

Focus: Waiting for Christ

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
CD: Bible Songs for Kids, Vol. 1
Gospel: In lesson plan
Book: The Lord's Prayer

Gathering (have children sit on floor-Criss-Cross Applesauce)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about how Jesus wants us to give all of heart to God. Today we are going to talk about getting ready for Jesus to come again in glory.*

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 Jesus, you love us and will always be with us to help us make good decisions. We can feel you in our hearts when we do something good for others. We praise you and love you. Amen.

Song/Movement

Isn't He Wonderful?, track: 2, from Bible Songs for Kids Vol. 1

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.

Isn't He wonderful, wonderful, wonderful!
Isn't Jesus my Lord wonderful?
Eyes have seen, ears have heard,
It's recorded in God's Word,
Isn't Jesus my Lord wonderful?

Repeat all twice.

On third time repeat "Isn't Jesus my Lord wonderful?"

Memory Verse

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

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

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

Say: *This is a part of the Lord's Prayer that Jesus taught his disciples and us. When we pray we praise God for his power and love. This line is saying that we are joyfully waiting for Jesus to come again and bring everlasting peace and love to all the world.*

Everlasting means forever. Some things don't last very long, like a piece of candy. They are a nice treat, but they won't last forever. Bubbles don't last long either. When we blow bubbles they last a few minutes, we enjoy their colors and how they float, until they pop. Lots of good things are with us for just a little while, so it's a good idea to really enjoy them, while we have them.

Some things, like long trips in the car, or grownups talking on the phone, seem to go on forever. But they don't, eventually it's time to get out of the car or say good bye to end the phone call. What will last forever? Love—Love will last forever. That's because God is love and God has always been and always will be a part of the world and his Kingdom.

One day, at the end of everything, God will gather up all that goodness and love into his kingdom of heaven, so it's safe forever and not one piece of it will be lost.

Gospel Story

Say: Today we are reading from the Gospel of Mark.

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 told his disciples
 [Chatty hands, thumb against fingers]
 That he would come again.
 [Point heavenward]
 Jesus said:
 [Chatty hand]
 “In those days, the sun will be darkened.
 [Rotate your hands to block your face, like shadow in an eclipse]
 The moon will give no light.
 [Shake your head]
 And the stars will fall from the sky.
 [Falling hands, wiggling fingers]
 Then people will see
 [Searching eyes, hands over brow]
 Christ the King coming on a cloud of glory.
 [Place imaginary crown on your head]
 Angels will be sent
 [Flap arms gently, like wings, twice]
 to gather together all those who have done what is good.
 [Gathering arms]
 As the fig tree's buds announce the spring,
 [Push growing fingers of one hand up through fist of the other]
 so these things will announce my return.”
 [Point to the cross on prayer table]
 Then Jesus added:
 [Chatty hand]
 “Only my heavenly Father knows when this will happen.”
 [Point heavenward]

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *What signs will there be to announce the next coming of Jesus?*
- *What will happen when Christ the King comes in glory?*
- *Who will be gathered up and saved?*
- *Does anyone know when this will happen?*

Reflection on Reading:

We shouldn't be worried or afraid of the stars falling or the moon being dark because we trust Jesus. We aren't sure of what he meant by all this but we know that he is good and he loves us so we have nothing to fear. We look forward to his coming in glory.

There was a star that appeared when Jesus was born. It was a great star that led wise men to the place where baby Jesus was. They were wise to recognize that a huge new star was a sign of something great happening.

We don't know when Jesus will come again, only God, our heavenly Father, knows. We don't need to know, God will choose the best time.

Gospel ActivityActivity 1:**Follow Jesus**

The gospel story tell us what we should be doing as we wait for Jesus. We should pray, listen to and learn from the stories of Jesus, love and serve God and each other. Wouldn't it be wonderful if, when Jesus comes in glory, he found everyone doing what was right and just and good? Wouldn't it be wonderful if he found us all caring for each other lovingly because he told us to?

Let's practice what Jesus has taught us to do.
Have the kids stand in a circle and follow your actions.

Sample Actions:

Hug your neighbor

Close your hands in prayer

Go to Church-(March in place)

Say peace be with you to your neighbor

Say Alleluia

Shake hands with your neighbor

Praise God-Raise your hands up high

Listen to Jesus (cup hand around ear)

Activity 2:**Read the Book:** The Lord's Prayer

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 us now and forever?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who always takes care of us?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who is a gift from God that leads us to everlasting life?

Sending Forth

Say: Jesus tells us that we should be kind to others because we believe in him. Find extra special ways to be kind to others this week. Give them the last cookie or juice box, let them pick the game or tv show to watch, let them choose where to take a nature walk.

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "*Jesus Loves the Little Children*" track 1 from [Bible Songs for Kids, Vol. 1](#) 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.