

Focus: God wants us to care and share

Materials:

- Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest’s vestment) and Altar Cloth
- CD-Bible Songs for Kids-Vol 2
- Bible: Children’s Everyday Bible
- Grab bag with care/share hearts
- Helper flash cards

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about how nothing is more important than loving God. God wants us to love him and then we can love others. This week we will hear Jesus tell a story about how we are to care for those who are sick and to share what we have with 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, all children are precious in your sight. Help us to care for those in need. In the name of Jesus Christ 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.
 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.

He cares for me.
 He cares for me.
 He cares for me.
 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.

Jesus calls us to be God’s children.

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

Say: *From the time we were born, God has loved us and has called us to be his children too. He gave us a loving family and a home and friends and toys to share because he loves us and knows we can show his love to others. We can show our love for God and our desire to be his children by loving and caring for 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: Children's Everyday Bible, pp. 275, *Lazarus and the Rich Man*

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *What does the poor man in the story need?*
- *Does the rich man notice Lazarus?*
- *What happens when Lazarus dies?*
- *What happens when the rich man dies?*
- *What does the story teach about caring for the poor?*
- *Why do you think the rich man didn't notice Lazarus?*
- *What could the rich man have done for Lazarus?*

Reflection on Reading:

In today's Gospel Jesus tells a story about a poor man named Lazarus and a rich man. Lazarus is hungry and sick and he cries out for help. The rich man has his fill of food and drink and he does not even notice the beggar right in front of him. Lazarus receives no help from the rich man who ignores him.

The rich man could have been a friend to Lazarus. He could have shared his clothes and his food, but the rich man didn't know how to love anything but his money. The rich man didn't know how to love. When we love others like Jesus taught us we spread God's love in the world and we will live with Jesus forever. If we don't love others, we will be sad forever. Lazarus only had love while he was alive. He was ill and he had no food and his clothes were rags, but he still had love. This is why Lazarus lives with God in happiness forever.

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

Jesus told the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus because Jesus wanted us to know that love is the key to everlasting happiness. The things we have in life are only good for us if we are willing to share them with love.

We are going to play a little game to think about ways to be caring and sharing children of God.

Take out the bag with the hearts. Divide the children into 2 groups. Have a volunteer from each group come up and pick a heart, if that team can think of something the care or share (depending on what the heart says) they keep the heart, if not, the other team gets the heart. If there is a lopsidedness to the final count of hearts, have the children share their hearts with the team that doesn't have as many. That way everyone wins.

Activity 2:

In today's Gospel story we hear how Jesus came to take care of the weak and the sick and those that can't take care of themselves. We are all called to be God's helpers.

There are helpers all around us. (Use the flash cards to talk about different kinds of helpers and what they do to make sure we are healthy, safe or know how to read etc.)

After each card is discussed, put it on the prayer table. Discuss the cards as time permits.

When discussion is finished say the following prayer:

Dear God, please bless these helpers as they do their work. We also ask that you bless us and show us how to be the best helpers we can be. We ask 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 is generous more than we can know?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who teaches us to share what God has given to us?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who fills our hearts with thankfulness and the desire to share what we have with others?

Sending Forth

Say: *This week, remember to be kind to others and share when you can. Also remember to help others be caring and sharing.*

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.