

Focus: Saying we are sorry

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
CD-America's 25 Favorite
Bible: The Beginner's Bible
Construction Paper and Crayons

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about saying our prayers from our hearts and not always about selfish things. This week the Gospel story tells us about welcoming Jesus into our house.*

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,

Thank you for sending Jesus to show us how much you love us. Help us to grow closer to you. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.

Song/Movement

This Little Light of Mine, track: 15, from America's 25 Favorite

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.

1.This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine.

2.Hide it under a bushel - NO!
I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel - NO!
I'm gonna let it shine, Let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine.

3.Don't let Satan blow it out.
I'm gonna let it shine.
Don't let Satan blow it out.
I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine.

4.Let it shine til Jesus comes.
I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine til Jesus comes.
I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine.

Memory Verse

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

I want to go to your house.

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

Say: *We will hear Jesus say this in the Gospel today to a man that no one in the village liked. Most people would have not even noticed the man. But Jesus saw someone who wanted to know God better and wanted to become a better person.*

Jesus showed us God's love for everyone, not just the people we like. God loves us whether or not we are always good. God's love is perfect. Once we get to know God, we try to be good because we know he loves us.

Jesus came to lead all people to his Father's love, especially people who need extra help to do what is good. Jesus us wants us to see others as he does and help others know about God's great love.

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. 444-449, *The Short Man*

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *How does Jesus meet Zacchaeus?*
- *Why is Zacchaeus up in a tree?*
- *What does Jesus say to Zacchaeus?*
- *How does the crowd react?*
- *How does Zacchaeus respond to Jesus?*

Reflection on Reading:

In today's Gospel Jesus meets Zacchaeus, a rich tax collector. The people do not like Zacchaeus because he takes their money and doesn't give the king all that he takes. Zacchaeus wants to meet Jesus. When Jesus comes by, the crowd gets in his way, so Zacchaeus climbs a tree in order to see him. But the important part of the story is that Jesus does see him. "Come on down," Jesus calls out, "I am coming to your home." The religious leaders and the crowd don't like that Jesus wants to get to know Zacchaeus.

This gospel shows that people can dislike others before getting to know them. Many people do not like Zacchaeus, but Jesus sees the truth. Jesus sees the hidden goodness in Zacchaeus.

Gospel ActivityActivity 1:**Seeing Through Jesus' Eyes**

Hand out the scraps of construction paper and crayons.

Ask the children to draw Zacchaeus as Jesus would have seen him as he passed by in the tree.

As the children are drawing, talk about how Jesus saw Zacchaeus differently from the way the townspeople saw him. When others looked at Zacchaeus, he saw someone who wanted to be a better person. We are all called to look at others the way Jesus did.

Activity 2:

Line the kids up in 2 circles, one inside the other, you may want to put the older kids in one line and younger kids in the other, then one in each pair will be an older child. If there are an odd number have a parent or helper be the partner.

Say: Zacchaeus welcomed Jesus into his home. There are many ways to make others feel welcome. We can make people feel welcomed by greeting them nicely. We are going to play a little game to practice welcoming people.

Sing or say the following song and have them act out the action. After each verse have one circle move to the right.

- Look at your neighbor and wave hi
Look at your neighbor and wave hi
Your neighbor is standing in front of you
In front of you, you, you
So look at your neighbor and wave hi.
- Look at your neighbor and shake hands
Look at your neighbor and shake hands
Your neighbor is standing in front of you
In front of you, you, you
So look at your neighbor and shake hands.
- Look at your neighbor and give a high five
Look at your neighbor and give a high five
Your neighbor is standing in front of you
In front of you, you, you
So look at your neighbor and give a high five.

End with everyone saying hi and shaking hands with others.

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 loves everyone?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who came to show us God's love for all people?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who lives in our hearts and helps us to see others as Jesus does?

Sending Forth

Say: This week, when you see someone being kind to others as Jesus was, thank them for helping out and showing kindness to others.

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play “*Amazing Grace*” track 24 from America's 25 Favorite 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.