

Focus: Jesus is the King of Love and Truth

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
CD-Bible Songs for Kids Vol 3
Bible: The Bible for Children
Crown and stickers-one crown for each Mass.
Book: Why is There a Cross?

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about What is important to God. This week we are going to talk about the type of King Jesus is.*

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 ruler of all. Thank you for your kindness and love.

In your name we pray.

Amen.

Song/Movement

ke, track: 3, from Bible Songs for Kids Vol 3

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. Have children sit on their carpet squares when finished.

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty, there's nothing my God cannot do.

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty, there's nothing my God cannot do.

The mountains are his, the rivers are his, the stars are His handiwork, too.

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty, there's nothing my God cannot do, for you!

(Repeat all verses)

Memory Verse

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

Lord remember me when you come into your kingdom.

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

Say: *We are followers of Jesus. Jesus promised that when he went to heaven to live with God the Father he would keep a special place for us. We believe in Jesus and when we live in faith and love and hope in Him, we will live with him forever.*

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: The Bible for Children, pp. 291 (There was silence) -- 292 (in paradise.), *The Crucifixion*

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

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

Discussion Starters:

What do the soldiers say to Jesus while he hangs on the cross?

Where is Jesus’ kingdom?

Who asks Jesus if he can come into his kingdom?

How does Jesus answer the criminal?

Reflection on Reading:

On this last Sunday of the liturgical year, the Church celebrates the feast of Christ the King. In today’s feast we recognize and honor Jesus as ruler of all.

Today’s gospel will not allow us to confuse the kingship and power of Jesus with earthly power and status. Some kings on earth may abuse their power. They can hurt people and treat others with disrespect. Jesus showed us he was a king with a different kind of power. He healed people and took care of those who had nothing. By the power of his love, Jesus is shown to be a king who is willing to save all people.

In today’s passage while Jesus is on the cross, the leaders and soldiers make fun of him and wonder what kind of king he is. A criminal, who is beside Jesus, asks to be taken into Jesus’ kingdom. This gospel story helps us to see Jesus as the king who cannot be defeated by the world, or by sin, or by death. His kingship brings us life everlasting with God in heaven.

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

Crown of Love—

Show the crown to the children. Tell them that we are going to be decorating Jesus’ crown.

Allow each child to tell something good they did last week or will do this week to show they love others and then give them a sticker to add to the crown.

After everyone has a chance to add a sticker, place the crown on the prayer table and gather all the children around the prayer table.

Have them say and do the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Have them hold hands as you pray:

Jesus we ask you to help us become more and more loving. You have shown us the love of the Father and we gather together to ask for the strength of the Holy Spirit to guide us in love and courage to be good followers of you. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Activity 2:

Read the book "Why is There a Cross?"

Replace the word 'Easter' on page 42, 'Jesus'

Talk to them about the blessings they have because they are followers of Jesus. Family, friends, a place to live and sleep, food to eat, 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 sent Jesus to establish God's Kingdom of love and truth?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who is the Christ, King of heaven and earth?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives us the strength to give our lives to God as Jesus did?

Sending Forth

Say: Jesus invited the criminal into his kingdom; remember to welcome someone into your life this week and show them kindness.

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "*What a friend we have in Jesus...*" track 30 from Bible Songs for Kids-Vol 3 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.