

Christ the King, Cycle B

Focus: Jesus is our King.

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we said that we do not have to worry, God will always take care of us.*

This week is a special time in the church when we celebrate Jesus, as King of our world here on earth and in heaven.

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.*

Loving God, you have put us in the gentle care of Jesus Christ, your Son. Make us faithful to him, our leader, and always obey his commands with love. We make this prayer through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Song/Movement

“There is Power in the Name of Jesus” track 19 from America’s 25 Favorite Bible Songs. 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 when finished.

Memory Verse

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

“Anyone who lives by the truth listens to my voice.”

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

Say: Jesus spoke these words to the first disciples long ago. Now, let's read the Gospel and find out what Jesus means by this.

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 crown is a symbol of power and authority. Who wears a crown? That's right! A king or queen wears a crown. Being a king is different from being the president of a country. A president is elected by the people, but a king is not elected, he is born to be king.

Have you seen the movie "Lion King?" As a lion, Simba was born to be the "King of the Beasts." In one scene from the movie Simba sings, "I Just Can't Wait to Be King." If you have seen the movie, you will remember that one reason why Simba was so anxious to become king was that he didn't want anyone telling him what to do. He didn't want to hear anyone saying, "do this" or "stop that." He wanted to be free to run around all day doing everything he wanted.

It wasn't just that Simba didn't want anyone to tell him what to do, he was also looking forward to telling everyone else what to do. Just listen to what he says! "I'm gonna be a mighty king so enemies beware! I'm gonna be the mane event like no king was before. I'm brushing up on looking down. I'm working on my ROAR! Oh, I just can't wait to be king!"

I think that Simba had a very poor idea of what it means to be a king. You see, the real role of a king is to look after the needs of his people. A good king is more concerned with caring for his people than he is in being served.

During his last days on earth, Jesus was arrested and put on trial. When asked if he was a king, Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world." Yes, Jesus was a king, but he wasn't interested in running around free and doing things his way. He was only interested in doing the will of his Father. He was born to be king, but his kingdom is not on this earth -- it is in heaven. He only came to earth to make a way for us to live with him in heaven.

Jesus "Just can't wait to be your king." He has invited us all to enjoy eternal life in his heavenly kingdom and here on earth.

Ask: Can anyone remember any of the special things that happened when Jesus came to earth to show us that Jesus really is the "King of kings"?

- ❖ Visited by the three kings who worshipped him as King when he was just a baby.
- ❖ Healed the sick,
- ❖ Made the blind see and the deaf hear.
- ❖ Turned water into wine.
- ❖ Brought people that died back to life,
- ❖ Taught us his Father's laws called the God's Word.
- ❖ Showed us how to love and give to others.
- ❖ Walked on top of water.
- ❖ Stopped a terrible storm,
- ❖ Rose from the dead and had power over death.
- ❖ Told us he would save us a place in heaven.

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

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

Reflecting on the Reading:

Today's reading focuses on Jesus, as our supreme ruler of all nations and all people. He is king of the truth and anyone who lives by the truth, listens to his voice. His unconditional love was shown through his compassion and forgiveness, for all, from the wealthy and powerful to the poor and meek. He proved himself to be truly the, King of kings. He served his people many times over and called them brother and sister. He gave the greatest gift of all, his life, to save us from our sins.

Gospel Activity

See the Filler Options Sheet if you need more activities.

Coloring Sheet – “Let’s Praise Jesus”(while the children are coloring, play Hide ‘em In Your Heart, track#12, “You shall love the Lord, your God”)

Complete the weekly bulletin as a group-let the children color them if there is extra time

Closing Prayer

(Children respond: “We Believe!”)

Ask: *Do we believe in God, who sent his Son, Jesus to save us?*

Do we believe in Jesus, who is the King of kings?

Do we believe in the Holy Spirit, who guides us to listen to Jesus’ voice?

Sending Forth

Say: *Let’s all try to remember that Jesus is our King and try to listen to his voice.*

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play “Jesus Loves Me” track 20 from 25 Sunday School Songs while children put away any materials and line up. 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.



Let's praise Jesus!

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