

Share the Good News

Lesson Scripture: I John 1:3, Acts 2:41-47

Bible Truth: I will share the good news about Jesus.

Bible Story: Acts 2:41-47

Bible Verse: “He said to them, ‘Go into all the world. Preach the good news to everyone.’” (Mark 16:15, NIV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: “Good News”

Preparation

Write “Good News or Bad News” on the front of six envelopes. Write the six phrases listed below on separate sheets of paper. Put one paper in each envelope. Before class, hide the first five envelopes around the room. Put the sixth one containing the good news about Jesus in your Bible.

Materials
six envelopes
six sheets of paper
marker or pen
Bible

1. Your parents want to give you some money.
2. Your friend is sick and can't come over to your house to play.
3. Your grandparents are coming for a visit.
4. Your mom just made your favorite dinner.
5. Your dad has to work and can't take you on the trip you had planned.
6. Jesus loves us so much that He died for our sins.

Presentation

Say: **“Has anyone ever told you some good news or bad news?”** Allow children to respond. **I would always rather hear good news than bad news. One time,** (share a time when you received some good news)... **It was so exciting.**

Say: **Let's play a game called Good News or Bad News. Around the room, I have hidden five envelopes. Let's see if you can find them.** Give children time to find the envelopes. Once the envelopes have been found, allow children to open them and read the statements (or you can read them to the class). Say: **If the envelope contains good news, put your thumb up. If it has bad news, put your thumb down.**

Say: **There was one more envelope. Let me see if I can find it.** Pretend to look around and find it in your Bible. **Here it is! Let's see if this is good news or bad news.** Read the statement to the children. **Wow! I think this is the best news ever! Jesus loves you and died for you. When we believe this good news, we are forgiven of our sins. We become children of God. We know we will go to heaven. That is the "best" good news anyone could ever hear. Since we already know this good news, Jesus wants us to share it with everyone we know.**

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Mark 16:15

Preparation

Write Mark 16:15 on a piece of poster board.

Divide the verse into four different phrases. Write each phrase on a piece of paper.

1. He said to them
2. Go into all the world
3. Preach the good news
4. to everyone.



Explanation

Read Mark 16:15 with the children.

Say: **In this verse, Jesus tells us to do two things. Can anyone tell me what Jesus wants us to do?** Once children have responded, ask two children to underline the words "go" and "preach." **Jesus wants us to go into all the world. That means everywhere. "Everywhere" can be someplace far away or to the house next door to yours. What does Jesus ask us to do everywhere? Allow children to respond. Yes, he wants us to preach the good news to everyone. Sometimes we think only a pastor can preach, but preaching is simply telling others the good news about Jesus. When you tell your friends about Jesus, you are doing what Jesus said. Do you have a friend with whom you want to share the good news about Jesus?**

Memorization Activity

Divide the children into four groups. Give a prepared piece of paper with a phrase from Mark 16:15 to each group. Ask each group to practice their phrase. Once the groups have learned their phrase, have them line up in correct verse order. Say the entire verse. Repeat this exercise giving each group a new phrase until children have had the opportunity learn the entire verse.

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: "Peter Shares the Good News," Acts 2:1-47

Preparation

Read and study Acts 2:1-47.

Prepare 3 sheets of paper with one the following phrases written on each piece of paper:

120

3000

Share the Good News with everyone

Materials
Bible
poster board
3 sheets of paper
marker

Presentation

As you narrate the story, lift up the signs that you have prepared at the appropriate times in the story. Ask the children to read the words aloud every time you show one of the signs.

Say: **Ten days had gone by since Jesus had left. Many people, 120 (sign) people to be exact, were gathered in a room to wait for a promise from Jesus. While they were waiting, the sound of something like the wind was heard. Tongues of fire rested on each of them. They all started to speak in a heavenly language; a language they didn't understand. The news about what was happening spread quickly throughout the city of Jerusalem. Soon, thousands of people gathered around the house with the 120 (sign) followers of Jesus.**

Peter and the others disciples went outside the house to talk to the people. They were also excited. God had done great things for them! And now they had to share the good news with everyone (sign).

Peter spoke to them about Jesus, who had been crucified on a cross. Then he told them that Jesus was no longer dead. He was alive! He had gone to heaven to be with God, his Father.

Many of the people had watched as Jesus was crucified. They had laughed at Him while He was hanging on the cross. Now, they felt a deep feeling full of sadness and worry. "What shall we do?" they asked Peter.

