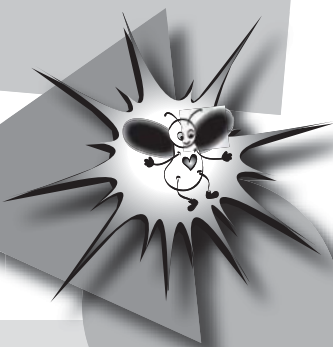


FOR THIS REASON I COME



MATERIALS

- WHY I COME . . .**
pictures, photos, etc.
- SCRIPTURE DISCOVERY**
Bible
scripture cards
- SCRIPTURE STORY**
- PRAYER-CROSS MOSAIC**
cross poster
flower prayer pieces
tape or glue stick
- SEEDS TO GROW**
seeds
soil
paper cups
plastic wrap
- GROW LIKE WHEAT**
wheat pattern on paper
crayons
white glue
seeds
- DISCIPLES' GENEROUS RESPONSE**
offering basket
- FAMILY CONNECTIONS**
take-home pages

Why I Come . . .

Show children pictures from magazines, photos, or drawings that represent places they go. For each picture ask the question, "Why do you go to . . . ?"

- playground
- swimming pool
- school
- church
- shopping mall
- movies
- library
- grocery store
- gas station
- home
- Sunday school

Scripture Discovery

Write scripture words on cards and place in the book of John for children to discover. Use a mirror for the first word of the verse. Place it in the Bible, too. If available, use a picture of Jesus for the word "me."

Whoever serves me must follow me.
—John 12:26

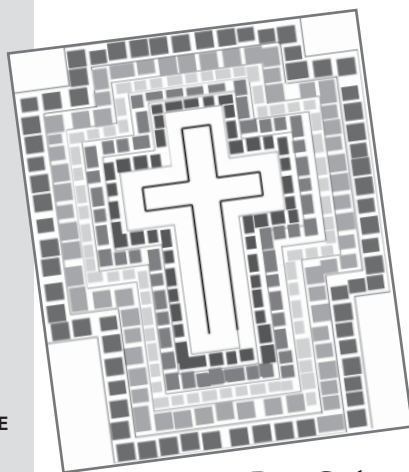
Scripture Story

The text for today (*page 44*) comes from John 12:20–33. It's getting close to the time when Jesus will die, and he and the disciples have gone to Jerusalem. The disciples did not like it when Jesus talked about dying. *How do you feel when you hear someone is leaving or moving away? How do you think the disciples felt about Jesus being gone?* Jesus' story of the wheat was his way of saying that, like wheat, he must die and come to life again so that he could bring life to others.

Transformation

Many things in nature come into life with the purpose of changing. Let the children pretend to be these things that change:

- caterpillar > butterfly
- tadpole > frog
- seed > flower
- water bug > dragonfly
- grub worm > june bug



Prayer-Cross Mosaic

Today's prayer pieces can be cut into the shape of a flower. Let children stick their prayer papers on the poster with tape or glue stick as they say a prayer thanking God for loving them.

Dear God,
We know that Jesus came because you love us. Help us to love others like you love us. In Jesus name, Amen.

"PLANT THE SEEDS"

by Marge Nelson

Tune: "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush"

This is the way we plant the seeds,
Plant the seeds,
Plant the seeds.

This is the way we plant the seeds
So God can make them grow.

This is the way we cover them up,
Cover them up,
Cover them up.

This is the way we cover them up
So God can help them grow.

This is the way we water the seeds,
Water the seeds,
Water the seeds.

This is the way we water the seeds
So God can help them grow.

This is the place where they sit in the sun,
Sit in the sun,
Sit in the sun.

This is the place where they sit in the sun
So God can help them grow.

"DANCE AROUND THE CIRCLE"

Tune: "Ring Around the Rosies"

Dance around the circle;
Come on everyone.
Jesus love us—here we come. *(fall down)*

teacher: "Who loves Jesus?"

children: "We do!"

teacher: "Then let's show it!"

All jump up and start again.

SEEDS TO GROW

Put seeds in a plastic tub, and let the children run their hands through it. Do the same with a tub of potting soil or sandy soil.

Plant something that will sprout and grow in the next few weeks. Both grass or rye grow quickly. Seeds can be sprinkled on top of the soil in a paper cup. Moisten the seed and cover the cup with plastic wrap before setting it in a sunny place. The plastic will help keep the moisture in during the week, and any seeds sprouting will be strong enough to push the plastic up.



GROW LIKE WHEAT

Transfer the wheat pattern to a paper for each child. Let children draw the ends of the wheat with crayons, then glue seeds along the shafts to create

wheat pictures.



"Sharing Generously"

Tune: "Old MacDonald Had a Farm"

God needs me a disciple to be,
Sharing generously.
In faith we give because we care,
Sharing generously.
With a nickle here, and a quarter there,
See our money helping others,
bringing love to one another.
God needs me a disciple to be,
Sharing generously.

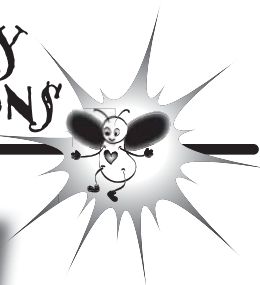


DISCIPLES' GENEROUS RESPONSE

Let children place their money in the offering basket as they sing, clap, and dance to the music of the song "Sharing Generously."

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Make copies of the Family Connections (page 44) to send home with each child. Mail a copy to children who missed today's class.



- Let's read today's story together.
- Let's take a walk to look for things in God's creation that transform and change.
- Play "Dance around the Circle" with me.



Whoever serves me must follow me.
—John 12:26

"Dance around the Circle"

Tune: "Ring around the Rosies"

Dance around the circle
Come on everyone.
Jesus love us—here we come. (*fall down*)

leader: "Who loves Jesus?"

children: "We do!"

leader: "Then let's show it!"

All jump up and start again.

There He Is! by Marge Nelson

"Can you believe this?" asked Philip. "Look at the crowds!"

Andrew nodded his head. "I don't think I've ever seen this many people in Jerusalem at one time."

"I know people gather for the festival, but look—it's not just our Jewish people." Philip pointed to some Greeks standing beside the road. As he did so, the men started toward him.

"Excuse me," said one of the men, "but aren't you from Galilee? You must know the man they call Jesus. We heard he is from that part of the country too."

"Yes, we know him," Philip answered. "Why do you want to know?"

"We want to see him!" the man said excitedly. "We've heard wonderful things about him and have come to Jerusalem looking for him. Do you know where we can find him?"

Philip and Andrew looked at each other and then at the strangers. "Come with us. He's over here." And the group started off down the street. They could see a crowd gathered and knew people were listening to Jesus. As they got closer, they could hear his words.

"It's almost time," Jesus was saying. "It won't be much longer now."

"What's he talking about?" one of the men asked Philip.

"We don't always know," he answered. "Jesus sometimes says things we don't understand at the time, but they become clear later."

Jesus was giving the people an example. "Take this grain of wheat," he said, holding it in his hand. "It is just a single grain of wheat, not enough to make into bread. But if it is planted in the ground, it will sprout and grow stems and leaves. Soon it will produce seeds, many times more than this single one."

The people nodded their heads as they listened. They understood about wheat seeds. They knew the seed had to be buried in the soil, out of sight for a while. But they also knew someday the new plant would pop out and begin to grow where they could see it.

"Whoever serves me must follow me," Jesus was saying. "Wherever I am, there will my servant be also."

"We want to do that," said one of the Greeks. "We want to become followers of Jesus."

"Then the first thing to do is to meet him," said Andrew. "Come on, we'll introduce you."