

Focus: Keep your treasures in heaven

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth

CD: America's 25 Favorite Bible Songs

Gospel: Children's Everyday Bible

Book: 100 Bible Stories and 100 Bible Songs

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about how Jesus loves the children and that everyone should love and trust God like children do. This week Jesus tells us that it is more important to love God than to love things.*

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, you are our greatest treasure. Help us to share and be generous with our things. Help us to remember that everyone is important and to follow Jesus. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus.

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.*

God is more important than what we have.

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

Say: *It is important to remember that unless we share what we have we aren't following Jesus' teachings on love. Some people have more than others and some people don't have enough. If we have more than we really need, God wants us to share with others. This is the way to the kingdom of God.*

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. 289, *The Rich Man*

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *What did the rich man ask of Jesus?*
- *What had the rich man done since he was a boy?*
- *What did the rich man love more than God?*
- *What did Jesus tell the rich man to do?*
- *How did this make the rich man feel?*

Reflection on Reading:

The rich man loved the idea of living with God forever, but he loved the things he owned too. He wanted to have both. Jesus didn't say the man was bad because he had so many things, being able to earn a lot of money is a gift from God. This gift is to be shared with others. If a rich person had money to buy more food than he needs, he is supposed to share that with another who has no food. If he doesn't share, his selfishness is keeping him from using his gifts as God wants him to.

Jesus was trying to teach the man that he can't love his things more than he loves God. This is not the way into the kingdom. God's kingdom is about love and sharing, not selfishness and sadness.

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

Read the book: Too Many Mangos-A Story About Sharing.

Ask:

Why did grandpa want to give away the mangoes?

What happened when the children gave away the mangoes?

What kind of gifts did they get in return?

What would have happened if grandpa had kept all his mangoes?

They would have rotted and been trash. Because he shared, he had more food he was able to use and not trash. When we share we get more than we give.

Activity 2:

Jesus wants us to share with others.

Read page 66 from 100 Bible Stories and 100 Bible Songs, David and Jonathan, play track 29
Disc one, Sharing is Caring:

Sharing is really caring, caring about the friends you know, and
Sharing is truly daring to show the Lord you love him so.

Share with others, share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.
Share with others, share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Sharing is really caring, caring about the friends you know, and
Sharing is truly daring to show the Lord you love him so.

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, is all wise and knows what we need?*
Do you believe in Jesus, who teaches us to depend on God?
Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who fills us with the wisdom of God?

Sending Forth

Say: Remember to share with others this week so we can spread the love of God's kingdom.

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.