

Focus: Remember Our Blessings

Materials:

- Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
- CD-Bible Songs for Kids-Vol 2
- Bible: The Beginner's Bible
- Easel pad and marker
- Book: 100 Bible Stories, 100 Bible Songs

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about keeping our faith strong so we stay close to Jesus. This week we will hear a story of how Jesus helped 10 people, but only one remembered to thank Jesus.

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.

Thank you God for the beauty of creation. Thank you God for all your gifts. 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.
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.

You are healed because you believe.

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

Say: *When Jesus was teaching people about God he would do miraculous things so they would know that he was from God. There were times when people didn't believe that Jesus was from God and they could not be healed. Today God heals us in a different way. Since he is not here with us physically, he heals our spirit and our worries so that we know we can trust that he will take care of us always.*

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. 427-431, *The Man Who Remembered*

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *What do the ten men ask Jesus to do?*
- *How does Jesus heal them?*
- *How many remember to come back to Jesus?*
- *Why does he come back?*

Reflection on Reading:

In the Gospel today only one man comes back to thank Jesus. Jesus didn't heal these men right away so they may not have realized that it was Jesus that had healed them. They didn't really know Jesus. The man who came back knew that Jesus had healed them because Jesus was from God.

When we thank God for his blessings to us, we learn to feel grateful and we show God that we know he takes care of us. We find out how much God loves us. We naturally want to show our love for God and for each other. The more grateful we are, the happier we will be.

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

Say: *It isn't easy to always remember that all good things come from God. Sometimes we pray for things and they don't happen right away or maybe not at all. That doesn't mean that God hasn't answered our prayer. The answer may come later, as something we didn't know was the right thing. God knows what we need to be happy.*

Using the following questions, have the children name some of their favorite things. As they name them, write them on the easel pad. Write as many as time allows. Encourage raising their hands by only using ones from those who do raise their hands.

- What's your favorite animal?
- What's your favorite food?
- What's your favorite place to be?
- Who has a pet they love very much?

We just named many, many things that you love or at least like a lot!

How many of these things do you think are gifts from God?

Are there other things we can thank God for?

Point out lots of blessings, large and small, and end in prayer.

Faithful God, we give thanks for your unending love. We are thankful you listen to our needs and that you answer our call. Give us strength to always believe in your love and help us to pay attention to all the blessings we receive from you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Activity 2:

Blessings and Song

Read the story "Ten Sick Men" in the 100 Bible Stories, 100 Bible Songs Book pp162-163

Play the song-Come Bless the Lord-Disc 2, Track 29.

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 sent Jesus to heal us?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who shows us the love and healing of God?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who fills our hearts with thankfulness.

Sending Forth

Say: This week try to notice God's goodness in everyday events. Say a prayer of thanks for the sunrise, breakfast, your home, the smile of a friend or family member. Try to find 100 blessings from God.

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.