

Focus: God's love and forgiveness

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
CD-Cedarmont Kids
Bible: The Bible for Children
100 Bible Stories/100 Bible Songs
Book: No Matter What, Debi Gliori

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about trusting God to help us help others. Today we are going to hear how much God loves us and wants us to love and forgive 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.

Loving God, You forgive our every sin. Help us to treat others with kindness.

Give us courage to forgive others and ask them to forgive us. Help us bring peace into our lives and the lives of others. We ask this in Jesus' name, the Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Song/Movement

Alive, Alive, track: 4, from Cedarmont 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.

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.

Sing alleluia, sing alleluia
My Jesus is alive forevermore
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia
My Jesus is alive.
My Jesus is alive.

Memory Verse

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

She has been forgiven many times, so she loves much more.

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

Say: *When we forgive others we are showing that we love them. The more we forgive the more we love. When God forgives us for making the wrong choice, we feel his love and it helps us to love others.*

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. 254-255, *A Gift of Perfume*

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *Why was the woman weeping and crying?*
- *Why did Simon think that she should not be near Jesus?*
- *What did she pour on Jesus’ feet? (Using the oil showed that she thought he was holy)*
- *Do you think Simon welcomed Jesus into his home? (Did he have a servant wash his feet? Did he anoint him with oil?)*
- *Why did Jesus forgive the woman’s sins?*
- *What happens when we ask God’s forgiveness?*

Reflection on Reading:

Jesus attended dinner as a guest in a church official’s house. While they ate, a woman, whose sinfulness was well known in the community, came into the house. She wept and washed Jesus’ feet with her tears. She dried them with her hair and then poured expensive oil on his feet. The Pharisee complained about such extravagance. Just the presence of the sinful woman in his home embarrassed him.

Simon thought that Jesus shouldn’t love the woman, because she did many bad things. God isn’t like that. God’s love is a gift to each one or us. God’s love isn’t a payment because we did the right thing. God gives his love freely. God loves us so much that when we do something wrong he reaches out and forgives us and helps us to make things right again.

Jesus knew that the woman had great sins in her life. He knew that the church leader hadn’t sinned nearly as much. Jesus said the woman would be more thankful, because more sins had been forgiven. Jesus said it was the same for the person who had the greatest sins forgiven.

Gospel ActivityActivity 1:**God's Grace**

God is always willing to forgive us. He loves us and sent Jesus to take on our sins so we could have clean hearts for God. God gifts us with his Grace when he forgives us. Even though we make wrong choices, our hearts can be cleaned and filled with God's grace so we can love and forgive others.

Read and play 100 Bible Stories/100 Bible Songs. Page 194-195, God's Grace. Disc 2 Track 45

In today's Gospel story, Simon the Pharisee didn't think Jesus should be letting her do that. But Jesus not only let her do it, he told her that her sins—all the bad things we do in our life—were forgiven. She was able to leave with a happy and peaceful heart. There are so many lessons to be learned from this story, but let's look at just two. One, the woman did something wrong and wanted to make it right. This is what Jesus wants us to do. If we do something wrong, what could we do to make it right? What are some things we could do to make it better? (ask that person for forgiveness, ask God for forgiveness, tell that person you're sorry, fix what you broke, do whatever you forgot to do, etc).

The other thing we need to get from this story is how Jesus reacted. Did Jesus throw the woman out? Did he say—you did something wrong, leave me alone? What did Jesus do? He let her stay, he let her ask for forgiveness, and then he forgave her. It's important for us to do the same.

Activity 2:**God Loves us Always.**

Read the story No Matter What, Debi Gliori.

Explain that just as 'Large' loved 'Small' no matter what. God loves us no matter what.

Let's pray: Heavenly God, when we make a mistake, help us to ask for forgiveness and try to make it right so that our hearts can be filled with your grace. Help us also to forgive people that hurt us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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 always forgives?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who shows us how to forgive others?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us forgive as God forgives?

Sending Forth

Say: Remember to forgive others who say they are sorry and remember to say you are sorry when you do something that hurts another person.

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "*Whisper a Prayer*" track 6 from Cedarmont 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