

Focus: Spreading the Good News of Jesus

Materials:

- Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest’s vestment) and Altar Cloth
- CD:SEEDS
- Bible: in lesson
- Flowers to color
- Gift bag

Gathering (children sit on carpet/floor-“Criss-Cross Applesauce”)

Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about listening to Jesus. This week we will talk about how Jesus took care of many people and he wants us to who others we care for them too. When we take care of other people we are telling others about Jesus, we are spreading the Good News of Jesus.

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.

Thank you God for giving us the gift of your loving care. Help us to love and care for others. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Song/Movement

Follow Me, track: 10, from Seed 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.

Follow me-Follow me-Jesus says
“come follow me”
Follow me-Follow me -Come and
follow me

March-March-March March-
March-March-Jesus says come
follow me

March-March-March March-
March-March –Come and follow
me.

Hop-Hop-Hop, Hop-Hop-Hop
Jump-Jump-Jump, Jump-Jump-Jump
Run-Run-Run, Run-Run-Run

End with falling down-Come and
follow me

Memory Verse

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

Jesus came to spread the Good News.

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

Say: Every day Jesus went out and told everyone that he was bringing God’s love and peace to the world. He healed the sick and made friends with those who had no friends. He invited everyone to turn away from doing wrong and become part of God’s dream with Jesus. We can spread the Good News too and become part of the dream. We can tell others about Jesus and show them God’s love for them.

Gospel Story

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

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,

After leaving the synagogue, Jesus and his disciples, Peter, Andrew, James and John, entered Peter’s house.

[Pretend to open a door]

Peter’s mother-in-law was sick.

[Hold your head and make a sad face]

Jesus took her hand and she was well again.

[Grasp your hands together]

She got up and took care of everyone’s needs.

[Stand tall and pretend you are handing out plates of food to others.]

The whole town gathered at the door.

[Cup your hands around your eyes and look around the room]

That evening, many people who were sick came to Jesus, and he cured them.

[Raise your arms toward heaven]

The next morning, Jesus went off alone to pray.

[Place your hands together in prayer]

His disciples looked for him.

[Cup your hands around your eyes and look around the room]

When they found him, they said: “Everyone is looking for you.”

[Cup your hands around your eyes and look around the room]

Jesus answered, “Let’s go to other towns so I can teach everyone the Good News. This is why I’ve come.”

[March in place]

They went to other towns, and Jesus preached in their synagogues and healed the people.

[Raise your arms toward heaven]

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *What happens when Jesus meets Simon’s mother-in-law?*
- *Why do people who are hurt and sick come to Jesus?*
- *What did Jesus do after he healed all the people?*
- *What did the disciples want to do when they found Jesus?*
- *What did Jesus say they would do?*

Reflection on Reading:

Many people came to see Jesus. They had heard the story of Jesus healing Peter's mother in law and they came to be healed too. People today are still looking for Jesus. They are looking for Jesus because they need something that only he can give them -- forgiveness for sin and everlasting life. We can help others find Jesus by being loving and kind.

The Gospel story today tells us that Jesus went off to be alone to pray. There are many times when Jesus did this. Jesus had a very important mission and he needed to spend time with God the Father in prayer. Jesus' example teaches us that we need to make sure that we take the time to pray. Even when we are very busy and have lots of things to do, it is important to take time to be with God in prayer.

Gospel ActivityActivity 1:

In today's Gospel story, Jesus heals people by holding their hand. We can't make people's diseases go away by holding their hands, but we can bring them comfort by visiting them, hugging them and bring them cards or flowers.

Today we are going to color flowers for people who are sick and can't live in their own homes. Hand out the paper with the flower pattern and encourage the children to decorate them and make them beautiful so the people who get them know that they are loved.

When they are finished, collect them in the gift bag.

Gather the children in a circle around the bag and then say this prayer:

Dear God, please be with those who are sick and lonely. Help them to feel your powerful love. May these flowers be a sign for them to have hope and peace as they get better from their illness or injury. We pray this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Activity 2:

Act out the Gospel Story. You will need 6 people, Jesus, Peter's mother-in-law and the 4 disciples. The rest can be the townspeople that come to be healed or watch.

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 calls us to spread the love and care of God that Jesus showed us?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who is the Good News?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us be good followers of Jesus?

Sending Forth

Say: Remember that we all should show love to others. This week you can show God's special love to others by surprising someone with a hug. When you don't think someone is expecting it, sneak up and give them a great big hug and tell them that Jesus loves them!

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "*Like Jesus*" track 6 from Seed CD 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.