"Repent," Peter answered. "Your sins will be forgiven. And God will give you the marvelous gift of the Holy Spirit."

On that day, 3000 (sign) people heard the good news and asked Jesus to forgive them of their sins. Can you imagine how excited they must have felt! They desired to share this good news with everyone (sign).

APPLICATION

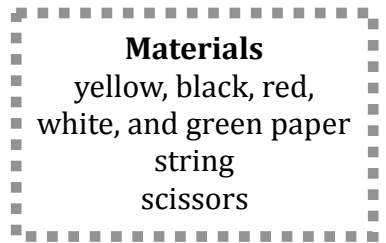
Learning Activity: Preaching Tool, "The Wordless Book"

Preparation

Cut paper into 10 cm by 12 cm rectangles (4" by 5"). Each child will need one rectangle of each color.

Make three holes on the left side of each piece of paper.

Cut the string into 10 cm (4in) lengths. Each child will need three.



Presentation

Pass out the paper to the children. Help them put the book together by placing the colored paper in the following order: yellow, black, red, white, and green. Help them tie the book together by putting strings through the holes.

After making this wordless book, teach the children how to use it as a preaching tool. This will help them share the good news about Jesus with their friends.

Say: **Ask your friends if they've ever seen a book without words. Show them this wordless book. Tell them that even though this book doesn't have any words, it tells us a wonderful story.** Teach children the meaning of each page, and have them practice reading it to each other.

Yellow page: This page is the most beautiful in this book. This color reminds us about God. God made the earth and all things. He created you. He loves you and is preparing a place in heaven for all of His children. Heaven is a wonderful place but there is one thing that will never enter heaven. That something is sin.

Black page: The black page reminds us of the darkness caused by sin. Sin is anything that we do that doesn't please God. The Bible, the Word of God, tells us that all have sinned. Sin separates us from God and from all the wonderful things He has for us.

Red page: Even though we are lost in the darkness caused by sin, God loves us. He doesn't want us to be lost. He prepared a way for us to get close to Him. He sent his Son Jesus to live on earth. Jesus never did anything wrong. But he was punished and died on the cross. Jesus died for our sins. But He didn't stay dead. He rose again.

White page: This page reminds me about what happens when I admit I am a sinner and believe that Jesus died for my sins. I am forgiven. My sins are taken away. Do you want to be forgiven and have your sins taken away? (If the child says "yes," then his friend can pray for him.)

Green page: The green page reminds us of things that grow. After believing in Jesus we need to grow as He did. What can we do to grow like Jesus? We pray, read and obey the Bible, attend church, and talk to others about Jesus.

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

Give each child a small piece of paper and a pencil.

Presentation

On their paper, ask the children to write down the name of one person they can share the good news of Jesus with this week. Pray with the children that they will have an opportunity to share with the person whose name they wrote on the paper. Ask the children to put the paper with the name written on it in their wordless book and take it home as a reminder to share the good news of Jesus!

Materials
paper
pencils

Doing Good to Others

Lesson Scripture: 2 Kings 4:8-17

Bible Truth: I will do good things for others.

Bible Story: 2 Kings 4:8-17

Bible Verse: “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” (Galatians 6:10, NIV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: “Being a Good Friend”

Preparation

A week prior to this lesson, ask two older children or teens to practice this skit and prepare to present it to the class.

Materials
2 copies of the skit

Presentation

Say: **John and Mary are in Sunday school class together. They both love Jesus and enjoy learning everything they can about the Bible. They also go to the same school. One day, John sees Mary crying on the playground.**

MARY: (She doesn't say anything, just sits on the floor crying.)

JOHN: Mary, what's wrong?

MARY: Lunch was awful today!

JOHN: You are crying over food? I could have shared my sandwich with you.

MARY: I'm not upset about the food. It's what the girls at my table said to me.

JOHN: What happened?

MARY: They asked what I did this weekend, so I told them all about church and our Sunday school lesson.

JOHN: Oh, cool! Mrs. Jones is a great teacher. I loved our class this week.

MARY: Me too! But the other girls started making fun of me because I go to church. They said that it was silly to believe in Jesus, and they didn't want to be with someone who did. Then they asked me to leave their table. I had to eat the rest of my lunch all alone.

JOHN: That's awful. I am so sorry. You can eat lunch with me tomorrow, and I will help you pray that those girls learn to love Jesus too. Maybe we will have a chance to share the story of Jesus' love with them one day.

