

**Focus:** Jesus is the Messiah-The Holy One from God.

**Materials:**

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth  
CD-Cedarmont Kids  
Bible: Children's Everyday Bible  
Book: At the Name of Jesus-Michael O'Neill McGrath  
Mirror and flashlight

**Gathering** (children find/sit on a carpet square)

*Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. Last week we talked about how much God loves us and how much we can love others because of his love. This week's Gospel tells us the story of who Jesus was to the disciples.*

**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.*

*Lord, your cross is a sign of your love for us. Give us a new heart so that we may better follow you.*

*We pray in Jesus' name. 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.*

*You are the Messiah.*

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

Say: *In the time of Jesus, many people were waiting for the Messiah to come and save them from those that ruled over them, the Romans. The Romans, were not kind to the Hebrew people and made them pay a great deal of money to build temples to their Emperor and their gods, that were not the God of the Hebrew people. Jesus was the one that was sent by God to save them, but he was not a warrior like they expected. The disciples spent a lot of time with Jesus and came to understand that he was from heaven and that he was the one to follow to be closer to God.*

### 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: Children's Everyday Bible, pp. 261, *Peter's Declaration*

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

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

### Discussion Starters:

- *What is Jesus doing with the disciples when the story begins?*
- *What does Jesus ask his disciples?*
- *What do the disciples answer?*
- *How does Peter answer Jesus?*
- *What does it mean to you that Jesus was sent to us by God?*

### Reflection on Reading:

*Place the candle by the cross and "light" it. Say: "Jesus, you are the light of the World." Today we are going to reflect on the light of Jesus. Please focus your attention on the cross or candle while we take some time to think about the love of God.*

*Imagine you are praying with Jesus. What is it like to be with Jesus in the silence?*

*Jesus asks each one of us to be his follower. (Pause)*

*Jesus asks us, "Who do you say I am?" spend a minute or two thinking about who you think Jesus is. Is he your friend, your brother, your teacher or maybe your guide? (Pause)*

*How do you want to follow Jesus? (Pause)*

*Once we know who Jesus is, we want to be more like him. How do you want to be more like Jesus? What did Jesus do that you would like to do?*

*Jesus prayed with his disciples, we can pray to Jesus and ask for his help. The Good News is that we are not alone. Jesus wants to share the journey with us.*

*We also have a community of believers to help us grow in love. We feed the poor, care for the sick and pray together. How can you help others in our community of faith, or your family faith community?*

*Lead the children in a slow, prayerful Sign of the Cross as a closing.*

## **Gospel Activity**

### Activity 1:

#### **Names of Jesus**

Jesus asked the disciples what names people called him. Then he asked what name the disciples would give him and Peter said: "You are the Messiah—the one sent by God!" This is just one of the names that people call Jesus. Christ is another. Christos is the Greek word for Messiah – which is a Hebrew word. We have other names for Jesus.

Use the book—*At the Name of Jesus*—by Michael O’Neill McGrath to show the pictures for Light of the World, The Good Shepherd and Prince of Peace.

Light of the World: When Jesus was born a star appeared over him. The wise men followed the star to him. Jesus brings light and happiness to us. We are to bring the light to others in all the lands. Just as the wise men brought Jesus’ peace back to their lands.

A reading from the Gospel of John:

"The life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

Show the picture to the children-ask them "How does this picture show Jesus is the light of the world?" Jesus’ portrait is brighter than the others.

Good Shepherd: A shepherd makes sure that his sheep are safe. He guards them night and day to make sure that they are not hurt by predators. Jesus is our shepherd. He guards us and keeps us safe throughout our day. If we make choices that Jesus wants us to, we will be happy and safe.

A reading from the book of Psalms:

"The Lord is My Shepherd I shall not want for anything. He leads me to still waters to rest."

Show the picture to the children-ask them: "How does this picture show us this name—the Good Shepherd—for Jesus?" example: Jesus is holding a lamb

Prince of Peace: Jesus wants the world to be a peaceful place. A place where everyone gets along and there is no fighting. If everyone got along we would all be friends and not enemies. Jesus brings us peace and we are to share his peace with others.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah:

"They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord."

Show the picture to the children-ask them: "How does this picture show us a world full of peace?" –example; All the animals get along.

### Activity 2:

#### The Light of Jesus

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.

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.*

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 show us the way to him?*

*Do you believe in Jesus, who died for our sins because he loves us so much?*

*Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives us the courage to take care of others and bring peace and light into the world?*

### **Sending Forth**

Say: *Remember to spread Jesus' light this week by sharing peace with others. Make a new friend, say you are sorry if you do something wrong.*

### **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.