

Focus: Jesus asks us to be food for others

Materials:

- Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest’s vestment) and Altar Cloth
- CD-Cedarmont Kids-Sunday School Songs
- Bible: The Children’s Everyday Bible
- Book: The Boy Who Gave His Lunch Away
- ‘Set the Altar’ Kit

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about the Holy Trinity. We said that God was three persons in one, God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. [Say the Sign of the Cross with them and say that important prayer we say all the time is a prayer to the Holy Trinity. Today we will hear about the miracle that Jesus did to feed others and how Jesus feeds us today.

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.

Jesus you are the living bread that came down from heaven. You said that whoever eats this bread will live forever. May we live with you forever. We ask this through you, Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song/Movement

Alive, Alive, track: 4, from Cedarmont Kids Sunday School Songs

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.

Alive, alive, alive forevermore
 My Jesus is alive.
 Alive forevermore
 Alive, alive, alive forevermore
 My Jesus is alive.

Alive, alive, alive forevermore
 My Jesus is alive.
 Alive forevermore
 Alive, alive, alive forevermore
 My Jesus is alive.

Sing alleluia, sing alleluia
 My Jesus is alive forevermore
 Sing alleluia, sing alleluia
 My Jesus is alive.

Sing alleluia, sing alleluia
 My Jesus is alive forevermore
 Sing alleluia, sing alleluia
 My Jesus is alive.
 My Jesus is alive.

Memory Verse

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

You can feed them here.

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

Say: *After a long day of teaching thousands of people. The disciples tell Jesus to let the people go and find food in the surrounding villages. Jesus tells the disciples to feed them where they are, but the disciples say they have no food. In the Gospel story today Jesus shows his disciples that if they trust in God's gifts to them. They will have enough to feed everyone.*

Gospel Story

Say: *Today we are reading from the Gospel of Luke.*

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. 259, *Jesus Feeds the Crowd*

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *Why are the crowds following Jesus?*
- *What are the disciples worried about at the end of the day?*
- *How much food do they start out with?*
- *What does Jesus do before the people are fed?*
- *Do they have enough to feed all the people?*

Reflection on Reading:

Jesus can do things that are impossible for ordinary people. But nothing is impossible for God.

We hear about people from all over the world that don't have enough food. Sometimes I wonder why God doesn't give us food for everyone. I think it is because God has given us all that we need to feed the world. It is up to us to share God's gifts so that everyone has enough. The people ate until they were full. Then they gathered the leftovers so nothing was wasted. We need to learn from them how to share and not to waste God's blessings.

God has given each of us gifts to build God's kingdom and make the world a place of love and peace. We should always use our gifts for the goodness of God.

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

Sharing a meal

Discuss with the children the many times we celebrate our unity by sharing a special meal: Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, Birthdays and so forth. Are there other times? Ask the children what their family eats on these special occasions. Help them see that certain foods have become symbols of what we are celebrating. Just as we use the Bread and Wine that becomes the Body and Blood of Jesus to celebrate that Jesus is with us and gives us the Holy Spirit to be able to share life forever with God.

Let's read a little more about the story we heard in today's Gospel. It is about a special meal that is started with a prayer.

Read: The Boy Who Gave His Lunch Away.

The little boy trusted that Jesus would make sure that the little boy was fed. He knew that even if he gave everything he had, God would make sure he had what he needed from the hands of Jesus. Jesus taught us to share our gifts with each other so that everyone has enough.

Jesus didn't want to be crowned as King the way that the people meant. He was their leader and teacher, he would show them how to help the poor.

This story is a miracle that Jesus performed so that all people are invited to God's Kingdom and God provides for the needs of all. Even when we feel like we don't have what we want, God makes sure we have what we need.

Activity 2:

Take the Cup of Jesus.

Set up the Altar as we do in Mass (picture in box). Tell the children that every time we come to Mass we set the table of the Lord so that we can share a meal. A meal they will share in when they get a little older.

Use the chalice in the "Set the Altar" materials.

To take up the cup of Jesus is to continue his mission, no matter the cost. By using our gifts to help others we are the Body of Christ in this world. We do what Jesus can't because he is not here any longer. We take care of the sick and the poor and the hungry just like Jesus did. This mission is the salvation of all people (everyone having the chance to live with God in heaven).

Sit with the children in a circle. Hold the chalice in your hands, and tell something you can do to bring others to Jesus and the salvation he offers. Then pass the chalice around the circle, giving everyone a chance to tell what he or she can do to spread the Good News and the love of Jesus. Finish your circle time with this or another prayer, inviting the children to repeat each line after you:

Dear Jesus,

One day, we'll celebrate our First Holy Communion, help us get ready for that day by teaching us to share your love with others today. Amen.

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 is the source of all life?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who is the Son of God and is the food and drink of eternal life?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who keeps the Body of Christ alive in the people of God everywhere?

Sending Forth

Say: When we go back to church take a quiet moment to say a prayer of thanks to God for the gifts he has given you.

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play “*Whisper a Prayer*” track 6 from Cedarmont Kids Sunday School Songs 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.