

Focus: Trust in the power of God to help us help others.

Materials:

- Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest’s vestment) and Altar Cloth
- CD-Cedarment Kids
- Bible: In the lesson plan
- Blindfold, book, cross

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about how Jesus is food for us and that we are to be food, which means loving and caring, for others.*

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.

Dear God, Let our eyes see what others need. Let our ears hear what others tell us they need. Send us the wisdom to see and hear what others need and help them. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Song/Movement

Alive, Alive, track: 4, from Cedarment 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.	My Jesus is alive forevermore Sing alleluia, sing alleluia 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. My Jesus is alive.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia		

Memory Verse

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

God has visited his people.

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

Say: *In today's Gospel we will hear a story of the people in a village who meet Jesus and he does something that shows them that God is with his people. Sometimes it is hard to remember that God is with us always. Back then, Jesus was with his people and it was easy to see him. Today we have the Holy Spirit with us to help us be closer to God and know what is right and wrong. But we can't see the Holy Spirit. When we pray we can come to know that God is with us through the Holy Spirit.*

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: None, pp. N/A,

Jesus was entering a city.

[Walk in place]

He saw people carrying the body of a young man for burial.

[Point to your eyes then draw them outward toward the distance.]

The widowed mother of the young man was crying.

[With fingertips, trace fingers down your cheeks.]

Jesus felt very sorry for her.

[Place one hand over your heart, using the other to trace a tear down your cheek.]

Jesus said to her:

[Chatty hand, thumb against fingers.]

“Don’t cry.”

[Shake your head ‘no’ while tracing a tear down your cheek.]

Jesus touched the young mans coffin.

[Hold up hand in ‘stop’ gesture.]

Those who were carrying it stood still.

[Stand straight, hands at side.]

Jesus said:

[Chatty hand]

“Young man. I tell you, get up.”

[Raise both hands upward, palms up, in a sweeping motion.]

The man sat up and started talking.

[Chatty hand.]

Jesus brought him to his mother.

[Arms outstretched in giving gesture.]

The people became afraid.

[Frightened look, biting nails.]

Yet, they praised God.

[Hands uplifted to God.]

They said:

[Chatty hand.]

“God has visited his people.”

[Head bowed down. Hands together in gesture of prayer.]

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *Why was Jesus sorry for the widow?*
- *Why do you think he told her not to weep?*
- *What did he do for her?*
- *In what ways do we help others?*
- *Who has helped you when you needed help?*
- *Is it easier to help or to be helped?*

Reflection on Reading:

God is the only one who can restore life to someone who has died. Jesus is God. Like we said a couple of weeks ago, Jesus is the Son. He is the second person of the Holy Trinity. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit.

The people were afraid because they had never seen someone rise from the dead. They were afraid, but they knew that something had happened to show them that God was there with them. And God was there—in the person of Jesus. The miracle could only come from God’s goodness. There is nothing to fear in the love and goodness of God.

Jesus felt sorry for her pain. Jesus knew that she was now alone in the world. Her husband had died some time before, now her only child was gone too. Jesus help her because of his great love.

(Optional-if one of the children brings it up) Sometimes we wonder why Jesus doesn’t bring everyone back from the dead. We believe he will—in his time, in God’s time. We have to be patient and trust God’s way. God’s plan is to save everyone, and we have hope in his plan and his power.

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

Trust Game:

Blindfold, book, cross.

Explain that the blindfolded player will use clues from the other children to find the object you name.

One player is seated on the floor in front of the leader and blindfolded. The other players sit facing him or her. Place each object, just out of reach of the blindfolded player. The helpers should hum if the player scoots for the wrong object and clap if the player scoots to the correct object.

In order to retrieve the correct object, the blindfolded player must trust the other children to give the right clues. Explain that Jesus' teaching and his example are worthy of our trust because Jesus loves us and wants only the best for us. If we follow Jesus' direction, we'll find God's kingdom one day.

Activity 2:

Jesus Says:

This game is played like Simons Says, but instead of saying "Simon Says", you say "Jesus says"

Pick a few actions ahead of time when you won't say – Jesus Says.

The gospels tell us what we should do to be like Jesus. We should pray, listen to and learn from the stories of Jesus, love and serve God and each other. Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone in the world were the best sheep (followers) of Jesus they can be.

Let's practice what Jesus has taught us to do.

Sample Actions-. No one is out, everyone gets another chance:

Hug your neighbor	Clap your hands
Close your hands in prayer	Jump one time
Go to Church-(March in place)	Shake hands with your neighbor
Say peace be with you to your neighbor	Praise God-Raise your hands up high
Say Alleluia	Listen to Jesus (cup hand around ear)

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 reigns over the living and the dead?*
Do you believe in Jesus, who shows us the way to everlasting life?
Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who guides us on the way to Jesus?

Sending Forth

Say: *Remember to follow Jesus. Jesus tells us to love one another. If we choose to not act in love we are walking away from Jesus. We can choose to act in love every day.*

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "Whisper a Prayer" track 6 from Cedarhurst 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.