

Rhythms of Grace • May Year 2

Theme: Christian helping others, God can transform us

Scripture: Acts 3: 1-10

Date: _____

Locations: _____

Volunteer Role:

Facilitator _____

Storyteller _____

Celebrant _____

Center Leader _____

Guide _____

Items needed for This Session

Gathering: wide silver and gold ribbon cut into 6" lengths, artificial flowers, a "gate" (can be a wooden or wrought iron garden trellis or old door or a couple of saw horses or simple structure that can be decorated)

Storytelling: Jesus doll, Bible, coins, cup to gather coins, mat for man to sit on at the gate, decorated gate (from Gathering)

Response Activities:

The Giving Game- single 8 ½ X 11 sheets of construction paper in blue, green, pink, orange and red. Each sheet has lines drawn on it to make 8 boxes per sheet. A paper bag with 8 individual square pieces, each, of blue, green, pink, orange and red construction paper

Group Finger paint- white finger paint
banner paper with the red outline of a large heart in the center, finger paints, paper towels

Body Puzzles- paper body parts (legs, arms, torsos, heads) copied and cut out (see resources) and metal brads to join them

Our Strong Bodies- a variety of kinesthetic tools: hula hoops, yoga balls, mini trampoline, jump ropes, crawling tunnel

Regathering: a large bag of dried beans, paper cups, elements for the Eucharistic table (see Eucharist-Book1)

Eucharist: Eucharist prayer (see Book 1 p. 100), Gather our Hearts song lyrics (see Book 1 p. 99), Bible, Jesus doll, altar table, and elements (pita bread/rice crackers, juice, chalice, paten, purificator, corporal, altar cloth)

Dismissal: *Jesus Loves Me*, song lyrics (see Book 1 p. 99)

Session Plan • Christians Helping Others • May Yr. 2

Gathering: On arrival, participants will use silver and gold ribbon and artificial flowers to decorate and create the “Beautiful Gate.”

Storytelling: Jesus doll, Bible, with the gate from Gathering, see storytelling.

Response Activities:

The Giving Game- see instructions for game in resources.

Group Finger paint- participants will work together to finger paint large banner with heart in the middle. The heart will be red... the outside will be all other colors.

Body Puzzles-using pattern pieces (see resources), participants will join various body parts (legs, arms, torso, head) together using metal brads so the assembled person has moveable joints.

Our Strong Bodies-free play with a variety of kinesthetic tools: hula hoops, yoga balls, mini trampoline, crawling tunnel, jump rope

Regathering: **Bean Relay-** Children sit in a long line. The first child will fill their cup from a bucket of beans near them and pour the beans into their neighbor’s cup continuing down the line till all the beans are transferred to another bucket at the end of the line. Singing, *Jesu, Jesu*, leader gives participants an Eucharist element and participant brings it to the Celebrant then sits down in the circle around the Eucharistic table.

Eucharist: Sing: Gather our Hearts

Gather our hearts, oh God.
Gather our thoughts, oh God.
Bring us together around you.

Celebration of the Eucharist

Dismissal: All sing and sign *Jesus Loves Me*,

Celebrant provides a blessing:

Celebrant: “*Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord.*”

Participant: “*Thanks be to God!*”

Story Telling • Christian Helping Others • May Yr. 2

Place the Bible and Jesus doll by the Storyteller

Use the gate from the Gathering, coins, cup to gather coins, mat for man to sit on at the gate for dramatic play.

Our story today is from our Bible (*show Bible*), our book that tells the stories of God and God's people, of Jesus (*show Jesus doll*), God's son, and of how much God loves us (*place hands over heart*).

This story is from the Book of Acts. It is in the New Testament. (*show the New Testament*) The book of Acts tells about the adventures that the friends of Jesus had as they went around the country sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Remember we've had two stories from the Book of Acts about Paul. I am going to tell you a story about two other Christians, Peter and John.

I am going to tell you the story, first, and then we are going to take turns acting it out:

One day, Peter and John, two of Jesus' friends, were going to pray at the temple. The temple was a big, big building and it was very beautiful. The door of the temple was 75 feet high- that's about as tall as a house!- and it was covered with beautiful artwork and silver and gold. It was called the Beautiful Gate. (*motion to the Beautiful Gate made in the Gathering*)

When Peter and John arrived at the Beautiful Gate, they noticed a man, sitting on a mat, (*hold up the mat*) near the Gate. The man was covered with an old blanket (*hold up the blanket*) and he held a small basket of coins. (*show basket of coins.*)

The man could not walk. His legs were paralyzed. They did not work, and so the man sat, all day, at the Gate asking the people who passed by for money. The money that he collected helped him to buy food.

As Peter and John drew close to the man, he called out to them, asking them for money.

Peter stopped and said to the man, " Look at me."

The man looked and Peter said, " We have no money. But we will give you what we do have: In the name of Jesus, stand up and walk."

And then Peter took him by the hand, and the man stood up. He could stand! And then, the man jumped for joy and thanked God. He joined Peter and John and went to the temple to pray.

Amen.

Now- who would like to help act out this story? We need two people to be Peter and John, and one person to be the man at the Gate, and two others to play people who give the man money as they enter the temple. *(Using the props of blanket, mat, basket, coins and Gate, re-enact the story. Begin with the two who give the man money as they pass by, and then have Peter and John arrive, talk to the man and heal him. When the man is lifted up by Peter, he will jump around the room and call out, "Thank You, God!" Then Peter, John and the man exit the scene as they enter the temple together to pray.)*

Continue until all who have desired, have a chance to play then explain the activities.