

Rhythms of Grace Worship • May Year 3

Theme: Peter Understands Jesus is for ALL

Scripture: Acts 10

Date: _____

Location: _____

Volunteer Roles:

Facilitator _____

Storyteller _____

Celebrant _____

Center Leader _____

Guide _____

Items needed for this Session

Gathering: A large replica of the Mediterranean map in resources with Joppa and Casearea written in outline form, cut out letters; J, o, p, p, a and C, a, s, e, a, r, e, a to fit in the outlined letters on map.

Storytelling: Bible, Jesus doll, Storytelling page, world map (from yr. 1 June), map of Mediterranean from gathering, figures (Peter, Cornelius, two messengers, family members and extras for around world see resources for example), and clip art of Christians from different parts of the world (see resources for examples).

Response Activities:

The Giving Game-See (Yr 2-May), Christians Helping Others, God Transforms

“Faith is”- collection of objects: figurine, pencil, ruler stuffed animal, etc., dark colored cloth or bandana

Made by God and it is, Good!-create a Venn diagram with one labeled “God made, It is good!”, “We make, It is good!” and intersection labeled, “God and we make, It is good!”, pictures or clip art of the three categories to sort.

Prayer walk maze- colored circles or squares of foam or construction paper, The Lord’s Prayer or a healing prayer in sections (in Resources), tape

Regathering: Lord’s Prayer with Motions (see Book 1 p.113), elements for the Eucharistic table (see Eucharist-Book 1)

Eucharist: altar table and *Jesu, Jesu*, 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 • Peter Understands Jesus is for ALL• May Yr. 3

Gathering: Place map of area near your storytelling space. Spread the letters of the names of the towns around the space (you can add additional towns if you need more letters for your participants). Have participants find the letters, name them, match the outlines on the map and glue them. This will be used for your storytelling along with the world map from yr. 1.

Storytelling: Tell the story of the Peter and Cornelius using storytelling.

Response Activities:

The Giving Game- See Yr 2-(May), Christians Helping Others, God Transforms

Faith is- “The assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)- Gather a collection of objects like those described in supplies. Allow the participant to arrange them on the table. Using the cloth, drape objects. Have participants name each object without see it. Move draped items around to make more challenging.

Made by God and it is Good! – Discuss the pictures that you have picked and help participants sort the pictures into the different categories named on the Venn diagram.

Prayer walk maze- Place The Lord’s Prayer or a healing prayer on a number of foam circles. Make a maze using both empty and prayer attached circles for participants to walk. When they approach of prayer circle say that part of the prayer. See resources for example picture.

Regathering: Using the hand and body motions from Rhythms of Grace, Book 1 p. 113, pray the Lord’s Prayer, together, emphasizing that prayer can take a variety of postures. Singing *Jesu, Jesu*, participants bring Eucharistic elements to the Celebrant, then sit in a 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 the blessing:
Celebrant: “*Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord*”
Participant: “*Thanks be to God!*”

Storytelling • Peter Understands Jesus is for ALL • May Yr. 3

Place the Bible and Jesus doll, world map from yr. 1 (June), map of Mediterranean from gathering, figures (Peter, Cornelius, two messengers, family members and extras for around world), and clip art of Christians from different parts of the world by the Storyteller.

Bible, (*show the 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 takes place after Jesus had gone to live with his Father in heaven. It is a story that has a friend of Jesus, Peter, and a man of great faith and support for the faithful in it. Plus, many, many, many more.

Cornelius was a very faithful man who lived in Caesarea (*place a figure of a man on the map near the town of Caesarea*). He was from Italy. He and his family prayed to God constantly and gave money to help people in need. One afternoon he had a vision of an angel of God calling his name. He said, "What is it, Lord?" The angel said, "Your prayers and good works have been seen by God". "Send a messenger to the town of Joppa to a man called Peter living by the seaside". After the angel left Cornelius sent three men to Joppa to find Peter (*take three more figures and put them half way between Caesarea and Joppa*).

As they were getting close to the city, Peter climbed up to the roof of the house to pray (*put a figure next to the town of Joppa on your map*). He became hungry and while the food was being made he had a dream. He saw the heaven open up and something like a large sheet came down to the ground (*use your open hand as a sheet coming down*). On it were four-footed creatures, reptiles and birds of the air. A voice said, "Get up Peter and kill and eat". Peter said, "Lord I cannot eat anything that is unclean" (*the Jewish Bible, the Torah, had a rule that eating unclean animals was forbidden*). The Voice said to him, "God made good you must not call anything God made unclean." The voice said this three times and then Peter woke up. Now Peter was very puzzled about the dream. While he was thinking the Holy Spirit came to him and told him about the three men coming to get him and that he was to go with them.

Just then the men sent by Cornelius met him (*put all the men together*). Peter asked why they had come and told the story they had heard from Cornelius. They stayed there for the night and in the morning all of them, plus other believers from Joppa, went back to Caesarea. When Peter got to Caesarea, Cornelius came out to meet him and brought him back to his house (*as your Peter figure approaches Caesarea bring your Cornelius figure to him then back to Caesarea*). Many of Cornelius's family and friends were there (*add more figures*). Peter said to them, "You know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or visit anyone who is not Jewish but God has shown me that I should not call anyone unclean." He asked Cornelius why he sent for him. Cornelius told him about the angel. Then Peter said, "I truly understand that God includes everyone in His love. You know the message of peace by Jesus Christ. He continued telling

them about Jesus, his life, his death, and his resurrection.

While Peter was speaking the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard him... even those who were not Jewish. Peter then baptized all the people there in the name of Jesus Christ.

Christ's message was not just for the Jewish people but for everyone and anyone no matter where they lived, what they looked like, or where they came from (*as you say this spread your hands around the whole earth. Place your clip art in the nation/area it belongs with a wooden figure if you have enough. As you name and place the clip art say, "The message of God and Jesus traveled to... and Christian communities were created."*) Each one of you (*point or say the name of each person listening*) is loved by God and you are part of the family of Christ.

Amen

(continue by explaining the response activities)