

Focus: Blessings from God

Materials:

- Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest’s vestment) and Altar Cloth
- CD: Bible Songs for Kids – Vol 2
- Gospel: The Children’s Bible Story Book
- Book: God Blesses Me
- Foam Heart

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about Jesus gathering his followers. This week we will talk about some of God’s special blessings. Called the Beatitudes.*

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.

Dear Jesus, Help us rejoice and be glad in all we do for you. In caring for others, we care for you.

In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.

Song/Movement

Get On Board Little Children, track: 4, 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.

<i>The gospel train is comin’ The wheels go ‘round and ‘round Everyone is happy This train is heaven bound</i>	<i>There’s room for many a-more</i>
<i>Get on board little children Get on board little children Get on board little children There’s room for many a-more</i>	<i>You won’t need a penny To ride this glorious train Just give your heart to Jesus And ride away with Him</i>
<i>I hear that train a-comin’ Comin’ down the track I’ll be getting on it And I won’t be lookin’ back</i>	<i>Get on board little children Get on board little children Get on board little children There’s room for many a-more</i>
<i>Get on board little children Get on board little children Get on board little children</i>	<i>Get on board little children Get on board little children Get on board little children There’s room for many a-more There’s room for many a-more...</i>

Memory Verse

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

You will surely be rewarded in heaven.

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

Say: *Jesus told his followers that if they did as Jesus taught, they would live forever with him in heaven. Jesus promises this to us too. When we care for the poor or stand up for what is right and kind, we are showing others we are like Jesus. Jesus tells us that God will bless us whenever we do this.*

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, pg. 242, *True Happiness*

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *Where does Jesus give his important talk?*
- *What did Jesus teach about?*
- *What did he say about people who depended on God?*
- *Who are the most precious people to God?*
- *How does Jesus feel about those who take care of others?*

Reflection on Reading:

The things that Jesus tells us will make us happy aren't things that we think will make us happy. Sometimes we think lots of money or toys or having the most of something will make us happy. But Jesus tells us that the weak and poor are happy because they rely on God. They know that God cares for them and that he is all important in their lives. When we start to let what we have become more important than God, it becomes harder and harder to be happy.

Some of the blessings we have from God is our ability to trust in God, caring enough to want to help those who are not being treated fairly. Other blessings include our ability to share, being patient and letting others go first and being kind.

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

Read the Book: I Can Be Happy Because God Blesses Me.

Discuss what things can make us happy.

Activity 2:

Love Go-Round Game

Have the children sit in a circle. Hand the heart to one child and chant the following while they pass the heart around the circle:

There's plenty of love to go around,
The more and more we share.
Where is the love that goes around?
Where is the love, O where?

When the verse is done, whoever is holding the heart shares something they can do to be kind to others.

(you can play a portion of a song from one of the CD's instead-for example: Jesus loves me, this I know, Jesus loves the little children, I am so glad that Jesus loves me-instead of the verse.)

Repeat 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 blesses us each day?*
Do you believe in Jesus, who teaches us what will make us happy?
Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us to care for others?

Sending Forth

Say: *Remember that we are blessed by God everyday. We can make good choices to care for others and show everyone that we follow Jesus.*

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.