

Lesson 39

-Christianity in Action-

Christianity in Action

2-5 Years:

Opening Prayer: To welcome the start of the class. For example:

"Dear God. As we once again come together, help us to learn more about your work and how we can be better Christians. Amen"

Bible Story:

Today, rather than tell a story from the Bible, illustrate the theme by telling a story about a Minister's role in his congregation. Use basic language that this age group can understand. At this point, just recount a week or a month in the life of the leader of your church, emphasising the things that he/she does that show Christianity in action.

Discuss:

What is Christian? Helpful? Kind? Caring? Compassionate? Illustrate these words with examples things your minister does that fit into the words you use. After each word and your example, ask the children for examples of how they are this word - perhaps they help Momma fold laundry, or they keep quiet when the baby's asleep, and so on.

Activity: Create a Class Chain of Christian Living:

You will need some construction paper in different colors cut into strips about 1.5 inches wide. A pen which is thick enough to write bold, easy to read letters, and some sticky tape.

Give each child two strips of paper. Then help them to write their name on the first strip, and then a Christian attribute on the second. Once all of the children have two completed paper strips, write God on another strip and then use the tape to stick the ends together. Have the children join their strips to the chain one at a time by threading the strip through the last loop created and then securing their strip into a loop with tape. Try to organize it so that the chain reads name+attribute+name+attribute and so on.

Hang the chain where it can be seen by the children when they enter the room.

Song: (To the tune of "If you're happy and you know it clap your hands")

If you're a Christian and you know it
Praise the Lord
If you're a Christian and you know
Praise the Lord
If you're a Christian and you know
And you really want to show it
If you're a Christian and you know it
Praise the Lord

If you're a Christian and you know it
Thank the Lord
.....and so on

If you're a Christian and you know it
Shout I am (I AM!)
.....and so on



Activity 2:

Supply each of the children with a piece of construction paper, and provide some crayons.

Tell the children about someone who is sick in your congregation, or about a old people's home nearby, or a hospice for sick people, or somewhere that will appreciate having had the children thinking about them. Next tell the children that they are going to create a picture that you will to this person/place.

Ask the children to draw and color a picture with flowers on it. When they are done, make sure each child's name is on the picture, along with their age, and then place them in an envelope. During the week, deliver the pictures as a gift from the class.

Closing Prayer: Thanking God for teaching us how to be loving, helpful people. For example:

"Dear God, thank you for the people who take care of us in your name. Thank you for teaching us that we should be kind and thoughtful of others. Amen."

6-8 Years:

Opening prayer: To welcome students to class and introduce the theme. Keep the prayer simple and easy for the children to learn so that it can be said as a group prayer rather than one that the leader says. For example:

"Dear God. We thank you for the chance to meet once again in your presence. Help us to learn more about your work and to understand how we can follow in your footsteps. Amen"

Bible Story:

Tell the story of someone, for example Mother Theresa, who exemplifies Christianity to the children in the class. Use a children's version of the story, or simplify it so that they understand it.

Discussion 1:

What is a Christian? Is it just someone who believes in God? What kind of things is a Christian? How can we show that we are these things (for example: helpful, compassionate, respectful, etc).

Drama:

Split the class into small groups and give each group a word from the list you created. Ask each group to create a small play where they show this word in action - for example "helpful" - helping an elderly person across the street. "Compassionate" - helping someone find the right classroom on their first day at school.

Be prepared to offer some hints to the groups who can't think of anything themselves.

Quiz:

Print up the following and give a copy to each member of the class:

Answer true or false to the following:

- | | |
|--|------------|
| A Christian always brags about their new clothes. | True/False |
| A Christian always has to be first in the line | True/False |
| A Christian will think of themselves before others | True/False |
| A Christian will give to others in need | True/False |
| A Christian shows others God through themselves | True/False |
| A Christian is always miserable | True/False |
| A Christian does nothing but pray | True/False |

- A Christian will help when someone is in trouble True/False
- A Christian always thinks that they are best True/False
- A Christian puts God first in their life True/False

Talk about the answers to the above. Why are they true or false?

Answer true or false to the following:

- A Christian always brags about their new clothes. True/False
- A Christian always has to be first in the line True/False
- A Christian will think of themselves before others True/False
- A Christian will give to others in need True/False
- A Christian shows others God through themselves True/False
- A Christian is always miserable True/False
- A Christian does nothing but pray True/False
- A Christian will help when someone is in trouble True/False
- A Christian always thinks that they are best True/False
- A Christian puts God first in their life True/False

Activity:

You will need construction paper in a number of different colors, art/craft supplies, a thick marker pen, and some sticky tape to assemble the chain. Cut the construction paper into strips 1.5 inches wide. Ask the children which Christian attribute they think describes them best.

