

Focus: Trust in God's Way

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
CD-Toddlers 20 Favorite Bible Songs
Bible: The Bible for Children
Bible Cut Out

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

Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about Jesus telling us we should take care of others and share what we have with them. This week the Gospel story shows us that Jesus had a hard time telling others about God. Jesus knows how hard it is to follow God's way.

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.

Good and loving God, thank you for all the prophets in the world who stand up for what is good and right. Help us to be caring and kind. In the name of Jesus we pray.

Amen.

Song/Movement

Isn't He Wonderful?, track: 9, 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.)

Isn't He wonderful, wonderful,
wonderful!
Isn't Jesus my Lord wonderful!
Eyes have seen, ears have heard

It's recorded in God's Word
Isn't Jesus my Lord wonderful!

Repeat all

Memory Verse

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

No prophet of God is accepted in his own land.

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

Say: God sent prophets to tell the people of Israel about His ways. The people did not always want to hear what the prophets told them. The things the prophets said God wants us to do wasn't easy. God wanted them to love others, even those who were different from them. The prophets would go to strange lands and the people there would listen to them and God's ways. This is what happened to Jesus. Jesus neighbors saw him grow up and expected him to do ordinary things. Jesus' neighbors couldn't see that he had a new job, a new ministry. They wanted the old Jesus back, because it was easier. But Jesus trusted God and told the people what God wanted and he left the safety of his neighborhood and went and taught in foreign lands.

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. 230-231, *Start reading bottom of 1st column. "Then Jesus said, 'Today this....'"*

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *What do the people say about Jesus?*
- *What does Jesus try to tell the people?*
- *Do the people believe Jesus?*
- *Why do the people want Jesus to leave town?*
- *What does Jesus do?*
- *When do you stand up for what is good and right?*
- *Is it sometimes difficult to stand up for what you think is right?*
- *Who are the people that you know at home, at school and in the world that stand up for what is good and right?*

Reflection on Reading:

In today's Gospel Jesus tries to tell the people that he was sent by God. The people listen to Jesus but they are unable to believe what he has to say. Jesus is rejected in his hometown. Jesus' neighbors expected him to do ordinary things and he had done miraculous things in nearby towns. They wanted Jesus to perform miracles for them. They did not understand that Jesus could perform those miracles because the people in those other towns believed in Jesus and what he said. His neighbors didn't believe that Jesus was from God. They said that if he proved it by doing the miracles then they would believe. Jesus' healing didn't work like that. It was the people's trust in God that God would take care of them that allowed Jesus to heal.

This Gospel story tells us that sometimes it is difficult to do what is right. Jesus spoke the truth even when the people did not accept what he had to say. Jesus was brave and he went on his way continuing to do God's work.

As children of God and followers of Christ we are called to do what is right even when it is difficult. Because of our baptism God wants us to follow him, even when it is hard and we can trust God to give us strength.

Gospel ActivityActivity 1:Musical Prophets

Prophets are people that told others about God. We learn about God by hearing stories in the bible.

Have the kids sit in a circle. Pass the bible picture while you play music. When the music ends whoever has the bible has to stand and proclaim, in a strong, clear voice, something they know about God. (God loves everyone. God loves me. God is in heaven. Etc.) Then they sit in the middle of the circle and become the audience of the prophets. Encourage them to applaud and cheer when the prophet is finished.

Continue as time permits.

OR

Echo Proclaiming

Prophets listen to God and tell everyone what they hear.

Brainstorm some of the things the children know about God. Cup your hands around your mouth and proclaim something you know about God. Then invite the children to cup their hands around their mouths and echo it back to you.

Example phrases: God's love is patient, God's love is kind, God's love never fails, God is our hope, God is our safety, God is our strength, God is fair and forgiving.

Activity 2:

Jesus Can:

- Ask questions such as
- WHO CAN heal the sick?
- WHO CAN take care of us?
- WHO CAN teach us about God?
- WHO CAN teach us to take care of others?
- WHO CAN provide all that you need?
- WHO CAN help us know God's love?

After every question, the children can shout... Jesus CAN.

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 loves us first?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who saw and spoke the truth even though it was difficult?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives us strength to stand up for what is right and follow God's way?

Sending Forth

Say: Remember one of the things we talked about today and share it with your family when you get home or use the bulletin hand out to share the gospel story with your family.

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "*Father, We Thank Thee*" track 13 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.