

Focus: Jesus Blesses Us

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
- Book: I can be happy because God Blesses Me

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about how Jesus' followers spread the message of Jesus and God's love. This week we will hear Jesus tell us what special blessings are waiting for those who love God.*

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, help us to learn more about your Son Jesus so that we can tell others the good news of your love. 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.*

Jesus' words gave hope.

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

Say: *In the time of Jesus, many of the church leaders told of an angry God. A God who only loved the rich and the powerful and didn't really care about the poor and powerless. Jesus came to tell us that was not God at all. God cared for all, especially the poor and powerless. Those that are hurting can trust in God's great love and caring. He will never leave those who trust in him.*

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. 246-247, Jesus’ Words About Happiness

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *Where was Jesus?*
- *Who was listening to him?*
- *What did Jesus teach the crowd?*
- *Is there one that you remember?*

Reflection on Reading:

In today’s Gospel it says that the words that Jesus spoke are called the Beatitudes or blessings. The Beatitudes can also be said as Happy. Not just happy like when you get just what you want for your birthday, but an inside happiness that you feel in your heart. That feeling you get when you help someone or give your toys to those that don’t have any. That’s feeling blessed. That’s joy. This is what God wants us to feel in our hearts all the time.

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

Beatitudes

Read the book: I can be happy because God Blesses Me.

Discussion starters:

- What makes you happy?
- Is it a happiness that lasts and lasts or just a little while?
- What kind of happiness lasts and lasts?
- How do you see God’s love around you?

Activity 2:

Praying the Beatitudes

Say the following prayer with the children. After you read each petition, have them say: "Amen".

- *Lord, help me remember my need for God, so I can receive the kingdom of heaven.*
- *Lord, when I am sad, help me find healing and comfort.*
- *Lord, make me gentle, so that I may inherit the earth.*
- *Lord, help me to hunger and thirst for righteousness, so I may be satisfied*
- *Lord, help me want to do good things, so I may understand when God answers my prayers.*
- *Lord, help me to be kind and forgiving to others, so I may know God forgiveness in my heart.*
- *Lord, help me to be pure and truthful in my heart, so I will know God.*
- *Lord, help me to work for peace, so I will know I am a child of God.*
- *Lord, help me to work hard to spread God's Kingdom, so I will live forever with God.*

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 blesses us because we are his children?*
Do you believe in Jesus, who teaches us about blessings from God?
Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us remember God's blessings?

Sending Forth

Say: *This week we can remember our blessings and spread some happiness to others.*

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.