

SPARKS

MAIN POINT: For each child to hear how Jesus gave everything and died on the cross for us so that we could be friends with God again.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING: For each child to think about what forgiveness is.

10:50am Free Play: Some time to play before beginning the main session.

11:15 Tidy Up Time: In order to keep their attention during the crafts and story be sure to tidy away everything so that there are no distractions in the room.

11:20 Story + Snack:

Ask the children about forgiveness.

Have they ever had to say sorry? What's it like? Is it easy or hard?

Have they every had to forgive someone? What's it like? Is it easy or hard?

Tell the children that it can be super hard to say sorry but it's also hard to forgive others too. But there's an amazing story in the bible all about forgiveness and I wonder if anyone might know what story that is?

TELL THE STORY: Use the book provided

You may need to simplify it at times but it will be the story of Easter when Jesus died .

Once you've read the story tell the children that this is an amazing story because Jesus saved us and forgave us of all the wrong things we do so that we could be friends with God again.

11:30 Craft: CARD CROSSES

Decorate the card crosses available and remember the story.

Stick on pom poms and other materials available and talk about how Jesus loved us so much that he died for us so that we could be friends with God again.

11:40 Pray together:

Have a go at doing the Teaspoon prayer: TSP - THANK YOU, SORRY, PLEASE
Explain to the children that we are saying a special prayer that helps us talk to God. Tell the children we are going to say thank you to God for Jesus and all he did for us. Get the children to shout THANK YOU!

Say this prayer: Thank you God that you love us so much that you gave your son for us. Amen

Then tell them that we are going to say sorry. See if the children will shut their eyes and think about something wrong they have done recently that they need to say sorry for. Get the children to shout SORRY!

Say this prayer: Father God we are so sorry for when we get things wrong. We are sorry when we hurt others and you. Amen

Then tell them that we are going to say please and ask God to help us be better at forgiving others. Get the children to shout PLEASE!

Say this prayer: Please help us God to be better at forgiving others and loving others better. Amen

11:50 Songs: Use the iPad to worship God. Feel free to pick whichever songs you'd prefer by searching on YouTube. Some examples: Our God is a great big God/Alive by Hillsong/My Lighthouse by Rend Collective.

SEARCH ON YOUTUBE: 'Story of the Cross'

If ahead of time then free play or play games together like duck duck goose or musical statues using CD player. 12pm Children given their crafts and taken down stairs to the meeting point ready to be picked up.

FLAMES + BLAZE

MAIN POINT: For each child to hear how Jesus gave everything and died on the cross for us so that we could be friends with God again.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING: For each child to think about what forgiveness is.

11:00am Play a collective game once all children have arrived.

Something like duck duck goose, bean game, simon says, number ladders, what's the time Mr.Wolf, ZipZapBoing!

11:15 GROUP TIME

Sit as a group and ask: How are you doing?

Ask the children what the best thing that has happened this week.

See if the children can remember what book of the bible we are looking at. Explain that we are still in the book of Hebrews and this week we are in Chapter 10! Tell them that our whole series at the moment is called 'Let faith arise.' The reason for this is that the book of Hebrews is to help faith arise. We can help faith arise in each other by being encouraging and talking about when God does amazing things.

Ask if anyone wants to share a time when they saw God do something really cool or amazing. (The children may not say what you expect but let us have faith that they know and have experienced God do cool things. Have a story of your own ready to tell)

11:30 BIBLE + Snack

STORYBOOK BIBLE - THE SUN STOPS SHINING pg 309

Read the story and explain that Jesus sacrificed himself so that we could be friends with God again. As the story explains this way 'the only way God could destroy sin (the wrong things we do) and not destroy his children (whom he loves) whose hearts were filled with sin.'

Look at how Hebrews says it. Read Hebrews 10v11-14.

"11 Every day the priests stand and do their religious service. Again and again they offer the same sacrifices. But those sacrifices can never take away sins. **12** But Christ offered one sacrifice for sins, and it is good forever. Then he sat down at the right side of God. **13** And now Christ waits there for his enemies to be put under his power. **14** With one sacrifice he made perfect forever those who are being made holy."

You may need to explain that before Jesus in order for God's people to be able to be friends with God again they would have to sacrifice animals so that they would be able to get rid of their sin and get back to being close to God again.

11:45 CRAFT

Make bracelets or necklaces that remind the children about the story.

There will be crosses available that they can put as the main part of their jewelry. Use the other beads available too and let them get creative with it!

They can make more than 1 if they want as there are lots of crosses available.

11:55 PRAY

Tell the children that we are going to pray using the Teaspoon prayer (TSP)

THANK YOU - SORRY - PLEASE.

Tell the children we are going to say thank you to God for Jesus and all he did for us. Ask them if there is anything they'd like to say thank you to God for.

Say this prayer: Thank you God that you love us so much that you gave your son for us. Amen

Then tell them that we are going to say sorry. Tell the children to shut their eyes and think about something wrong they have done recently that they need to say sorry for. Give them a few moments of silence.

Say this prayer: Father God we are so sorry for when we get things wrong.

We are sorry when we hurt others and you. Amen

Then tell them that we are going to say please and ask God to help us be better at forgiving others.

Say this prayer: Please help us God to be better at forgiving others and loving others better. Amen