

Focus: We believe in Jesus, The Holy One of God

Materials:

- Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
- CD: SEED CD
- Gospel: In Lesson Plan
- Red/Green squares
- Book: Who is Jesus?

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about how Jesus is really present in the bread and wine we share at Eucharist. This week we will hear a story about when people turned away from Jesus because his teaching became too hard. Those who stayed, his disciples, tell him who they think he is.

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, you show your love for us each and every day. You sent us Jesus to show us the way to you. Help us to see the goodness in the world around us. Thank you for always loving us. In the name of Jesus, we pray.

Amen.

Song/Movement

Like Jesus, track: 6, 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.

1. The more we love each other,
each other, each other.
The more we love each other, like
Jesus we'll be.

2. For Jesus in your friend and Jesus
in my friend.
The more we love each other, like
Jesus we'll be.

Repeat all
[Break]
Repeat verse 2

Memory Verse

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

Jesus is the Holy One of God.

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

Say: Jesus always tells the truth. Jesus' words are the truth about God, because God sent him to teach us. God is the source of everlasting life. If we follow Jesus because we believe that Holy Spirit is

the Son of God. We hear the true words of God about love through Jesus. Jesus tells us to say I'm sorry and to make good choices. We will have everlasting life with the Holy One of God.

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: None, pp. N/A,

Some of Jesus' followers said:

[Chatty hand, thumb against fingers.]

“This teaching is that Jesus is the Bread of Life is too hard.

[Cross arms over chest and shake head skeptically.]

Who can accept it?”

[Shrug, life wondering hands]

Jesus asked:

[Chatty hand]

“Does this shock you?

[Eyes wide, mouth open, hands over cheeks.]

Would you be shocked if you saw me going back to heaven?

[Point heavenward]

It doesn't matter that this makes no sense to you.

[Tap forehead]

The words I have spoken are Spirit and life.

[Touch heart and then forehead]

But there are some of you who don't believe.”

[Touch forehead and shake head]

Jesus had always known who would not believe.

[Touch heart and then forehead.]

Jesus continued:

[Chatty hand]

“No one can believe in me unless my Father gives him faith.”

[Touch heart and then forehead.]

Many people walked away from Jesus that day, because they did not have faith.

[Turn, wave and walk in place]

Jesus said to his Apostles:

[Chatty hand]

“Do you also want to leave?”

[Point into the distance]

Peter answered:

[Chatty hand]

“Master, to whom would we go?

[Shrug, lift wondering hands]

You have the words of everlasting life.

[Touch heart and then forehead]

We believe you are the Holy One of God.”

[Point heavenward]

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *Why did some of the people decide not to follow Jesus?*
- *Who stayed with Jesus? Why?*
- *What do you think Jesus meant by those who have faith? (Faith is what makes it possible for us to believe what we don't understand. God is from heaven and we can't fully understand him while we are here on earth. Jesus helps us to understand God.)*
- *Who are the people who love you, no matter what?*
- *Is there anything we can do to make God stop loving us?*
- *Where do you see God's love in the world around you?*

Reflection on Reading:

The Bible story said that Jesus lost followers because they did not have faith. God gives everyone the gift of faith, but many people don't accept this gift. It is like God is holding his hand out to us with faith in it, and some people walk up and take it, but others just pass by. WE are always free to walk away from God and not believe. It's very sad when this happens. God always loves, even when people walk away from him. Jesus didn't make his disciples believe in him. They were free to turn away. Peter believed Jesus. He trusted Jesus. He understood that Jesus always told the truth. Jesus' words are the truth about God and God is the source of everlasting life.

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

Making Good Choices

In the Gospel today we heard about people making the choice to not follow Jesus because it is too hard. It is hard to be good followers of Jesus, but if we practice, it becomes easier.

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:

Read the book: Who is Jesus? (Little Blessings)

Have you ever wondered who Jesus was or what he was like when he was a child?

Where can we learn about Jesus? (The Bible, church)

What did Jesus come to teach us? (to show us the way God wants us to live)

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 gives us the freedom to choose?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who is the Holy One that God sent to us to teach us to make good choices?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who is the gift of God's own life and who lives in us?

Sending Forth

Say: *Everytime we choose to follow Jesus we make a choice to show God how much we love him.*

How can we show God how much we love him?

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "Follow Me" track 10 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.