MARY: Thanks John. You are a good friend.

Say: **John did something good for Mary by being a friend to her. We are going to learn today that God wants us to do good things for others, especially other Christians.**

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Galatians 6:10

Preparation

Write Galatians 6:10 on the poster board.

Cut enough small pieces of paper that children will be able to use them to tape over the words of the verse.

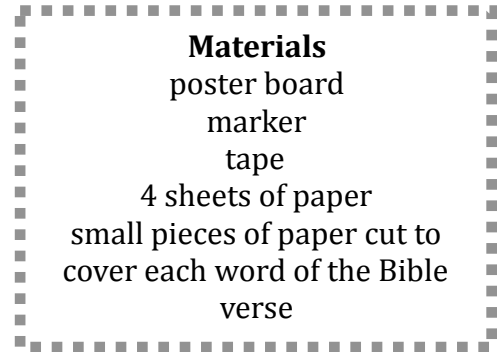
Explanation

Read Galatians 6:10 with the children.

Say: **This Bible verse says that we should "do good"** (underline the phrase). **The way we do good to others is by helping them or saying kind words to them. Each week, God gives us many opportunities to do good to others. To whom does this Bible verse tell us to do good?** Allow children to respond. **Yes, we should do good to "all people"** (underline this phrase). **It also tells us that we should especially help those who belong to the "family of believers"** (underline this phrase). **What does this phrase mean?** Allow children to respond. **Yes, Jesus wants us to always remember to do good for other Christians.**

Memorization Activity

Allow children to take turns taping small pieces of paper over the words of the Bible verse. If you have a small group of children, allow each child to cover more than one word. After each word is covered, read the verse together. This repetition will help the children to learn the verse.



INSTRUCT

Bible Story: "Elisha and the Shunammite Woman," 2 Kings 4:8-17

Preparation

Read and study 2 Kings 4:8-17.

Choose four children to help you tell this story. They will represent the characters of Elisha, his servant, the woman, and the woman's husband. Ask them to put on the costumes and use the props to act out the story as you tell it.

Materials
Bible
4 Bible costumes
small table and chairs
real or pretend food
tools, such as a hammer and
screwdriver
small doll

Presentation

Tell the Bible story while your helpers act it out.

Say: **Elisha was a prophet of God. He traveled through different places teaching the people to love and serve the true God. One day, Elisha and his servant arrived in a town called Shunem. A rich woman and her husband lived in that town. They had many servants, but didn't have children. When the woman saw Elisha and his servant, she invited them to eat at her house. She knew that Elisha was a prophet of God. Woman pretends to feed the three men.**

From that moment on, Elisha would stop at her house every time he visited the city of Shunem. He and his servant would rest in that place, and the woman would prepare food for them.

One day when Elisha went to visit the woman, she told her husband, "Since the prophet Elisha comes here so frequently, we should build him a room. We can put a table, a candle holder, a bed, and a chair in it. That way, he can rest in that room every time he visits." Her husband liked the idea, and they built a special room for Elisha and his servant. Have the two children playing the man and the woman pretend to build a room with tools. Then they can put the small table and chairs in it.

The next time Elisha stopped by their place, he was surprised and pleased with the room that this woman and her husband had prepared for him. He wanted to repay them for their kindness and help. "You have been so good to us that we would like to do something for you," Elisha told the woman. "Is there anything you want me to tell the king or the army's captain?" "No," said the woman. "We have all we need because we live among our own people."

But Elisha wanted to do something for her to repay her for their help. He asked his servant, "What can I do for this woman?" The servant told him, "They are older people, but they don't have any children." Elisha knew what he needed to do. He prayed and asked God to give this woman a son as a reward for her kindness and help. Give the doll to the child pretending to be the woman.

How surprised this woman must have been when she heard the prophet telling her that she would soon have a son! How happy she must have been to have helped the prophet of God!

Discuss the following questions with the children:

How did the woman do something good for Elisha and his servant?

How did Elisha repay her?

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Art, "Thank-You Cards"

Preparation

Gather supplies

Presentation

Say: I am going to give you an opportunity to do something good for another Christian, just like the woman in our story. We have several people in our church that work hard to teach us about Jesus.

