

Focus: Always Grow our Faith.

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
CD-Bible Songs for Kids-Vol 2
Bible: In lesson plan
Blindfold
Orange cones
Bag of miscellaneous items.

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about sharing with others and caring for others. This week we are going to talk about staying close to Jesus. We can stay close to Jesus by keeping our faith strong.*

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, you want us to have faith in you. Help make our faith strong.

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.*

Make our faith stronger.

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

Say: *Our faith is what tells how much we believe and trust in God. Jesus says if we believe even a little bit we can do big things. Praying to Jesus, going to Mass, learning about God and trying our best to live as Jesus taught us are the best ways to grow in faith.*

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: None, pp. N/A,

Jesus’ disciples said to him,
[Chatty hand, thumb against fingers.]

“Make our faith stronger.”

[Hold up strong arms.]

Jesus said:

[Chatty hand, thumb against fingers.]

“If you have faith the size of a tiny mustard seed,

[Hold thumb and forefinger close together.]

you could say to this mulberry tree,

[Hold arms up, like tree branches.]

‘Jump out of the ground and into the sea,’

[Jump.]

and it would obey you.”

[Nod head ‘yes’]

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *What do the disciples want Jesus to do?*
- *What does Jesus tell his disciples about faith?*
- *Why does Jesus use the example of a mustard seed?*
- *How is your faith like a tiny mustard seed?*
- *What does faith in God help you to do?*
- *When do you reach out to care for others?*

Reflection on Reading:

Jesus often used examples involving plants and animals to help people understand about the Kingdom of God. Jesus wasn’t telling his disciples to go and move a bunch of trees. He wanted them to understand that believing and trusting in God’s love is powerful. Faith can make amazing things happen. Faith in God can change lives, make us more loving, help us to be kind and to share and help us forgive others and ask for forgiveness when we hurt someone.

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

Faith is a gift of God

Say: *Today we are going to talk about a special kind of believing.*

- Do you know what believing is? (Allow them to answer.)

- How many of you believe you will have lunch today? (Wait for answers.)
- Who will fix lunch for you? (Wait for answers)

So, you believe that _____ will fix your lunch today. You believe this because _____ has done so in the past over and over again.

Faith is believing in something you can't necessarily prove.

The Bible says that Faith is given to us by God. But it is something you may have to practice for it to feel natural (like writing your name or playing an instrument.)

God wants us to live in faith. God loves us and He can do all things. This means that God is always able to take care of us. So, we can trust God. When we go through our days trusting God and knowing He will help take care of us, that is living in faith.

Jesus told His disciples to have faith (or to believe in) God.

When we trust God (even a little), we find out that He keeps His word. This helps us trust Him even more the next time. The Bible is full of stories of how people had faith in God, and He blessed them for it!

Test of Faith:

Scatter the orange cones across the floor of your room. Have the children sit by the wall or on one end of the room. Ask for a volunteer who will trust you to lead them safely around the room. Blindfold the volunteer. While the other children watch, lead the blindfolded child around the room safely avoiding all of the cones you have scattered there. Remove the blindfold. Explain as you are doing this that this is how God leads us through life. Sometimes we are unaware of dangers or problems around us, but God is always there, helping us through them. We can have faith in God. Repeat until all children have had a turn.

(Alternate-for older kids who know left from right: Ask one child to be a volunteer to be blindfolded and the remaining children will take turns telling the player where to step so they don't step on a block. The blindfolded player will have to TRUST their classmates to tell them where to walk and what to do.)

Activity 2:

What Is the Item?

Have the children sit in a circle on the floor.

Hold up the bag with the mystery items in it.

Have each child reach into the bag to pick out an object, but not remove it from the bag. The children should try guessing what they are by feel only. They might know that a block is a block, yet they cannot prove it without sight. They simply have faith that they know what they are touching. Likewise, they will know a cotton ball when they feel it because they have had experience with cotton balls in the past and have faith that they are experiencing the same thing.

Explain to the children that our faith in God is much like faith in understanding the items in the bag. While we cannot clearly see God, our experiences with God help us to have faith and identify God's working in our lives.

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, always loves us?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who taught us to believe in the power of faith in God?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives us the strength to have faith in God?

Sending Forth

Say: *When we go back to church take a quiet moment to say a prayer of thanks to God for the gift of faith that he has given you.*

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.