

Rhythms of Grace Worship • July Year 3

Theme: Life as a Christian Now - Christ's model of: learning, prayer, teaching in community, helping and healing

Scripture: The New Testament

Date: _____

Location: _____

Volunteer Roles:

Facilitator _____

Storyteller _____

Celebrant _____

Center Leader _____

Guide _____

Items needed for this Session

Gathering: Large poster board or foam board with “JESUS” in thick letters in the middle, pictures of Jesus and pictures of different stories from his life, i.e. his baptism, in the desert, miracles, healings, stilling the sea, etc, glue, and possibly scissors

Storytelling: Bible, Jesus doll, Storytelling pages, poster board from gathering, story cards of Jesus as: A Learner story card #1, (new story card in resources), In Prayer story card #2, (previous story card from Yr. 1 “Holy Week/Easter” card #3 (Jesus praying in the garden story card)), Teaching in Community story card #3, (previous story card from Yr. 2 “Jan. Feeding the 5,000” story card #2 (teaching the crowd story card)), and Helping and Healing story card #4, (new story card in resources).

Response Activities:

Prayer: Prayer sticks - popsicle sticks, color markers, frozen juice container or a similar container, decorations for sticks and container, glue

Helping Others - Walking the beam- either a long 2x4 wooden beam or larger, mats under beam or depending on groups ability a sheet with a long straight thick line painted on it

Learning - Piece of Music - a simple chant or hymn that your group may be able to learn, maybe with hand movements, i.e. Father Abraham, He Got the Whole World in His Hands, This Little Light of Mine, etc.

Caring - list of elderly or homebound from your parish or someone from their family or this group, construction paper or card stock, glue, different color sand

Regathering: As group regathers sing the musical piece you learned in the response activities together, “*Jesu, Jesu*, elements for the Eucharistic table (see Eucharist - Book 1)

Eucharist: Altar table and elements (pita bread/rice crackers, juice, chalice, paten, purificator, corporal, altar cloth), Eucharistic Prayer (see Book 1 p. 100), *Gather our Hearts* song lyrics (see book 1 p. 99)

Dismissal: *Jesus Loves Me* song lyrics (see Book 1 p. 99 and CD Yr. 2 additional resources)

Sessions Plan • Life as a Christian Now - Christ's Model • July Yr. 3

Gathering: Poster board or foam board with “Jesus” is in the middle of the table with many pictures depicting Jesus’ life around the board. Participants with help will pick out pictures and talk with leaders about the picture then paste them on the board around the name. Have some pictures cut out and some not so varying levels can participate as they are able.

Storytelling: With the poster from gathering behind the storyteller off to side so participants can see it, the story teller sits with the Jesus doll and the Bible in front of him/her. Using the Storytelling pages and story cards indicated tell the story.

Response Activities:

Prayer - Prayer sticks - Participant will decorate the container with items available. Then take the popsicle© sticks and write the names of family members and friends on the sticks. Pull out a stick and pray for that person with the participant. Repeat.

Helping Others - Walking the beam - working in pairs with either a beam or the sheet, one participant helps their partner walk on the beam/line without going off. Partners switch and repeat.

Learning - Piece of Music - Participants work with the leader to learn a simple piece of music with or without hand motions.

Caring - Sand Art Card - Participants will make a card with glue and colored sand for a member of the parish, their family, or this community.

Regathering: All will gather and together sing the song practiced in the response activities. Singing *Jesu, Jesu*, participants pick up an element for placement at the altar and as the clergy sets the table all create a circle around the altar.

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 the blessing:

Celebrant: “*Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord*”

Participant: “*Thanks be to God!*”

Storytelling • Life As A Christian Now• July Yr. 3

Place the Bible and Jesus doll in front of the Storyteller with the poster made in the Gathering behind and to side so all can see. Have the story cards ready. As you tell the story, place the story cards in a semi-circle around and in front of the Jesus doll.

- 1. Story card – A Learner-new story card in resources*
- 2. Story card – In Prayer-previous story card from yr. 1 “Holy Week/Easter, Jesus in the Garden”*
- 3. Story card – Teaching in Community-previous story card from yr. 2 “Jan. Feeding the 5,000, Teaching to the Crowd”*
- 4. Story card – Helping and Healing-new story card in resources*

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

Today, we are using almost all of the New Testament, from Jesus’ birth through the apostles and the early church. But our stories don’t end there. They continue to right now with all of us. Our lives as Christian are part of the story that actually started even before the world was created, with God’s idea to share his love.

Our Bible tells all the stories of long ago and we have more books that tell the stories from the Bible until now with people who tried to live the lives that God intended for all of us. But now it’s time for us to create our story to add to the thousands before us. How do we do that? Well, we look at the life of Jesus as a model.

So first, Jesus spent time as a young man reading the Torah, which is like our Old Testament and discussing it with the teachers in the synagogue (like our church). He read all the stories of those who were close to God and tried to live their lives as God wants them to live. (*story card #1 a picture of Jesus as a child with a Torah and elders*).

When Jesus was baptized by John as a young man He went into the desert to be alone and pray. Many other times in the New Testament we read about Jesus going away from others into the hills to be alone and pray (*story card #2 show a picture of Jesus praying*). Praying in quiet is a really good way to focus on God alone, away from the distractions of life.

Other times we learn about Jesus in groups of people teaching and preaching, (*story card #3 a picture of Jesus with the crowds teaching*). It is important to be in community with others, in friendship, love, and caring. We draw strength and energy from our communities of faith.

Jesus also visited, and cared about others, listening to them, healing them, offering them hope and love (*story card #4 a picture of Jesus caring and healing a boy*).

Once we draw strength from all four of Christ's examples above, as Christ told us when He went to be with God, we must now be his hands and heart here on earth.

Jesus spent much of his time helping and healing those who were in need of; food, a home, health, friendship, understanding, companionship and love (*point to the pictures of Jesus helping, healing, holding, and caring for others*). Now let's look at our poster we made and see if we can see other times Christ prayed, healed, taught, and helped. (*Discuss the pictures they put on the poster board*).

Amen!

After an appropriate pause, the Storyteller goes to explain the activities of the day.