

Focus: Have a child's heart

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
CD: America's 25 Favorite Bible Songs
Gospel: Jesus Storybook Bible
Book: The Lord's Prayer

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about doing good for Jesus. Anyone who does good deeds in the name of Jesus will live with him forever. This week we hear a story about how Jesus loves everyone, especially little children-just like you!*

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 protector, you show us you care for us by sending Jesus to teach us how to love others.

Help us to be kind and love others as you love us. We pray this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Song/Movement

Rejoice in the Lord Always, track: 25, from America's 25 Favorite

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.

Rejoice in the Lord always.

And again I say rejoice. (2x)

Rejoice! Rejoice! And again I say rejoice! (2x)

Repeat

Memory Verse

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

Let the little children come to me.

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

Say: *Jesus wanted the children to be examples to the adults about what is really important. Children trust God. God wants adults to trust him too. Jesus said that if we all turn to God with the trust of children we will find the joy of God's kingdom.*

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: The Jesus Storybook Bible, pp. 256-263, *The Friend of Little Children*

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *What were Jesus’ friends doing?*
- *Why were they arguing?*
- *What did they forget about God’s love?*
- *Who remembered that God’s love is a freely given gift?*

Reflection on Reading:

Children are very important members of their families. God is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, joined in love, like family. Just as a family has children, God knows we are happiest when we have others to love and care for us. Jesus wanted to make sure that his disciples knew that being the best or the first wasn't the important part. The important part is to love and trust God like children do.

Gospel ActivityActivity 1:**Follow Jesus**

Today’s gospel story tells us that we should trust what Jesus teaches us. That our hearts should have love for him like he loves us. If we follow what Jesus teaches we can have a special place for him in our hearts.

Let’s practice what Jesus has taught us to do. Have the kids stand in a circle and follow your actions.

Sample Actions:

Hug your neighbor

Close your hands in prayer

Go to Church-(March in place)

Say peace be with you to your neighbor

Say Alleluia

Shake hands with your neighbor

Praise God-Raise your hands up high

Listen to Jesus (cup hand around ear)

Activity 2:

We can follow Jesus by saying our prayers. There is a special prayer that Jesus taught us to show our love for God.

Read the book: The Lord's Prayer

Read it through once, then read each page and have them echo the phrase back.

Continue as time allows.

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 made us to love and care for each other?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who holds us in his arms and blesses us with God's love?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives us the power to love each other like God loves us?

Sending Forth

Say: *Remember to say a prayer this week to thank God for his love and remember to trust his love for us.*

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "*This Little Light of Mine*" track 15 from America's 25 Favorite 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.