Mention the pastor, Sunday school teachers, etc. **We are going to make thank you cards for them.**

Provide children with paper, crayons, and other supplies that they can use to make cards. If you teach younger children, you may need to write sample phrases on a whiteboard for them to copy onto their cards.

Materials

paper
crayons or markers
any other card making
supplies you have
available

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

Prepare a diagram to be used during the activity: divide a large piece of paper into two columns. Name each one of the columns: Who? and How?

Presentation

Say: There are many ways that we can do good to others. Let's write down the names of some people who we can do good to this week and how we can help them. Allow children to give suggestions and write them in the appropriate column. Some examples include:
Mom, help

Materials

large piece of paper
marker
small piece of paper for
each child

clean the house; brothers and sisters, play with them; lonely child at school, invite them to play with me, etc. Pass out paper and pencils and invite each child to write down the name of someone they will do good to this week and what they plan to do. Younger children can draw pictures instead of writing words. When they are finished, pray as a group that God will help each of them to remember this commitment.

BONUS: SERVICE PROJECT

Preparation

Plan a lunch for elderly church members. You can use some of the time in class to prepare the invitations and decorations.

Presentation

Say: **Do you remember what the memorization verse tells us to do? Yes, anytime there is an opportunity, we should be kind to everyone, but especially to those who are Christians. Do you want to show kindness towards the elderly members in our congregation by serving them lunch?**

Allow the children to prepare the invitations that list the day, time, and place for the lunch. Each child should have the responsibility to hand out the invitations he/she has made.

The children can also decorate the tablecloths and make table decorations, if time allows.

But...He's Not Like Me

Lesson Scripture: Acts 10:1-28

Bible Truth: I will treat everyone with love and kindness.

Bible Story: Acts 10:1-28

Bible Verse: "...God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right." (Acts 10:34b-35, NIV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: "Prejudice"

Preparation

Prepare a snack for the children.

Write the words "prejudice," "favoritism," "Jew," and "Gentile" on a piece of poster board. You will refer back to this poster throughout the lesson.



Presentation

Before starting the class, choose a particular group of children to ignore. You can choose all boys or all girls, all those who wear glasses, or those who are wearing a specific color, etc. (DO NOT use skin color or nationality as the group to ignore.) At the beginning of the class, allow the rest of the children to have certain special privileges and opportunities such as giving them certain materials, helping them to get organized, etc. At the same time, ignore the group of children you chose. Finally, offer the snack only to the other children, ignoring the one particular group of children. Those who you chose to ignore will probably start to protest about the unfair treatment they are receiving.

Say: **You are right. I have been treating some children better than others. I've been ignoring some of you. Can you tell me why?** Allow the children to guess the characteristics that the ignored children had in common. Then, give a snack to everyone.

Say: **Was I treating everyone fairly?** Allow children to respond. **No, I was showing prejudice. PREJUDICE is a word that describes what some of you experienced. Sometimes, people are ignored or even mistreated because of the color of their skin or because they come from a**

certain part of the country. Other people may be mistreated because they are disabled or because of their religious beliefs. In today's Bible story we will discover that some Christians were prejudiced against others. Do you think that God was pleased by that? We will learn what God did to teach them a lesson about letting go of their prejudice.

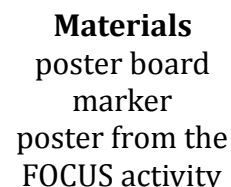
End with a prayer, asking God to help the children be kind to everyone.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Acts 10:34b-35

Preparation

Write Acts 10:34b-35 on the poster board.

Practice saying the verse six or seven times, but make a different mistake every time you do it. You may want to write down the different ways you will say the verse to help the memorization activity go smoothly.



Materials
poster board
marker
poster from the
FOCUS activity

Explanation

Say: **We are learning some big words today.** Refer to the FOCUS activity poster as you talk. **PREJUDICE** is treating people badly because they are different from you, just like I showed prejudice toward some of you during our snack time because you were wearing the color red (or mention the group you chose to ignore). **I treated you unfairly.**

Does anyone know what the word favoritism means? Point to the word on the poster board and allow children to answer. **FAVORITISM** is what I showed to the other group. **I gave them a special treat just because they were not wearing the color red** (or mention the group you chose to ignore) **and ignored the rest of you. I showed favoritism toward them.**

God hates both PREJUDICE and FAVORITISM. He wants us to treat everyone with love and kindness, just as He does.

