

Sunday, March 8 , 2009

Second Sunday of Lent

Preparation:

Read the Psalm, [Psalm 22: 23-31](#), and the Gospel, [Mark 8: 31-38](#), for this Sunday over . Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump out at you.

Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearb/lentb2.htm>

http://ecusa.anglican.org/50534_93326_ENG_HTML.htm - scroll down the page to find the one for Lent 2

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/playing-for-keeps.html>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/pent14mles.htm>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/lent2kart.htm>

Gathering:

Materials needed:

Small table or end of one table

Candle

Candle lighter

Bible & Bookmark

Purple cloth

Newsprint and markers

Psalm phrases from previous weeks

Print up the following on a strip of white paper in large letters: **THOSE WHO SEEK GOD WILL PRAISE GOD. MAY OUR PRAISES LIVE FOREVER!**

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children place the purple cloth on the table. Have them help you place the candle and the Bible on the cloth. Place the psalm phrase from the previous weeks on the table. Have ready the psalm fraction to place on the table after the prayer.

Pray the following prayer together:

God be with us on the journey,

Jesus be with us as we learn,

Holy Spirit be with us as we grow. Amen

Hold up the psalm fraction for the children. Read it to them or have a reader in the group do it. Explain that each week during this season they will get a new psalm piece to add to the worship table.

Place the psalm fraction on the worship table. Blow out the candle. Ask the children who they go to when they have a hard task to do. (*Wait for their responses.*) Ask the children how it felt to get a hard task done – did they feel accomplished? –did they feel proud? (*Wait for their responses.*) Explain that in today's story Jesus will be telling his friends and followers about difficult decisions and tasks ahead for everyone.

Story Time:

Materials needed:

A comfortable place to tell the story – on the floor with cushions or around a table

Teach the children the following song to the tune of *Freres Jacques*

**Follow Jesus, follow Jesus,
Yes I will, yes I will,
Sharing God's love everywhere,
Yes I will, yes I will.**

Jesus had been all over the Galilee. He had been teaching the people about God's kingdom of love and justice. Jesus had been healing people who had come to him with serious illnesses. Jesus knew that the time was coming that everything was going to change. Jesus knew that God was getting him ready for an important task.

**Follow Jesus, follow Jesus,
Yes I will, yes I will,
Sharing God's love everywhere,
Yes I will, yes I will.**

Jesus knew that it was time to share what was coming with his friends. He knew that his friends were going to have a hard time with what he was going to say. Jesus knew that the leaders were unhappy with the message of the Good News. He knew that they would be coming after him soon.

**Follow Jesus, follow Jesus,
Yes I will, yes I will,
Sharing God's love everywhere,
Yes I will, yes I will.**

Jesus gathered his friends around him. Jesus said, "The time is coming when the leaders will come after me. I will be cast aside, beaten up and killed. After three days I will come back to life."

Peter got quite upset. He looked at Jesus and said, "Jesus this can't happen. This can't be what God wants to happen."

Jesus immediately turned to Peter. He was very angry with Peter. Jesus strongly said, "Peter get those wicked thoughts out of your head. You have no idea what you are saying. You have your mind on things of this earth and not the things of God's kingdom."

**Follow Jesus, follow Jesus,
Yes I will, yes I will,
Sharing God's love everywhere,
Yes I will, yes I will.**

Jesus looked at the other followers and told them to come closer. He had something important that he needed to tell both his friends and his followers. Jesus told them, "If any of you want to follow me then you need to take up your cross, your hard task. Like me, you will need to let go of everything important. I know this is hard but it is the way to become part of God's kingdom. "

**Follow Jesus, follow Jesus,
Yes I will, yes I will,
Sharing God's love everywhere,
Yes I will, yes I will.**

Response:

Idea #1: Cross Picture

Taking up your cross can be a difficult idea for younger people to understand. This decorated cross will encourage them to think about that during the rest of Lent.

Materials needed: light construction paper, pencils, tissue paper, glue

Instructions: Give each child a piece of construction paper. Have them draw a large squared cross on the paper. Have them cut out their crosses. Show them how to spread some glue thinly over a small area of the cross and then take scrunched up pieces of tissue paper and attach them onto the cross. Let them continue until they fill up the whole cross. Encourage the children to remember how Jesus invited his followers to take up their crosses. Invite the children to find a place at home to hang up their crosses and look forward to Easter.

Idea #2: Follower Badges

Children often do not get the chance to share their faith and decision to follow Jesus with others. These badges will give them opportunity to have that conversation with their families and friends.

Materials needed: card stock, pencil, scissors, markers, stickers, glue, safety pins, ribbons and anything else that might be used to decorate the badges

Instructions: Cut out 15 cm/ 6 inch circle out of the card stock. Make one for each child. Give each child a prepared circle. Have them print in the middle with the markers **I WILL FOLLOW JESUS**. Let them decorate the badges with the stickers, ribbons and other craft materials. When they are finished help them to attach their badges to their clothes. Encourage the children to show their badges to their families and friends and discuss why they are followers of Jesus.

Idea #3: Flower Pots

This response will encourage the children to look towards Jesus' resurrection in the same way his followers were. The flowers should be lovely plants by the time Easter arrives.

Materials needed: flower pots – plastic or clay, potting soil, flower seeds, newspapers, spoons, water, spring or flower stickers, sharpie or permanent markers

Instructions: Lay out the newspaper on the working area. Give each child a flower pot. Have the children print **MAY OUR PRAISES LIVE FOREVER!** on the pots with permanent or sharpie marker. Let them decorate the pots with the stickers. Help the children to fill the pots with the soil and then plant the seeds according to the instructions on the package. Gently water the seeds. Encourage the children to place their flower pots in a sunny place at home and to water regularly but not excessively. Tell the children to look forward to the plants being lovely by the time Easter comes around.

Closing:

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candle. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

Holy God lead us to share your love with others,

Loving Jesus lead us to be brave with others,

Holy Spirit lead us to follow as children of God. Amen.