

Focus: Time to listen to Jesus.

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
CD-Bible Songs for Kids Vol. 1
Bible: The Beginner's Bible
CD-Bible Songs for Kids Vol. 3 (for activity 1)
Book: When God Speaks

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about who Jesus told us is our neighbor. Sometimes it's hard to think of people who are different from us as our neighbor, but they are. Today we will here a story about two sisters who are very different, but Jesus loves them both the same.

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

O God, Your love is all around us. Thank you for showing your love for us through words and actions. In the name of your son, Jesus Christ, we pray.

Amen.

Song/Movement

Happy All the Time, track: 3, from Bible Songs for Kids Vol 1

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. Have children sit on their carpet squares when finished.

Movement cues in brackets [].

I'm inright [point in], outright [point out],
upright [point up], downright [point
down]
Happy all the time [clap with each word]
I'm inright [point in], outright [point out],
upright [point up], downright [point
down]
Happy all the time [clap with each word]

Since Jesus Christ came in
And cleansed my heart from sin...
I'm inright [point in], outright [point out],
upright [point up], downright [point
down]
Happy all the time [clap with each word]

(Repeat all three times, getting faster and faster each time, then sing the 2nd verse a fourth time to close)

Memory Verse

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

There is a time for every delight under heaven.

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

Say: *NOTE: This verse is not in the reading, but from Ecclesiastes 3. It sets the tone for the learning a little better than what is written in the children's Bible.*

This verse tells us that every event in our lives has a time to happen. Sometimes we celebrate, sometimes we learn in school or here in Little Liturgy, sometimes we eat, sometimes we sleep. Everything has its time to happen.

Today's gospel story tells us that sometimes it is important to serve others, but it is most important that we listen to God's Word so that we can know him better and know what we can do to show our love for 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 Beginner's Bible, pp. 400-405, *Listening*

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *How does Mary welcome Jesus?*
- *What is Martha busy doing?*
- *Why is Martha busy cleaning and cooking? –her way to welcome Jesus.*
- *Who takes the time to listen to Jesus?*
- *Why does Martha get upset with Mary?*
- *What does Jesus tell Martha and Mary?*
- *How can you help people feel welcome at your school?*
- *How can you help people feel welcome in your home?*
- *How can you welcome God?*
- *How can you listen to God?*

Reflection on Reading:

In today’s Gospel Jesus visits Martha and Mary. Martha and Mary try to help Jesus feel welcome. Martha welcomes Jesus by serving and Mary welcomes Jesus by listening. Jesus tells Martha and Mary that listening is more important.

The Gospel reading today shows that by listening to the Word of God we follow Jesus’ commandment to love God and neighbor. The story of Martha and Mary teaches us that when we listen to Jesus we welcome him. And when we welcome Jesus into our lives we live as God’s children.

God loves each one of us very much. God shows that love for us through words and actions. We look and listen for God’s message of love in the world around us.

The Word of God helps us to know God’s love for us. In the scriptures God’s Word is alive. When we listen to God’s Word in Scripture we find out how to live as God’s children.

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

Listen to Jesus.

Using the song “I Am So Glad That Jesus Loves Me”, the children will practice listening to Jesus.

Play the song and each time they hear the word Jesus they will perform an action-clap once, hop once and hug themselves, one for each verse, show the appropriate actions before you start the song. Prompt between verses to change to the next action. You can let them stay on “hug” for repeat of verse at end or let them choose one to do themselves. No one is out if they don’t hear Jesus’ name, but let them know they have to listen carefully for the next time it is said so they can practice listening to Jesus. The song has a slow tempo so that they will have time to “catch on” and perform the action with the others.

Start CD:

Prompt: Clap one time

I am so glad that our Father in Heav’n
Tells of His love in the Book He has
giv’n;
Wonderful things in the Bible I see,
This is the dearest, that Jesus loves
me.

I am so glad that Jesus loves me,
Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me.
I am so glad that Jesus loves me,
Jesus loves even me.

Prompt: Hop

Though I forget Him, and wander
away
Still He doth love me whenever I
stray
Back to His dear loving arms I do flee
When I remember that Jesus loves
me

I am so glad that Jesus loves me,
Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me.
I am so glad that Jesus loves me,
Jesus loves even me.

Prompt: Hug

O, if there’s only one song I can sing
When in His beauty I see the great
King
This shall my song through eternity
be
"Oh, what a wonder that Jesus loves
me!"

I am so glad that Jesus loves me,
Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me.
I am so glad that Jesus loves me,
Jesus loves even me.

(repeat last verse one time)

Activity 2:

When God Speaks:

Say: *Jesus teaches us to listen to God's Word. It is important to listen to God's word because it keeps us connected to Him and helps us to make the right choice.*

Read the book: When God Speaks

Reflection Questions:

- What is the mother teaching her son?
- What does the boy keep asking?
- How does God finally talk to the little boy?
- How does God talk to you each day?

Say a prayer: *Dear God, help me to listen to you more closely, to follow you more nearly and to love you more and more each day. We pray this 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 speaks to us when we welcome God's word?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who came to teach us about God's Word like he did for Mary and Martha?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us hear God's word and to do God's word?

Sending Forth

Say: *Remember that we learned there is time and place to do certain things. When we go back to church it is time to listen and to pray for God's blessing. We watch what Father is doing at the altar and sing the songs and say the prayers. Listening to the prayer of the Mass is what we do in Church.*

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "*To God be the Glory*" track 31 from Bible Songs for Kids Vol 1 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.