

Focus: Jesus teaches us to share

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
CD: America's 25 Favorite Bible Songs
Gospel: In Lesson Plan

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about keeping God first in our lives. This week Jesus teaches us about serving others.*

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, Thank you for sending Jesus to teach us how to serve others. Give us hearts that love and share with others. 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.*

I came so that I could serve others.

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

Say: *Jesus came to teach us how to love and care for others. He showed us by healing those that were sick and loving those that no one else loved. He washed the feet of his friends (the disciples) to show them that they needed to care for others and not be selfish.*

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,

James and John came to Jesus. They said:

[Chatty hands, thumb against fingers]

“We want something.

[Extend hands, palms up, fingers in “give me” motion (repetitively close fingers to palm)]

We want to be your most important friends.”

[Hands on hips, look proud]

The other disciples became angry with James and John.

[Shake your fist]

They want to be Jesus’ most important friends.

[Hands on hips—look proud]

Jesus said:

[Chatty hand]

“Can you live your life as I live mine?”

[Cross hands over heart]

“We can.”

[Nod vigorously]

Jesus continued:

[Chatty hand]

“I am here to serve others.

[Extend arms and hands in giving gesture]

Those who are my friends

[Cross hands over heart]

must serve others too.

[Extend arms and hands in giving gesture]

They must be willing to go last.

[Gesture behind yourself]

Every one of my friends is important to me.”

[Point to each of the children, and then cross hands over heart]

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *What did James and John want from Jesus?*
- *How did the others disciples feel?*
- *Why Jesus tell them that he was there to serve others?*
- *What would Jesus’ friends do?*
- *Why would Jesus’ friends be willing to go last?*

Reflection on Reading:

It might seem like God loves people who have more things than people who don't have anything. God doesn't love some people more than others. We can't really know what hard times others have. We can't see into others hearts like God can. We know that God loves us more than we can imagine. God gives us the help we need to learn from our difficulties so those hard times lead us closer to him.

Jesus challenged his friends love others as much as they loved themselves. That's how Jesus lived. James and John said they could live like Jesus, but the way they were arguing about who would be most important showed they didn't understand what Jesus was teaching at all. They didn't care how the other disciples would feel if they were most important. They wanted to get closer to God without loving others, and that won't work. God is love and he made each of us to love others.

Gospel ActivityActivity 1:**Circle of friends**

Have the children hold hands and form a circle. If you need to form 2 circles, 1 inside the other. Ask: Who is the first in line? Point out that a circle has no beginning and no end, no first or last. Everyone in the circle is equal, just as we are all equally loved by God.

Give each child a chance to choose something the circle can do: a step to the left, a step to the right, hop once on the count of 3, swing your arms, etc.

See, if they can cooperate and move in unison. Point out the fun that can be had when people work together. Ask the children what kinds of motions we do at Mass. Point out that we do those in unison too.

Activity 2:**Jesus Says:**

Every day, there are things you know Jesus wants you to do such as show kindness to others, obey your parents, tell others about Jesus, etc. There are also things you know Jesus doesn't want you to do, hitting, being selfish, taking something that isn't yours, etc. Sometimes it's hard to do what Jesus wants you to do, talk to him about it. Ask for his strength and the desire to do the right thing and then go ahead and do it.

The more we listen to Jesus our good choices become a habit and it's easier to follow Jesus.

Play the game "Simon Says" use "Jesus Says"....say a prayer (hands folded together), read a bible story (hands open palms up, looking at your palms), go to church (march in place), kneel down....etc.

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 wants us to share with others?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who teaches us that sharing is most important of all?

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

Sending Forth

Say: This week remember to let someone in front of you in line or at a play table. This is one way to show others we love and care about them.

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.