

Sunday, November 20, 2011
23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Reign of Christ

Preparation:

Read the Gospel [Matthew 25:31-46](#) for the day over – Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump out at you.

Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yeara/christa.htm>

http://www.episcopalchurch.org/109452_115834_ENG_HTM.htm

http://www.cyberfaith.com/proclaiming_faith.cfm?id=259

http://www.sermons4kids.com/least_of_these.htm

<http://sundayschoolsources.com/lessons/sheepgoats.htm>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/a/King-a/A-King-a.html>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/chrkingmles.htm>

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-awvx.htm#p34>

Gathering:

Materials needed:

Small table or end of one table

White candle

Candle lighter

Bible & Bookmark

White cloth

Newsprint and markers

Picture of the Queen – check [here](#) for some possible images to print

Print up the prayer for today on the newsprint and post it somewhere all the children can see it. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children's help lay out the white cloth, the candle and the Bible. Light the candle.

Pray the following prayer together:

Creator God you are here,

Loving Jesus you are here,

Holy Spirit you are here,

Come and show us the way.

Amen.

Blow out the candle. Show the children the picture of the queen that you have printed or brought with you. Ask the children to describe what they think a queen or king does and acts like. *Wait for their responses and if you want note them up on the newsprint.* Explain that this Sunday we remember that Jesus is the most important person to us. That he had much to teach us about how to live in God's world.

Story Time:

Jesus had been with his friends for a long time. They knew each other well. Jesus still had things to teach them about God. Jesus still had things to teach them about loving each other.

They decided that it was time to go to Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, God's holy city, they spent a lot of time together at the temple; a place God's people came to worship and to pray. While in the temple so many different people came to Jesus. They all had questions for him. They wanted to know who was going to get into God's kingdom. They wanted to know which law of God was the greatest. They wanted to know how to love each other. They all had questions for him.

One of the key questions that everyone had for Jesus was how people were to act with each other. Jesus who loved to tell stories told them about it this way.

When the Kingdom of God arrives it will be a wonderful day. All the people of the world – every boy, girl, man and woman – will come before God.

God will separate the people like a shepherd separates sheep and goats. Some of the people God will put on the right side and the rest of the people God will put on the left side.

To the people on the right side God will say, "You are my blessed people. You are to come and live with me forever and ever. A place has been prepared for you since the beginning of time."

God went on to say, "When I was hungry you fed me. When I was thirsty you gave me a drink. When I was a stranger you welcomed me. When I was without clothes you gave me some. When I was sick you took care of me. When I was in prison you came and visited me."

The people on God's right side will say, "When did we feed you? When did we give you something to drink? When did we welcome you? When did you need clothes? When were you sick? When were you in prison?"

In response God will say, "When you took food to the hungry; when you gave a drink to someone who was thirsty; when you welcomed the stranger into your community; when you gave clothes to those who needed them; when you visited and took care of the sick; when you visited someone in prison; it was then that you took care of me. When you cared for the least of my people then you took care of me. "

To the people on the left side God will say, "You are the lost people. You are to go far away from me. A place far from here has been prepared for you."

God went on to say, "When I was hungry you did not feed me. When I was thirsty you did not give me a drink. When I was a stranger you did not welcome me. When I was without clothes you did not give me any. When I was sick you did not care for me. When I was in prison you did not visit me."

The people on God's left side will say, "When did we not feed you? When did we not give you a drink? When did we not welcome you? When did we not give you clothes? When did we not care for you when you were sick? When did we not visit you when you were in prison?"

In response God will say, "You did not care for anyone who was hungry, thirsty, needed clothes, was a stranger, sick or in prison. So you did not care for me."

Jesus told his friends this story so that would know the kind of life to live. A life of caring. A life of loving. A life of sharing.

If you made note of how the children thought a king or queen should act go back over the list with them now. Ask them to think about what kind of king Jesus is. Hopefully they will come up with a king who loves and serves others.

Response:

Idea #1: Kingdom Crowns

To be a member of the kingdom of God means that we act in a different way than the rest of the world around us. This response will help the children, particularly younger ones, to put this into concrete terms.

Materials needed: poster board, scissors, glue sticks, symbols from end of lesson, scissors, stapler with staples, fine line markers or pencil crayons, glitter

Instructions: Cut the poster board into 10 cm/4 inch widths along the long side of it. Make one for each child. Make copies of the symbols at the end of the lesson, so that each child has a set. For younger children you will probably want to cut them out ahead of time. Give each child the prepared poster board and set of symbols. Ask the children how the symbols talk about the way that Jesus wants us to live in the world – help with our hands, love all the time, be peaceful and share our smiles with everyone (*hold up each symbol as you talk about it*). To be a part of God's kingdom is to do these things all the time. Invite the children to make themselves Kingdom Crowns by first colouring in the symbols and then gluing them on to the poster board. If they want have them decorate their crowns with the glitter by spreading some glue and sprinkling the glitter on to the glue. When they are finished have the children put their crowns around their heads and staple them together for them. You may need to trim off any excess poster board after so that it doesn't trail. Encourage the children to share the symbols on their crowns with their families.

Idea #2: Kingdom of God Mobiles

This response will give the children a concrete way of sharing today's story with their families by sharing these mobiles with them.

