

Focus: Never Give Up

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
- Band-aids
- Poster Board
- Marker

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about Welcome back after our summer break! This week the Gospel story tells us about a woman who asks Jesus to help her.*

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 Lord, you healed the sick. Help us to see ways to help and care for others. 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

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.

- 2: Love Him
- 3: Serve Him
- 4: Thank Him
- 5: Praise Him

Memory Verse

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

You have great faith!

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

Say: *In today's Gospel story Jesus tells the woman she had great faith because she believed that Jesus could heal her daughter and that he would do the right thing if he knew how much she loved God. We believe in Jesus and we show others we are believers when we treat others with care and respect.*

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: Children's Everyday Bible, pp. 260, *The Foreign Woman*

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *Who asks Jesus for help?*
- *What do the disciples want Jesus to do?*
- *What does Jesus say about the woman's faith?*
- *Why does Jesus heal the woman's daughter?*

Reflection on Reading:

The disciples wanted to send the woman away because they did not know who she was. She lived in a different place and the people of Israel didn't get along with people from her town. Even though the disciples sent her away, and Jesus did too, she believed that Jesus would help her daughter. She cared very much for her daughter and didn't care if they sent her away or even if they called her names she would still try to get help for her daughter.

Jesus told the woman and it wouldn't be right to take the blessings that belonged to the people of Israel and give them to people from far away. He said this because this is what the disciples were thinking. They thought that they were better than the woman because of where they were from. Jesus heals the woman's daughter because he wants to show the disciples that God's love is for everyone. God wants people from every country, color or religion to follow him. God loves everyone.

Gospel ActivityActivity 1:

Line the children up in 2 lines, you may want to put the older kids in one line and younger kids in the other, then one in each pair will be an older kid. If there are an odd number have a parent or helper be the partner.

Say: Jesus helped the woman from far away feel welcome and cared for by healing her daughter. Jesus teaches us that God loves everyone. When are some times we might meet new people?

There are many ways to make others feel welcome. We can make people feel better by greeting them nicely. We are going to play a little game to practice welcoming people.

Sing or say the following song and have them act out the action. After each verse have one line

move to the right, the last one in the line goes around to the other end to match that child.

- Look at your neighbor and wave hi
- Look at your neighbor and wave hi
- Your neighbor is standing in front of you
- In front of you, you, you
- So look at your neighbor and wave hi.

- Look at your neighbor and shake hands
- Look at your neighbor and shake hands
- Your neighbor is standing in front of you
- In front of you, you, you
- So look at your neighbor and shake hands.

- Look at your neighbor and give a high five
- Look at your neighbor and give a high five
- Your neighbor is standing in front of you
- In front of you, you, you
- So look at your neighbor and give a high five.

End with everyone saying hi and shaking hands with others.

Activity 2:

Say: Jesus healed many people. He taught us to love and care for others.

Hand out one Band-Aid for each child and draw a large outline of a person on a sheet of poster paper. To begin, brainstorm with the children how they can show kindness toward people who are sick or in pain. Invite the children to come forward and stick their Band-Aid on the poster and share their response with the large group.

Discuss:

- Who helps you when you are sick?
- How can you help a friend or family member who is sick?
- How does Jesus help us when we are sick or in pain?

Allow time for discussion. Jesus healed many people during his life on earth. The Church continues to help those who are sick today through the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

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 to teach us everyone is welcome in the Kingdom of God?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who healed many people?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us grow our faith?

Sending Forth

Say: *We learned today that Jesus wants us to care for others. We should always make others feel good about themselves. Remember to do something nice for others this week. Welcome a new neighbor, make a card for someone who is sick.*

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "His Banner Over Me is Love." track 15 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.