

Focus: Listening to Jesus

Materials:

- Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
- CD-Toddlers 20 Favorite Bible Songs
- Bible: Children's Everyday Bible
- Mirror and Flashlight
- T-shirts for actors

Gathering (have children sit on the floor-“Criss-Cross Applesauce”)

Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about making the right choice the way Jesus did. Today, our story tells us that it is important to listen to Jesus as he teaches us about the life that God wants for us.

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.

Loving God, you prepared Peter, James and John for all that would happen later by giving them a peak at your Son's dazzling glory. Help us to know Jesus too, and to prepare our hearts for the dazzling glory of Easter. Amen.

Song/Movement

Just Praise the Lord (To the tune of the People on the Bus), track: 7, from Toddler 20 Favorite Bible 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.)

The people on the bus say Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord.
The people on the bus say Praise the Lord, all through the town.

The driver on the bus says Go to church, Go to church, Go to church.
The driver on the bus says Go to church, all through the town.

The mommy on the bus says God loves you, God loves you, God loves you.
The mommy on the bus says God loves you, all through the town.

The daddy on the bus says Pray every day, Pray every day, Pray every day.
The daddy on the bus says Pray every day, all through the town.

The baby on the bus says Wah-wah-wah, Wah-wah-wah, Wah-wah-wah.
The baby on the bus says Wah-wah-wah, all through the town.

The people on the bus say Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord.
The people on the bus say Praise the Lord, all through the town.

Memory Verse

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

This is my Son, listen to him.

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

Say: *When God says this in today's Gospel he makes sure that the disciples know that Jesus is the one they must listen to. They hear many different teachings from the religious leaders in the area, but Jesus is the one with God's true message.*

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 Children's Everyday Bible, pp 262, Jesus is Transfigured

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *Where did Jesus go with his friends?*
- *What were they going to do there?*
- *What happened to Jesus?*
- *Who was the voice that said: "This is my son."?*
- *Why do we listen to Jesus?*

Reflection on Reading:

Jesus had taken his friends up on the mountain to pray. Jesus prayed to his Father (God-Our Father) all the time. This time God sent Moses and Elijah to Jesus. They had lived a long time before Jesus and they worked for God and helped spread God's word to the people of Israel. They trusted God and did all that God asked of them.

The Gospel tells us that Jesus' looked different and that his clothes became dazzling like the sun. Although Jesus was human, he was also from God and the glory of God was in him. God the Father gave the disciples a great gift in letting them see his glory in Jesus. There were many times that God let the disciples know that Jesus was important and not just human he was also divine (God).

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

Have you ever sat outside on a bright sunny day and used a mirror to reflect the sun’s light? If one of you will take this flashlight and shine it on me I will show you what I mean. You see, as the light shines on me, I hold up my mirror and I can reflect the light to shine on you. I am not the light; I am just letting my mirror reflect the light to shine on you.

If I am going to reflect the light on you, there are a couple of things that are very important:

- I must keep my mirror facing toward the light(keeping our eyes on Jesus). If I turn away from the light (stop listening to Jesus), I cannot reflect the light.
- I must make sure that nothing comes between the light and me. If that happens, I cannot reflect the light.

In today’s gospel story Jesus looked different and his clothes became dazzling, sparkling, bright like the sun. Jesus is the light. He isn’t from the dark, he is from God. He shows us how to be the light in the world so that we can bring God’s peace to others.

The Bible says that we are to let our light shine, but we need to remember that "Our Light" is Jesus. We are not the light, we are just mirrors that reflect His light.

If we are going to reflect the light of Jesus, we must remember a couple of things:

- We must keep our faces turned toward Jesus.
- We must not let anything come between us and Jesus.

(If time allows, have each child hold the mirror while you shine the light on them. Then have them share how they can show Jesus’ light in the world.)

When we remember those two things, we will reflect His light to the entire world.

Dear Jesus, we want to reflect your light in the world. Help us to keep our faces turned toward you and help us to keep anything from coming between us and you. Amen.

Activity 2:

Act it Out: Read the Gospel story again. While you are reading the children can take part in a small skit:

- Pick three children, Jesus, Elijah & Moses.
- Have Jesus stand in front of the class.
- The two others are off to the side getting black robes put on by the helper.
- Action as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| When you read this: | Have children do this |
| His clothes were dazzling | Drop the white costume over Jesus |
| Talking to Moses and Elijah | The other 2 come to front |
| A cloud came down and covered them all. | Have all the other children cower as if they are afraid and close their eyes.** |
| The disciples knew that God had spoken to them. | the 2 others should go back to helper to remove robes |
| and they walked back down | Have Jesus walk off |

**practice this part with the whole group before you start reading.

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 tell us of his glory?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who is the Son of God and shows us the glory of God?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who can change our lives so that we can reflect the light of Jesus?

Sending Forth

Say: Jesus teaches us to pray to God for help and strength to do God's work, being kind, loving others, using nice words always. When you go back to church remember to say a prayer to God, thanking him for sending Jesus to us.

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "*The Lord is My Shepherd*" track 5 from Toddler 20 Favorite 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.