

Focus: Jesus prays for us

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
Cycle B Easter Season CD
Bible Reading: Children's Bible Storybook
Red/green paper squares
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 how much Jesus loves us and wants us to share his love with others. This week in the gospel story Jesus prays to God the Father to ask for God's protection over us.

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 God, we belong to you and your Son Jesus. Help us to pray to you and get to know you more and more every day. We pray in Jesus' name.

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.

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.

Your Word is Truth

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

Say: *In the Bible we hear God talking to us in many different ways. We believe that what God tells us is the truth. The way to live a good and holy life. When we listen to God's word we should remember that we must be respectful and listen carefully to what he has to tell us.*

Sing Alleluia for Easter Season:

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

Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah,

Praise ye the Lord!

Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah,

Praise ye the Lord!

Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah, Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah, Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah,

Praise ye the Lord!

Repeat three times

Gospel Story

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

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. 326, *Jesus Prays for His Followers*

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *What did Jesus ask of God for the disciples?*
- *Why do you think Jesus asked God to help the disciples?*
- *Jesus says "Let them be one," why do you think it is important for the followers of Jesus to work together as one?*
- *Jesus prays for us as we go out into the world, what does Jesus want us to do?*

Reflection on Reading:

Seven weeks ago we celebrated Easter, when Jesus rose from the dead. This story takes place the night before Jesus was put on the cross. Jesus knows he is about to return to God, but wants to be sure that the disciples will continue the work he began. In this scripture passage, Jesus is in the middle of a prayer asking God to bless and strengthen the disciples for this job.

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

Making Good Choices

Green or Red (Right or Wrong)

(Use the colored paper squares) Have children raise Red for a bad idea (STOP), Green for a good idea (GO). (Can also use Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down or Clap hands for good choice/stomp feet for bad choice)

These are just a few examples. Please make up some more of your own.

GREEN:

Help grandma up the stairs

Listen to our parents

Going to church

Doing what your teacher tells you

Helping mom set the table

Helping dad rake the leaves

Pray at dinner time

You hear your parents talking so you wait patiently before asking a question.

It is morning and everyone is waking up. You still feel tired, but you give a big smile and a hug good morning to your mom and dad.

You give your unused toys to the homeless shelter

You help your mom and dad deliver food to the food bank

There is a new kid at school and you ask him to play with you on the playground.

Before you go home from a play date you help clean up

Listen to your parent when they tell you it's time to clean up your room

Visit someone in a nursing home

Make a card for a sick friend

You see a friend crying so you stop and ask what is wrong

RED:

Not including someone at playtime

Say mean words to a friend

Making fun of someone

Hitting someone

Not sharing toys

You see a friend crying so you just walk right by.

It is very late and you are tired, so you cry loudly and complain about everything.

Time for bed, so you stomp your feet and say, "NO!"

A friend asks to play with your new game and you won't share.

A child at the playground makes a mistake and you make fun of them.

You throw a temper tantrum when you don't get what you want

You don't pay attention at the grocery store and you hit someone with a shopping cart

You run or skate around inside a store

You get mad and hit your brother or sister

Staying mad at someone who said they were sorry

Telling a lie

Refusing to Share

Activity 2:

I Will Follow Jesus.

How many of you have seen a maze? Sometimes they are on paper, but there are garden ones and corn mazes too. To finish the maze you must find your way to the end without crossing any lines. Sometimes we need help. This is true of our life every day. Some days we need help figuring out what is the right thing to do.

Jesus is our helper, he is the solution to the problem. If we follow Jesus he will lead us on the right path.

Read page 110 in "100 Bible Stories, 100 Bible Songs" —Jesus Calls His Disciples—Then have them repeat the statement at the bottom of page 111 with you. "I will follow Jesus and tell others about him."

Play Disc 2, Track 3-I Have Decided to Follow Jesus.

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 asks us to be followers of Jesus?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who takes care of us and shows us the way to God?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us know the truth and to follow God's way?

Sending Forth

Say: Jesus asks God to protect us as we go out into the world to make good choices. When we are back in church say a special prayer to tell God you are ready to be a good follower of Jesus and ask for God's blessings.

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.