disciples?*
- *Who do others think Jesus is?*
- *Who does Simon Peter say Jesus is?*
- *What does Jesus tell Peter he will do?*
- *Who makes up the Church of God?*

Reflection on Reading:

When Peter answered Jesus by saying he was the Christ, the Son of God, Jesus knew that Peter did not understand this on his own. Jesus knew that God's Spirit had chosen Peter to be the first leader of the Church after Jesus died and ascended into heaven. The Church has had many leaders since Peter. Today we call the leader of the Church "Pope". Pope Francis is the leader of our church today. The Holy Spirit leads the pope to help the members of the Church follow Jesus more closely by showing us how Jesus wants us to live and to teach us about the Good News of Jesus.

Today we celebrate the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul. St. Paul isn't mentioned in the Gospel story because he wasn't a follower of Jesus until after Jesus rose into heaven to be with God the Father. It is generally known that St. Peter preached to those who were from Israel and became followers of Jesus and St. Paul preached to those who lived in other areas, like Greece and Rome. (Use the Collegeville Atlas of the Bible pp.118-119 to show the children where Paul travelled to so he could spread the stories of Jesus all over. –Jerusalem is in the far right corner of the map at the bottom of page119.)

Jesus wants us to spread his story too. We come to Church to learn about Jesus so he can teach us and then we can teach others about how to make the world a more peaceful and kind place.

Gospel ActivityActivity 1:**Being a Good Disciple, Follow the Leader**

When we do what Jesus taught us we are showing others about Jesus and God's kingdom. We help bring others to the Church when we tell them about Jesus.

Have children stand in a line and taking turns they will read aloud (help those that can't) ways they can be a good disciple from the flash cards. Have them then march around in a circle with everyone following the disciple back to his starting spot. Next child takes a turn. Continue as time permits.

Activity 2:**We Walk With Jesus**

Just as we heard that Jesus gave Simon a new name (Peter), a man named Saul was given the new name of Paul when he became a follower of Jesus. We receive special names at our baptism and our confirmation to show that we want to be followers of Jesus too.

Read "Saul Sees the Light" page 190 from 100 Bible Stories, 100 Bible Songs and play the song, "Walking with Jesus" Disc 2, Track 43.

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 his only Son, Jesus to save us?*
Do you believe in Jesus, who is the Son of the living God?
Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us follow Jesus?

Sending Forth

Say: Remember to talk to Jesus every day this week. This will help us become strong in our belief in Jesus just like Peter, and we will be able to help Jesus keep building his Church.

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "He Keeps Me Singing As I Go" track 17 from Bible Songs for Kids- Vol 3 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.