So what does God look at when he sees a person? Does he look at your hair color, your skin color, or your height? No! Can anyone underline the words in this verse that tell us what God is looking at when he sees us? Allow a child to underline the words "fears him" and "does what is right."

Memorization Activity

Explain to the children that you are going to read the verse several times. Ask them to jump up when they hear a mistake and allow them to correct the mistake. Then read the verse correctly all together. Do this several times until children can say the verse correctly.

INSTRUCT

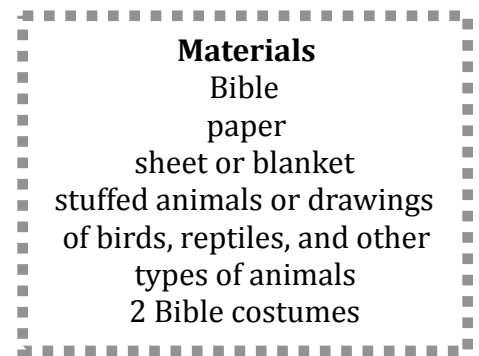
Bible Story: "Peter and Cornelius," Acts 10:1-35

Preparation

Read and study Acts 10:1-35.

Presentation

Say: **In today's story you will hear two words that you might not understand—"Jews" and "Gentiles."** Show children the words written on the poster from the FOCUS activity. **Who are these people? What are their differences?**



In the Old Testament, God chose to give Abraham's family a special blessing because Abraham obeyed God. God turned Abraham's family into a powerful nation called Israel. Later on, they were known as the Jewish people. All other countries and peoples in the world were called the Gentiles.

The Jewish people were supposed to worship God. However, on many occasions they disobeyed God. But God still loved them and kept His promise to them.

The Gentiles didn't know that there was a true and only God. Most of them worshipped idols made out of wood or stone. Some would also worship the sun or moon. Even though they didn't know or worship God, He still loved them.

But the people of God, the Jews, were prejudiced against the Gentiles. And the Gentiles were prejudiced against the Jews. How would these two different groups of people understand the love of God? How would these two different groups of people believe in Jesus and share together?

God had a marvelous plan and it started with a Gentile soldier named Cornelius and a Jewish disciple named Peter.

Ask the children to help you act out the story you are about to tell. You will need two children to be Cornelius and Peter. Give them a costume to wear if you have one. Two children will need to hold the sheet/blanket. Two children can be the messengers from Cornelius. The other children can be Cornelius' family. While you narrate the story, the children can act it out.

Say: **Cornelius was a captain in the Roman army. He and his family were good people and believed in God. Cornelius gave a large portion of his possessions to the poor and prayed frequently. One afternoon, while Cornelius was praying, he saw an angel getting closer to him. "Cornelius!" said the angel. "God has heard your prayers and has seen the gifts you give to others. Send a few of your men to Joppa. There they will find a man named Peter. Ask him to come to visit you."**

As soon as the angel left, Cornelius sent three trusted men to Joppa to find Peter.

But Peter was a Jew. He didn't talk to Gentiles. He also would never eat with a Gentile because there were several types of meat the Gentiles ate that the Jews did not eat. What was God going to do to make sure that Peter went to visit Cornelius?

It was noon time when Peter was praying. But while he was praying he became very hungry. While someone was preparing a meal for him, Peter took a nap. During that nap, he had a dream. He saw a large cloth descend from heaven that was full of all types of living creatures: **birds, animals, and reptiles**. Place stuffed animals or pictures of animals in the sheet and have two children hold it near Peter.

The Lord spoke to Peter, "Rise up, Peter, and eat!"

"Lord, I cannot eat these things. Our laws say that meat from these animals is not clean, therefore, we can't eat them."

"Peter, don't argue with God," the voice said. "If I have made them clean, then they are clean."

This happened three times, and then Peter woke up. He wondered, "What is the meaning of this dream?"

It was at that moment the men coming on behalf of Cornelius knocked at the door. The Lord spoke to Peter, "There are three men looking for you. Go with them. Don't doubt doing so. I have sent them."

So Peter traveled to Cornelius's house.

As soon as he arrived, he said, "Cornelius, you know that the Jewish laws are against me being with someone like you. But God has shown me that I don't need to be prejudiced against any person. That's why I've come to your house."

Then, Peter talked to Cornelius about Jesus who was crucified on a cross, and that He rose from the dead three days later. While Peter was talking to Cornelius and all who were at the house, the Holy Spirit came upon them. They began to speak in heavenly tongues and worshiped God.

