

Focus: Get Ready

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
CD-Bible Songs for Kids Vol. 1
Bible: In lesson
Book: 100 Bible Stories, 100 Bible Songs
Ready Kit: Bible, rosary, box and poster

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about a man who wouldn't share his belongings with others. He just made more rooms to store his stuff. This week Jesus tells us that we should always be ready to do what God asks of us.

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 always loving us, for keeping us in your care. May we always be strong in our faith especially when we feel alone or left out. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen

Song/Movement

Happy All the Time, track: 3, 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. Have children sit on their carpet squares when finished.

Movement cues in brackets [].

I'm inright [point in], outright [point out],
upright [point up], downright [point down]
Happy all the time [clap with each word]
I'm inright [point in], outright [point out],
upright [point up], downright [point down]
Happy all the time [clap with each word]

Since Jesus Christ came in
And cleansed my heart from sin...
I'm inright [point in], outright [point out],
upright [point up], downright [point down]
Happy all the time [clap with each word]

(Repeat all three times, getting faster and faster each time, then sing the 2nd verse a fourth time to close)

Memory Verse

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

Be like servants waiting for their master.

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

Say: In Jesus' times, a servant was always on-call to do whatever the master wanted; even if it was in the middle of the night. If the master was away, a good servant would not waste time with play when he had work to do. He would do all his work and make sure the house was clean and food was ready for his master when he returned. A bad servant would not do his job and when the master came back, the master would not be happy.

Jesus wants us to always remember that we should make good choices because someday he will come to us again and bring peace and love to the whole world.

We can get ready for Jesus by learning about him. It's easier to get ready to welcome a friend's visit if we know what kinds of games and snacks our friend likes. In the same way, it's easier to get ready to welcome Jesus if we know what he expects from us.

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 told his friends

[Chatty hand, thumb to forefingers.]

to be ready for him to come again.

[Reach to heaven, arms open.]

"Be like servants waiting for their master.

[Searching eyes, hand over brow.]

They want to be there to open the door when he comes.

[Pantomime turning a door knob and opening the door.]

Blessed are the servants whom the master finds ready.

[Make the sign of the cross]

He will act like their servant

[Giving gesture, arms extended.]

and treat them like his master.

[Bow slightly.]

If he comes late,

[Tap wrist watch or point to clock.]

and finds them ready even then.

[Pantomime turning a door knob and opening the door.]

they will be especially blessed.

[Make the sign of the cross]

If someone knew when a thief would come to his house,

[Tap wrist watch or point to clock.]

he'd never let them break in."

[Hands on hips and shake head firmly.]

Jesus said we must always be ready for his return
 [Reach to heaven, arms open.]
 because we don't know when it will happen.
 [Shrug your shoulders, extend wondering hands to side.]
 The Gospel of the Lord

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *What does Jesus tell his followers about God's Kingdom?*
- *What will God do for those who are ready?*
- *Why does Jesus tell his followers to be ready?*
- *Will we know when Jesus will return?*
- *What does that mean for us and our choices?*

Reflection on Reading:

In today's Gospel Jesus tells his followers to hope in God's promise. God wants to give us his kingdom; we need only be ready. How can we be ready for the coming of God's kingdom? In today's passage Jesus teaches his disciples how to be ready. He tells them to give up their material belongings and to give what they have to the poor.

Jesus wants to come and find us doing the things he did. The Gospel tells us that Jesus cared for those in need; he prayed to God the Father. Jesus was kind and loving and patient and forgiving; he expects us to do those things too.

The Gospel today shows us how to be faithful. Faithful followers of Jesus live with the hope that God's kingdom will come.

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

WORKING FOR THE LORD Disc 2 Track 47-100 Bible Stories and 100 Bible Songs

Read page 198 from 100 Bible Stories and 100 Bible Songs.

Play the song and let the children dance in a circle (like Ring-around-the-Rosie)

Chorus

Whenever we work we'll do our best

Though the rest laugh and jest

With the Lord we'll stand the test

And always do our best

(Colossians 3:23)

Whatever, whatever you do

Work at it with all your heart

As working for the Lord

And not for men

Repeat

Say: When Jesus asks us to our best, he doesn't mean we have to be perfect. He wants us to do our best. If we pick up our toys and stuff them in under the bed instead of putting them where they

belong, we are not doing our best. We are taking a shortcut and Jesus never took a shortcut like that, he might have taken a shortcut through the desert to get to Jerusalem or Nazareth, but in his work he always did his best.

Remember too that each person's best is different from another person. Some are good at sports, art or dance. Some people really like to clean up, so their best might be a little shinier than someone else. Some people are in a wheelchair so they can't clean up high, their best can't be like a basketball player who can reach the top shelf—without a ladder. God made each of us and even though we are different and different "bests" he loves us all the same and wants us to love everyone the same too.

Activity 2:

Pack up a Ready Kit:

Before Mass place the following objects around the room: a Bible, a rosary, alms box and a classroom rules poster.

At the appropriate time ask for a volunteer to look around the room for something we can use to get ready for Jesus. Have them bring the item to you and explain how it helps us prepare for Jesus.

Bible: contains the teachings of Jesus

Rosary: helps us to pray and think about God's love for us.

Alms Box: Reminds us to help those in need, like Jesus did.

List of Rules: Helps us to treat others fairly.

Love is a big part of our Ready Kit. Love for God and love for each other. We need to encourage good behavior, give good examples with our own behavior and pray for one another.

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 always faithful and blesses those who serve him?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who shows us the way to trust in God and to seek God's kingdom?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives us the courage to trust in God and to believe even when we cannot see?

Sending Forth

Say: This week we can practice getting ready for Jesus. By treating others with kindness and respect we help them to know God's love. So go out and share your toys, play gently with your friends, let someone else have a turn. There are many ways to show Jesus we are ready for him.

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "To God be the Glory" track 31 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.