Materials needed: symbols from end of lesson, card stock, scissors, glue sticks, fine line markers or pencil crayons, glitter, hole punch, yarn, dowel (60 cms/ 24 inches) or hangers

Instructions: Make a copy of the symbols for each child on the card stock. Cut them out for younger children, let older ones do this for themselves. Cut four pieces of yarn for each child in different lengths. Give each child a set of symbols. Ask the children how the symbols talk about the way that Jesus wants us to live in the world – help with our hands, love all the time, be peaceful and share our smiles with everyone (*hold up each symbol as you talk about it*). To be a part of God's kingdom is to do these things all the time. Have the children cut out the symbols (if not already done ahead for them) and then colour them in with the markers or pencil crayons. Let them decorate them with glitter by spreading on some glue and shaking the glitter on to the glue. Punch a hole into the top end of the symbol circle and help the children to tie a piece of yarn through the hole and then tie the other end onto the dowel or the hanger. If using a dowel you will want to cut a larger piece of yarn to tie on either end to make a hanger for it. Encourage the children to share their mobiles with their families explaining what the symbols mean and to hang them up somewhere at home where they will see it regularly.

Idea #3: Mission Project

As we get to the end of the church year and are preparing for Advent it is a good time to be thinking about a mission project that the whole group can do together. You may want to suggest to others in the congregation that they join your group for this activity. This will be especially good with an older group of children.

Materials needed: a mission project, newsprint, markers, pencils, note paper

Instructions: Research a local mission project (homeless shelter, food bank) or an international project (such as the [Primate's World Relief & Development Fund](#)) that you think your group of children will be interested in working on for the next several weeks. Bring the necessary information with you to share with the children. Print up the following on the newsprint: **WHEN YOU CARED FOR THE LEAST OF MY PEOPLE THEN YOU CARED FOR ME.** Explain to the children that they are going to plan together a project that will make these words true in their lives. Share the information about the project that you have chosen with the children. Then get them to start sharing ideas on how they could raise money to support this mission project. List those ideas up on the newsprint. When they are done sharing their ideas go through the list and choose two or three ideas that everyone thinks that can work on. Have the children write up their ideas on the note paper. Make a copy for yourself. With the children make a promise to check in how this going over the coming weeks.

Closing:

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candle. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

Creator God thank you for loving us,

Loving Jesus thank you for teaching us,

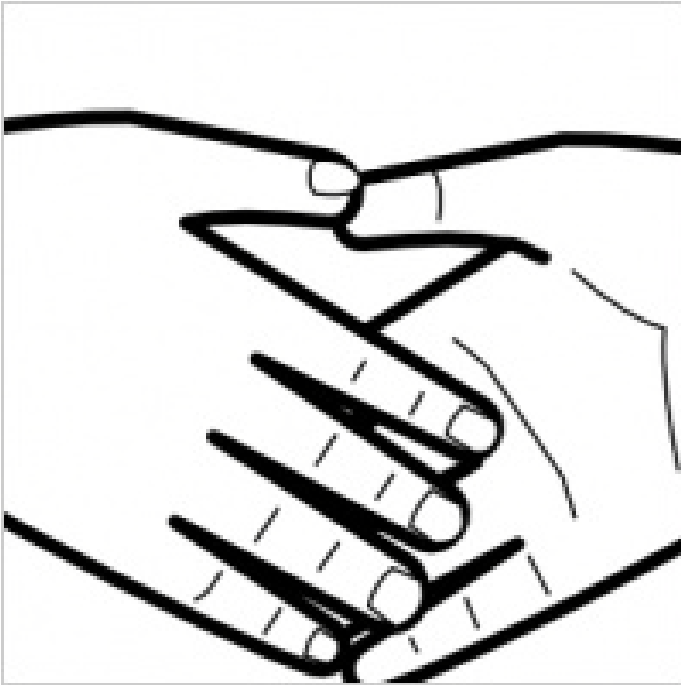
Holy Spirit thank you for helping us grow,

Be with us in everything we do.

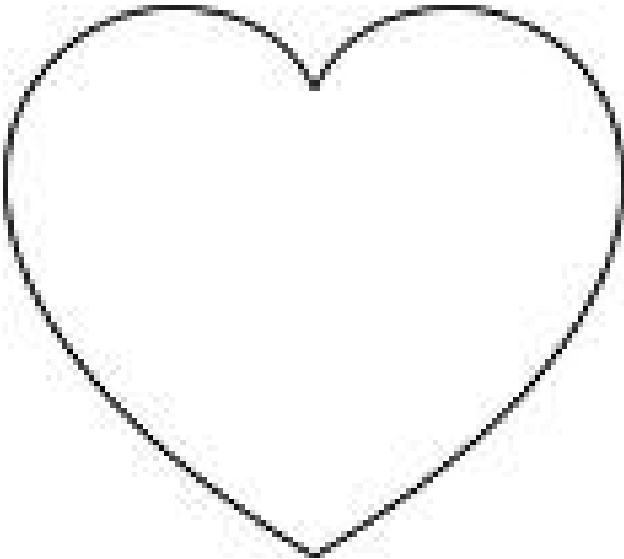
Amen.

Kingdom Crown Symbols

Hands



Heart



Peace



Smiley Face