When Peter saw what God had done, he said, "I now understand that God loves everyone. He wants both the Jews and Gentiles to hear the good news about Jesus."

Thank the children for helping with the story. Discuss the following questions:

In what ways did the Jewish people show prejudice toward the Gentiles?

What types of food did Jewish law prohibit Peter from eating?

How did God use this food to teach Peter a lesson about prejudice?

What happened when Peter stopped being prejudiced and listened to God?

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Art, "I Will Be Kind to Everyone"

Preparation

Write "I Will Be Kind to Everyone!" at the top of a piece of paper for each child.

Materials

paper
crayons

Presentation

Give each child a prepared sheet of paper. Ask them to draw pictures of several different people. The people should have different hair color, eye color, and skin color. They can also be different heights and wear different types of clothes.

Remind them that no matter the color of our skin, where we live, or what language we speak, God loves us all and wants us to be kind to one another.

Note: If magazines, newspapers, scissors, and glue are available, you can have children cut out pictures of different types of people and glue the pictures on their papers as an alternative to drawing.

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

Write the name of several different countries on pieces of paper.

Materials

globe or world map
paper
marker

Presentation

Ask a child to choose one piece of paper and read the name of the country aloud. If you have a globe or map, show the children where the country is located. Pray for the people of that country. Continue with each country you have written on a piece of paper. End with a prayer for the people of your city or country.

Praying for Others

Lesson Scripture: Genesis 18:17-33, 19:1-3, 12-22

Bible Truth: I will pray for others.

Bible Story: Genesis 18:17-33, 19:1-3, 12-22

Bible Verse: "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2, NIV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: "Asking for Mercy"

Preparation

On a poster board, write the words "intercede" and "intercessor" with their definitions:

intercede: to speak up for something or someone

intercessor: a person that intercedes for others

Materials
poster board
marker
small candies in different colors (M&M's if available)
jar

Choose a type of candy that comes in different colors, preferably M&M's if they are available. (You can also use any size small item that comes in different colors.) Before starting the class, remove all of the yellow candies except one. Discard the rest of the yellow candy. Put the remaining colors of candy and the one yellow candy into a jar. Be sure the single yellow candy is hidden by the other colors.

Practice the skit with a helper the week before class.

Presentation

Begin the ministry time with this skit.

Teacher: (Calling to someone outside of the room.) **I need someone to bring me my candy!**

Helper: (Running into the room carrying the candy jar.) Here are the candies you asked me to bring to you.

Teacher: (Take the jar and observe it carefully.) **I don't see any yellow candy in here. Throw them away.** (Give the jar back to the helper.)

Helper: (Also looks at the jar carefully.) Would you keep the candy if there were at least 50 yellow candies in the jar?

Teacher: **Yes, I would keep them if there were at least 50 yellow candies.**

Helper: And if there were 45 yellow candies, would you keep them if there were only 45 in yellow?

Teacher: **Yes, I think I would keep them if there were at least 45 yellow candies.**

Helper: And if there were 30 yellow candies? Would you throw the jar away if there were 30 yellow?

Teacher: **No, I wouldn't throw away the jar if there were 30 yellow candies.**

Helper: (Carefully examines the contents in the jar.) Perhaps there are only 20 yellow candies. Would you throw the jar away if there are 20 candies in yellow?

Teacher: **No, I would keep them if there were 20.**

Helper: One more question. Would you keep the jar if there were only 10 yellow candies?

Teacher: **If there were 10 yellow candies I wouldn't throw away the candy jar.**

Helper: (Look carefully at the jar, shakes head, sets down the jar, and leaves the classroom.)

Say: **In this skit, my helper was an intercessor for the candy! I wanted to throw out the candy because the yellow ones were missing. He kept trying to get me to save the candy if just a small amount of yellow could be found. If you intercede for something or someone, you are speaking up for them. When you do this, you become an intercessor.** Read the definitions of *intercede* and *intercessor* to the children.

As Christians, we have a responsibility to intercede for others. How do we speak up for them? We do this through prayer. Intercession is a way to pray for others. When we pray for others, we pray for God to help them.

Later on today, I'll let you know what is going to happen to this jar of candy!

In today's Bible story, we will meet an intercessor and discover why he was praying. First, let's see what the Bible has to say about intercession.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Galatians 6:2

Preparation

Write Galatians 6:2 on a poster board.

