

Focus: Jesus gives us peace

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
Cycle B Easter Season CD
Bible Reading in Lesson Plan
Book: The Story of Jesus
Peace and Shalom Signs

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about Jesus appearing to the disciples after he had risen from the grave. He died and rose again so we can live forever with Him. This week we are going to hear another story about another appearance of Jesus after he rose from the dead.

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.

Thank you God, for loving us so much that you sent Jesus to bring us new life. Help us to live as followers of Jesus each day. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.

Song/Movement

Join in the Dance, track:1, from Easter Season Cycle B CD

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.

Join in the dance of
the earth's jubilation!
This is the feast of the
love of God.
Shout from the heights
to the ends of
creation: Jesus the
Savior is risen from the
grave!

1. Wake, O people;
sleep no longer, greet
the breaking day!
Christ, Redeemer,
Lamb and Lion, turns
the night away!
2. All creation, like a
mother, labors to give
birth.

Soon the pain will be
forgotten, joy for all
the earth!
3. Now our shame
becomes our glory on
this holy tree.
Now the reign of
death is ended; now
we are set free!

Memory Verse

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

This is the day the Lord has made.

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

Say: *Easter is the most important holiday in the church year. Our whole belief in Jesus depends on this day. God's plan for everyone to live with him forever is centered on the Easter Story of Jesus. His dying and rising again brings us new life, just like the flowers in spring find new life in the warmer weather, we find a happy life with Jesus in the miracle of Easter.*

Sing Alleluia for Easter Season:

"Hallelu, Hallelu" Track 2 on CD Labeled EASTER SEASON CYCLE B,

Say: *Now we sing Alleluia and we celebrate that Jesus is Risen!*

Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah,

Praise ye the Lord!

Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah,

Praise ye the Lord!

Gospel Story

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

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,

The two disciples were talking to the others.

[Chatty hand, thumb against fingers]

They told about recognizing Jesus when they broke the bread with him.

[Break imaginary loaf of bread]

Suddenly, Jesus stood in their midst.

[Hold your hands to your face in surprise]

He said: "Peace be with you."

[Extend calming hands]

They thought they were seeing a ghost.

[Frightened look, biting nails]

Jesus invited them to touch him.

[Touch center of each palm with index finger of opposite hand]

He showed them that he had flesh and bones.

[Pat and squeeze one hand with the other]

He asked for food, and ate fish they gave him.

[Use fingers to eat imaginary food]

He said:

[Chatty hand, thumb against fingers]

"Everything written about me

[Pretend to write on the palm of one hand]

In the law, prophets and psalms

[Continue writing on palm]

must be fulfilled.

[Point heavenward]

It is written that Christ would suffer, die and rise from the dead.

[Pretend to write on the palm of one hand]

Repentance and forgiveness would be preached in his name.

[Make the Sign of the Cross]

You have seen it happen."

[Point to your eyes and draw fingers forward]

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *Who did the two disciples see?*
- *What do the two tell the others?*
- *What does Jesus say when he appears to his friends?*
- *Why are the disciples frightened?*
- *What does Jesus do?*
- *What does Jesus tell them about what has happened?*
- *The disciples recognized Jesus in the ordinary action of a meal, when can we see Jesus in our everyday lives?*

Reflection on Reading:

Just before the story in today's gospel two disciples meet Jesus while traveling down the road to Emmaus. When they return to Jerusalem they can't wait to share with the others what happened. This passage points out that every follower of Jesus is called to spread the good news about Jesus. An evangelizer is willing to spread the message of God's love throughout the world.

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

Read from the book Who is Jesus? After you finish reading the story read page 71.
Discuss ways they can be the light of the world.

Activity 2:

PEACE SIGNS

Ask someone to read the first sign. (PEACE) What do you think of when you hear the word "Peace"? (Take ideas from several children.) Peace is a beautiful blessing that God gives us when we trust in Him.

Here's another word that means PEACE from the Hebrew language. That's the language that people spoke in Jesus' time. That word is "SHALOM" (Show SHALOM sign.)

Now that you know peace in two different languages, I'd like to teach you what PEACE looks like in American Sign Language. It's a three-part sign, so watch closely! (the illustration at the end of lesson.)

First put one hand on top of the other hand, clasped together, like this!

Next switch your hands around.

Now push both of your hands down and away from you.

That's the sign for "PEACE".

Let everyone try a couple of times, then illustrate again using the following explanation or similar:

When I start the sign for peace it feels like I'm worried, I'm wringing my hands; they are not settled down, are they? But God says, "Don't be anxious about anything!" He doesn't want

us to worry about things in our families, or school, or in the world. (Hold hands still together.) God tells us to pray to Him and let Him know what's bothering us. Then He can give us peace. {Do final sign motion.} This final part of the sign is like God smoothing out and taking away all our worries. He will protect us from being afraid, from being worried and He will calm us down. So the next time you are worried or afraid, what are you going to do? Pray and ask God to help you, and He will calm you down and give you a beautiful feeling of Peace!

Let's fold our hands now and pray!

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for giving us peace when we are afraid. Help us to have "SHALOM" all the time. In Jesus' name we pray, AMEN.

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 raised Jesus from the dead?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who brings us peace?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us turn to God when we are worried or scared?

Sending Forth

Say: *This week we can show others Jesus' peace by being kind to others. What are some things we can do to be kind to others?*

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "*Rejoice in the Lord*" track 3 from Easter Season CD Cycle B 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.

Instructions for Signing "Peace"

1. The hands are clasped together.
2. They are then reversed so that the other hand is on top.
3. Both hands are then opened and move downward and outward with fingers apart and palms down.

