

Focus: Looking after others

Materials:

- Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest’s vestment) and Altar Cloth
- CD: Bible Songs for Kids Vol. 1
- Gospel: Children’s Everyday Bible
- Book: Rainbow Fish

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about spreading the Good News of God's Kingdom by telling others about Jesus. This week Jesus tells us that we should care about others if we want to be first in the Kingdom of God.*

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.

God our Father, you gives us your help when we are in need, and thank you for showing us how to help others through the example of your son Jesus. In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.

Song/Movement

Praise Him, Praise Him All ye Little Children, track: 29, from [Bible Songs for Kids-Vol 1](#)

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.

Praise Him, Praise Him
All ye little children
God is love, God is love

Replace Praise Him, Praise Him for verses 2-4 and repeat Praise Him on the final verse.

Praise Him, Praise Him
All ye little children
God is love, God is love

Love Him
Serve Him
Thank Him
Praise Him

Memory Verse

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

If you want to be first, you must serve others.

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

Say: *Jesus asks us to take care of others. If we are unkind or cheat or make other wrong choices, we will not be first, we will be last. It doesn’t matter to Jesus if you are the fastest runner or the highest jumper, he wants you to do your best and take care of others and be kind and generous. Jesus is happy that you won a race, but that doesn't make you a better person than someone else. Caring for others makes you a better person.*

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: Children's Everyday Bible, pp. 264, *The Disciples Quarrel*

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *What were the disciples arguing about?*
- *What did Jesus do?*
- *Why do you think Jesus told them not to argue about who is the best?*
- *Why do you think Jesus told them a child was a good example to follow? (Children know they are safe when they listen to their parents. Jesus wants us to know that we will feel safe if we listen to God.)*
- *Why is it important to be happy and to worry about getting more stuff or doing grown up things? (Everyone has a job to do and has gifts to do that job. Jesus is telling us that trusting God is most important; trusting that God will help us use our gifts to show his love to others.)*

Reflection on Reading:

Jesus' disciples were arguing about who was the greatest. Sometimes we think that having more toys, or better grades in school or being the best in a race makes us better people. Then we might argue about being better than others because it makes us feel better to think we are the best at something. God wants us to be the BEST follower of Jesus. To do this we should be kind to others. We can be happy that we are good at something, but we need to remember that some people might be better than you and some might not be as good as you, but we are all the same in God's eyes. He loves us all just the same.

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

Read the book-The Rainbow Fish

Rainbow fish thought he was the most beautiful fish. But he was also very selfish. He thought he was too good to play with the other fish, but then he got lonely.

This story reminds me of the Gospel story we heard today. Sometimes we think the most important thing is to be the first, to be the most beautiful, but that's not what Jesus said. He said the most important thing was to think of others first and ourselves after. If we want to be great in God's eyes we should see to serve others, not be served.

Dear Jesus, help us to remember that to be the greatest, we must be willing to be the least.
Amen.

Activity 2:

Act it out.

Choose 3 older children (2 disciples-1 Jesus) and one small child to be the child. Tell the older kids they can pantomime actions as you read the words.

Have Jesus walking along with the other 2 pretending to argue behind him.

When they stop:

Narrate:

Jesus told the disciples not to argue about who would be first.

Have the little one walk up to Jesus.

Narrate:

Jesus said: You must be like a child, listening to God and doing his work if you want to be first.

The End.

Have the all the children form 2 lines. Tell one line they will shout out "Who's the greatest?" and the other line will shout "Jesus is!" Let them repeat a few times and then swap –Line 2 says "Who's the greatest?" and line 1 says "Jesus is!"

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 loves us always?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who teaches us to love others as God loves us?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who fills our hearts with peace?

Sending Forth

Say: *When we go back to church we will say "Peace be with you" to others. Be friendly and kind to everyone around you. Remember Jesus wants us to share his peace all around.*

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "*Jesus Loves the Little Children*" track 1 from Bible Songs for Kids-Vol 1 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.