

**Focus:** Keep our eyes on Jesus

**Materials:**

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth  
 CD-America's 25 Favorite  
 Bible: In lesson

**Gathering** (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. Welcome back after our summer break. I hope you have had a nice summer and remember that Jesus is with us even when we aren't in church. This week Jesus tells us that it will be hard to do what is asked sometimes, but if we remember that he is with us we can have peace in our hearts.*

**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 give us courage to be strong and faithful followers. We know it will not always be easy to do the right thing. Thank you for being with us as we try. We pray this through, your son, Jesus Christ.*

*Amen.*

**Song/Movement**

*There is Power in the Name of Jesus*, track: 19, 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.

There is \_\_\_\_\_, in the name  
of Jesus. (3x)

There is \_\_\_\_\_ in that  
wonderful name.

Power, Glory, Healing

There's Salvation in the name of  
Jesus (3x)

There's Salvation in that wonderful  
name (3x) –to fade.

**Memory Verse**

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

*Jesus came to make things right and good.*

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

Say: *In Christ Jesus we know there are two ways of living. One way is doing things that are right. The other way is making wrong choices. To live forever with God, we must choose to live the right way. God is there to help us because we believe that God is stronger than evil. The way of good is the way to Jesus. To do wrong, leads us away from Jesus. By loving Jesus, we can continue the good work God began in each of us.*

- *Why is it important to us that God is stronger than evil? –Because we believe that good always wins.*

- *How does Jesus help us do the right thing?-By teaching us through bible stories and other people who follow Jesus.*

### 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 knew

[Tap forehead.]

that it can be hard to do the right thing.

[Trace a frown with your fingers.]

He didn't come to make things easy.

[Shake head.]

He came to make things right and good.

[Cross hands over heart, then extend hands in giving gesture.]

Those who didn't want what was right and good

[Shake head.]

became enemies of Jesus.

[Fold arms across chest and turn away slightly.]

Those who don't want what is right and good now.

[Shake head.]

Will be enemies of ours too.

[Fold arms across chest and turn away slightly.]

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

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

### Discussion Starters:

- *What did Jesus know about doing the right thing?*
- *Why did Jesus come?*
- *What happened to those who didn't want what is right and good?*
- *How can we stay friends with Jesus?*
- *Is it right to be mean to someone if my friends are doing the same thing?*

### Reflection on Reading:

*Jesus knows it is hard to do what is right and good. He taught that we should share what we have with others. Some people didn't want to share. Jesus taught that we should help the poor. Some people didn't want to help anyone. Jesus taught that we should never cheat others. Some people made a lot of money by cheating others and they didn't want to pay it back. Jesus taught that we should love our enemies. Some people wanted to get back at their enemies for what they did.*

*All of these people who did not like what Jesus taught said bad things about him and tried to get rid of him. Jesus knew from his own experience that it was hard to do the right thing. If we keep our eyes on Jesus we will have great things and live forever with him in heaven.*

## Gospel Activity

### Activity 1:

#### **Following Jesus:**

This game is played like Simons Says, but you say “Jesus says” instead of saying “Simon Says”

The gospels 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 good and just? 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.

Sample Actions-pick a couple actions ahead of time where you won't say “JESUS SAYS”.

Children who are out-can help you catch others that don't follow Jesus:

- Hug your neighbor
- Close your hands in prayer
- Go to Church-(March in place)
- Say peace be with you to your neighbor
- Say Alleluia
- Clap your hands
- Jump one time
- Shake hands with your neighbor
- Praise God-Raise your hands up high
- Listen to Jesus (cup hand around ear)

### Activity 2:

#### **WWJD-**

Say: Today we are going to talk about what Jesus would do when certain things happen. Remember it is not enough to know what Jesus would do, but we also need to be willing to it too.

If we stand up for someone who is being bullied or picked on, we might be bullied too. If we share we might have a little less for ourselves. If we play fairly, we will lose sometimes. These things can be hard, but we know that Jesus is pleased with us when we do what is right and good. The Holy Spirit helps us to do the right thing and it helps to know that we are doing what Jesus would do.

We are going to figure out what Jesus would do in different situations.

I want you to answer me with different voices.

- Please answer this question in a whisper: What would Jesus do if he saw someone who was lonely?
- Please answer this question with singing: What would Jesus do if he saw someone who was carrying more than he or she could handle?
- Please use your deepest voice to answer this question: What would Jesus do if he saw someone teasing someone else?

- Please us your highest (not loudest) voice to answer this question: What would Jesus do if had food and someone else was hungry.

Now we know what Jesus would do. Let's say a prayer for the Holy Spirit to help us to these things too.

*Dear Jesus, it is sometimes is hard to do the right thing. But I know that you love us very much. Help us to trust in your loving care every day. Because of your great love, everything will be all right. We ask this in your name, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

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 with us?*

*Do you believe in Jesus, who teaches us what is right and wrong?*

*Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us to do the right thing?*

### **Sending Forth**

Say: *This week we can show our love for God by making good choices. We can let someone else have the last cookie or we can share our favorite toy with a friend that comes to play.*

### **Lining Up/Closing Song**

Play "*I've Got Peace Like a River*" track 4 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.