

Focus: God has a plan

Materials:

- Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest’s vestment) and Altar Cloth
- CD-Cedarmont Kids
- Bible: Children’s Everyday Bible
- Treasure Box and flash cards
- Book: Barney Wigglesworth and the Church Flood

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about Jesus, the Messiah, the Holy One sent by God to teach us about the Kingdom of God. This week Jesus tells us that we should trust God’s plan for us.

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, thank you for all the people who love us and show us how to build our treasure in heaven. Help us to live as your children. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.

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.

Look forward to serve God.

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

Say: *Jesus tells us to look forward so that we learn to trust God to provide what we need. Sometimes we might be asked to do something that isn't easy. What if you were planning to have a friend over to play with the new toy or game you just got for your birthday and then at the last minute, right before your friend comes, the toy is broken. You don't have time to get another one, you have to think of something to do with your friend that is getting out of the car in your driveway. You can't sit around and cry and be sad about the toy that broke. You have to forget about that new special toy and come up with something else to do so your friend has a good time. This is what Jesus is saying. We can't be tied to our plans, because they don't always work out. God has a plan in mind and he will guide us along the way.*

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. 265, *Following Jesus*

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *Where does Jesus want to go?*
- *What happens on the way to Jerusalem?*
- *Who takes the journey with Jesus?*
- *What does Jesus tell his disciples?*

Reflection on Reading:

Some things are more important than others. Helping someone who is hurt is more important than a game. Going to Mass is more important than sleeping late. The important things aren't always the thing we feel like doing. We need to clean our rooms and eat our vegetables, even though we would rather be playing or eating dessert.

We can tell what is important because God tells us so. God tells us that the most important things are loving him and loving others. When we remember this it is easier to make choices. We know that vegetables keep our bodies healthy and God made our bodies and wants us to keep them healthy, so eating vegetables shows our love for God.

Obedying our parents shows our love for them and our love for God. Eating dessert and watching TV may be fun, but they aren't anywhere near important as showing love for God and other people.

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

Real Treasure

Jesus tells us that our real treasure is in heaven. That following Jesus is the way to the treasure.

Show kids flash cards and ask if what they see is real treasure or not. Explain as necessary the big idea here...money and things are not treasure...

Activity 2:

Read the book Barney Wigglesworth and the Church Flood.

Why was Barney upset?

What was hard for him to give up?

What did he learn in the end?

*Loving God, help me to see when I am being selfish and when I should help others feel loved.
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 calls us to build the kingdom of love and compassion?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who shows us the way to serve God and not look back?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives us the wisdom to know God's will and the courage to do God's will?

Sending Forth

Say: *This week we can practice being prophets and telling others about God in different places.*

Sometimes you might see someone in the grocery store or at dance class. Tell them Jesus loves them!

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.