Give each of them a colored strip, and ask them to write first their name, and then the attribute: For example "Emma is Loving" or "Ben puts Others First". Once they have their words complete, let the children decorate their strip with the art/craft supplies, and then interlock each strip so that it makes a chain. Hang this on the wall in your classroom.

Discussion 2:

Is the world a better place to live because of Christians? Why is this so? Wouldn't it better if everyone thought of only themselves and how much "stuff" they could get? Why not? When we show our Christian attributes - what are we really showing? (God at work in our lives)

Closing Prayer: Thanking God for showing us how to be Christians so that we might bring others to know him through us. For example:

"Dear God, thank you for showing us how to be Christians through your book the Bible, and through people like Mother Theresa, so that we might bring others to you. Help us to follow in their footsteps in your name. Amen."

9-11 Years:

Opening prayer: To welcome students to class and introduce the theme. Keep the prayer simple and easy for the children to learn so that it can be said as a group prayer rather than one that the leader says. For example:

"Dear God. We thank you for the chance to meet once again in your presence. Help us to learn more about your work and to understand how we can follow in your footsteps. Amen"

Bible Story:

Tell the story of someone, for example Mother Theresa, or of an organization who exemplify Christianity to the children in the class.

Discussion 1:

Why is this person/organization a good example of Christianity in action? What is it that they do that makes them a good Christian role model? What attributes do they have, that we also have?

Activity 1:

Unscramble the following:

sfrlucepct

teapassmoonic

gracni

tsneoh

lebhmu

nema

itepmychsat

gigiovrfn

dyerfinl

cidedetad

yalol

One of these words doesn't belong in this list - which one is it? Why?

Discussion 2:

How can we live our lives to be more of an example of God's work here on earth? What can we do to be better Christians?

Activity:

Brainstorm a list of possible things that the class could do as a group for either the church community, the local neighborhood, or to help a larger organization. Remember to keep these suggestions within the scope of your time, and restricted resources.

Find the best 3 suggestions, then take a vote on which of these the class will commit to, and create a list of what the suggestion will require and a time frame. This could be as simple as picking up litter outside the church, or as complicated as running a fundraiser - such as a sponsored silence - to raise funds for a specific project.

Closing Prayer: Thanking God for the chance to show his love at work. For example:

"Dear God thank you for showing me through the Bible, and other people who act in your name, how a Christian should act. Thank you for the chance to show your love at work through my actions. Amen."

Word Scramble:

Unscramble the following:

sfrlueepct

teapassmoonie

gracni

tsneoh

lebhm

nema

itepmychs

gigiovrfn

dyerfinl

cidedetad

yalol

One of these words doesn't belong in this list - which one is it? Why?

12-14 Years:

Opening prayer: To welcome students to class and introduce the theme. Keep the prayer simple and easy for the students to learn so that it can be said as a group prayer rather than one that the leader says. For example:

"Dear God. We thank you for the chance to meet once again in your presence. Help us to learn more about your work and to understand how we can follow in your footsteps. Amen"

Bible Reading:

Tell the story of someone, for example Mother Theresa, or of an organization who typify Christianity to the children in the class. With this group look at people/groups who are working on a Global scale to fight against poverty, sickness, and disaster.

Discussion 1:

Christianity isn't just a religion. It's a verb. How so?

Activity 1:

Brainstorm a list of how Christian people and organizations are helping people around the world by reaching out in fellowship and love to try and make their lives better.

Discussion 2:

A verb is a doing word. Everyone can "do" something. What can we "do" to help make God's world a better place, and to show his love to others through our actions? Write the suggestions down on a large piece of paper as the students give them to you.

Activity 2:

Supply a large piece of construction paper, glue, and pamphlets, news clippings, promotional material, logos, of organizations and their work in God's name. These could include charities, organizations, peacemakers, missionaries, refuge centers, etc. You could also include some bible verses or quotes that could be included in the collage if you wish.

The students should cut these out and create a large collage for the wall. Put a title of "Christianity in Action" across the top of this.

Closing Prayer: Thanking God for the opportunity we have to show his love by putting our Christianity into action in our own lives. For example:

"Dear God, thank you for showing us how a Christian ought to be. Thank you for the opportunities we have to show your love by putting our Christianity into action in the service of others. Amen."