Fill a jar with rocks. Be sure that the jar feels heavy.

Explanation

Read Galatians 6:2 to the children. Show children the jar full of rocks.

Ask a small child to hold the jar of rocks and tell everyone how it feels.

The child should respond that the jar is heavy.

Say: **This jar is a heavy burden to be carried around alone. How can we help _____** (name the child holding the jar) **carry this burden?** Help children understand that if we all carry one rock, it will be much easier for one person to carry the jar. Give each child a rock from the jar to hold as you continue with the explanation.

Say: **These rocks are a real burden that we can see. However, sometimes our friends and family have problems or burdens that we can't see. What are some of the burdens our friends and family might carry?** (The children should suggest problems that occur at home, at school, with friends, sickness, etc.) **How can we help them with these burdens?** Allow children to respond.

The best way to help carry other people's burdens is to pray or intercede for them. When we pray for them, we are carrying their problem to Jesus. He knows the best way to help them.

Collect rocks and return all but one of them to the jar.

Memorization Activity

Have the children stand in a circle and pass around the one rock that you did not return to the jar.

The first child holding the rock says the first word of the verse and the second child says the second, etc. Each child should say the next word in the Bible verse when they are holding the rock.

Continue until the group can say the Bible verse quickly.

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: "Abraham Prays for Lot," Genesis 18:17-33, 19:1-3, 12-22

Preparation

Read and study Genesis 18:17-33, 19:1-3, 12-22.

Hold the jar of candy from the FOCUS activity as you tell the story.

Materials
poster board
markers
jar
rocks

Materials
Bible
candy jar from the
FOCUS activity

Presentation

Tell the following story, referring to the jar of candy as indicated.

Say: **Abraham's nephew, Lot, lived in a city called Sodom. One day, the Lord told Abraham that the people living in the city of Sodom were doing bad things. Those things were so bad that God decided to destroy the city and everything in it. Abraham loved Lot and wanted to take him out the city of Sodom before it was destroyed.**

So Abraham asked God, "Would you destroy the bad and good people together? Suppose you find 50 innocent people in the city, would you still destroy it?"

What do you think God answered? (Hold up the jar.) Just like I promised not to throw away the candy if there were 50 yellow ones inside of it, God also told Abraham that he wouldn't destroy the city if there were 50 innocent people in it.

Then, Abraham asked God, "And if there were only 45 innocent people? Would you destroy the entire city?" What do you think God said? "No, I wouldn't destroy it." One more time, Abraham asked Him, "God, don't be angry at me. Let me ask you one more time. What would you do if there were only 30 innocent people?" And God said, "No, I wouldn't destroy it."

But Abraham asked again, "Suppose there were only 20." And God said, "No, I wouldn't destroy it." Finally, Abraham said, "Allow me to speak one more time. What would you do if there were only 10 innocent people in the city of Sodom?"

How do you think God answered? He said, "No, I wouldn't destroy it."

Empty the contents in the jar that has only one yellow candy in the middle of it. Look through the candy until you find the one yellow candy.

How many innocent people do you think that God found? Allow the children to answer this question, and then show them the yellow candy. God only found one family that wasn't doing bad things. It was Lot's family. Because of Abraham's prayer and intercession, God sent two angels who helped get Lot's family out of Sodom before it was destroyed. God saved Lot's family because Abraham prayed for them.

Who was the intercessor in our story?

What did he ask God to do?

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APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Writing, "Prayer card reminders"

Preparation

Gather materials.

Presentation

Say: **How did Abraham help to save Lot's life?** He interceded (prayed) for him. **What should we do for the people we love?** He should intercede for them.

Distribute the pencils, paper, and markers or crayons among the children. Ask them to write the word "PRAY" in big letters at the top of their paper. Say: **God listens to our prayers for others. We all know people who need God's help. We are going to make a prayer card to remind us to intercede for others.**

Show children how to color small circles on their paper. Ask them to write the names of people who need prayer inside the circles. You might consider coloring coding their prayers as follows:

Yellow circles: people who need to accept God's forgiveness

Green circles: people who need healing

Orange circles: people who need help at work or school

Red circles: people who are having a hard time (worry, bullies, divorce, etc.)

Materials

paper

pencils

markers or crayons in colors that match the candy in the jar from the FOCUS activity

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

None

Presentation

Make a circle and pray for the people the children wrote inside of the circles on their papers. Ask God to help the children be intercessors.

Materials

none