

Focus: Love God More

Materials:

- Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
- CD-Bible Songs for Kids-Vol 2
- Bible: The Children's Bible Story Book
- Foam heart
- Book: Teach Me to Love

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about how God will love us always and if we do something that turns us away from what God wants, he will search for us until we go to him and say we're sorry. Today we are going to hear a story that tells us that nothing we own is more important than God.

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 gifts you have given us. Help us to share our gifts with others. In the name of Jesus we pray.

Amen.

Song/Movement

God is So Good, track: 2, from [Bible Songs for Kids - Vol 2](#)

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.

God is so Good
God is so good.
God is so good.
God is so good.
He's so good to me.

He cares for me.
He cares for me.
He cares for me.
He's so good to me.

He's all I need.
He's all I need.
He's all I need.
He's so good to me.

God is so good.
God is so good.
God is so good.
He's so good to me.

Memory Verse

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

Love God with all my heart, and love my neighbor too.

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

Say: *God's Kingdom is all about love, God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit live in relationship with each other, a relationship of love. This is how God wants us to live. When we think of our neighbor we might think of the person who lives next door or down the street. Jesus tells us that everyone is our neighbor.*

Nothing is more important than showing God's love to those around us.

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 Bible Storybook, pp. 294, *Money Lovers*

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *What does Jesus say about loving money and things more than God?*
- *What happens when we are trusted with small things?*
- *What did the Pharisees need to choose between?*

Reflection on Reading:

Today's Gospel makes the point that the way people use their God-given gifts tells a lot about them. The people who share their gifts with others are on the path to eternal life. The people who are greedy with their gifts are on the path to destruction. Today's Gospel tells us that we show our faithfulness to God by our actions. When we show other's love, God knows we love him too. God wants us to share with those that don't have what we have. He wants those who can do things easily, to help those who have a hard time. That's how we treat each other fairly.

Do you know anyone who needs special help?

How can you help them?

Gospel ActivityActivity 1:**Love Go-Round Game**

Have the children sit in a circle. Hand the heart to one child and chant the following while they pass the heart around the circle:

There's plenty of love to go around,
The more and more we share.
Where is the love that goes around?
Where is the love, O where?

When the verse is done, whoever is holding the heart shares something they can do to be kind to others.

(you can play a portion of a song from one of the CD's instead-for example: Jesus loves me, this I know, Jesus loves the little children, I am so glad that Jesus loves me-instead of the verse.)

Repeat as time allows.

Activity 2:

God is love:

God is love. God loves us very much and we can love others because of God's great love for us.

Read the book "Teach Me to Love"

What to the children learn about love?

What can we learn about love?

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 trusts us to share what we have with others?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who teaches us the way to love God as God loves us?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us to share what God has given to us?

Sending Forth

Say: Sometimes it is hard to remember to share all the time. This week think of someone who always share with you and thank them for sharing. It could be mom or dad, your teacher, a friend. Or maybe Fr. Joe. He shares with us all the time. He takes care of us and prays for us always.

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "Fairest Lord Jesus" track 19 from Bible Songs for Kids-Vol 2 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.