

Day 2—Seek the Kingdom: God’s Community

Welcome Kids!

Play yesterday’s ball-toss activity, helping kids become more familiar with each other’s names. Add a round where kids say what they are enjoying most about reunion so far. Express joy that they are all there.

Seek the Kingdom Story

Share the storybook (also used in worship) *Russell and the Lost Treasure* by Rob Scotton (HarperCollins Children’s Books, 2006), ISBN 0060598514. This story is about an insomniac sheep that goes on the trail of treasure with his Super-Duper Treasure Seeker. What he finds is a treasure that is truly precious: his friends and family.

Picture Treasures

Russell found a treasure that he wasn’t too excited about, at first. It was a camera. Discuss:

1. What did Russell do with the camera?
2. If you found a camera, what or who would you take pictures of?

If possible, give each pair of kids a small instant camera such as the Polaroid I-zone camera, and encourage them to take pictures of every kid in the room. These cameras make instant tiny self-sticking photos that can then be displayed on a bulletin board in the classroom. Or use an instant camera to take pictures of the kids, maybe as a group, so each kid can paste it into his scrapbook. Another possibility might be to give each kid an index card, pair them in teams of two, and have them draw a portrait of their partner as if taking a photograph. These may be displayed on a bulletin board in the classroom or put into their scrapbooks. Discuss:

1. Why did Russell think his friends were the best treasure he found?
2. Do you think your friends and family are your best treasure? Tell why.

Seek the Kingdom with Jesus the Peacemaker

When Russell sought buried treasure, he found wonderful blessings that were with him all the time. The same is true when we seek Jesus. We find that Jesus and the blessings of our friends and family are there with us all the time. Jesus was a peacemaker. He wants us to be one too. Let’s discover how Jesus wants us to be peacemakers.

Send kids on a treasure hunt, looking for small gold “nuggets” (goldenrod paper with the following scripture references printed on them, wadded up, and hidden around the room or outside). Have one scripture nugget available for each kid to find. As kids find them, have them spread them open and tape each onto the top of a sheet of paper. When all are found, invite kids to look up the scripture story on their nugget in the Bible and read it; then draw a picture of Jesus being a peacemaker in that story. When kids are done with their pictures, tape them along the wall. Have each kid describe their picture and their story about Jesus as a peacemaker.

Scriptures of Jesus as a peacemaker:

1. Jesus feeds thousands.—John 6:1–21
2. Jesus eats with tax collectors.—Mark 2:13–17
3. Jesus heals a lame man.—Mark 2:1–5
4. Jesus heals a leper.—Mark 1:40–45
5. Jesus overturns tables.—John 2:13–22
6. Make friends with your enemies.—Matthew 5:25
7. Jesus calms the storm.—Matthew 8:23–27
8. Jesus welcomes children.—Matthew 19:13–15
9. Do it for the least.—Matthew 25:40–41
10. Jesus heals on the sabbath.—Mark 3:1–5
11. Jesus prays.—Luke 5:16

Jesus showed us how to seek the kingdom by the choices he made. This is what the peace of Jesus is all about.

Peace Prayers

Pray a stop-action prayer. Invite kids to move around the room, saying aloud things they wish to pray for. Each child might be praying like this: “Dear God, I pray for my mommy, my kitty, my teacher, peace on earth, etc.” Stop them every few seconds and have them freeze. Record on a poster paper whatever they were praying aloud at that moment. Do this several times until a poster board is full of the things they are praying for.

God’s Community Game

On poster board, print today’s scripture: “Do not be defined by the things that separate you but by the things that unite you in Jesus Christ” (Doctrine and Covenants 162:5a). Have children copy it into their scrapbooks.

Discuss: This scripture is about finding those things we have in common when we follow Jesus. Play a game of being united in Jesus. Ask kids to sit down at the start of the game. Read statements that might be true about the children (use statements listed below). Kids should stand up if you say something that is true about them. If two or more kids stand up, have them link arms or hold hands, or connect in some way, before sitting back down again.

Stand up if ...

1. You have sent someone a get-well card.
2. You helped someone when you’d rather be playing.
3. You prayed for someone you didn’t like.
4. You invited someone new to join you or your family for dinner.
5. You did a chore to help someone.

6. You told someone about Jesus or your church.
7. You said prayers with your family.

Now invite kids to each take a turn with an idea for “Stand Up If.” After all have had a chance, close the game by linking arms and sharing the cheer “We are united in Jesus!”

Peacemaker Treasure Boxes

Give each kid a complete set of the scripture stories from the above activity (on wadded paper golden nuggets), and have them make a treasure box to hold the scripture treasures. Treasure chests can be made from self-drying clay such as Crayola’s® Model Magic or air-dry clay (recipe in Day One’s activities). Give each kid a square of it, then have them slice it into six sides: a base, four sides, and a lid. Sides can be pressed together and smoothed over forming a hollow box. The lid can be curved like a treasure box or flat, but it should be placed on the box later, when it is dry. Details can be added to the outside of the box, such as small plastic coins, sequins, or other materials. When the box is dry, it can be colored with markers or paint and filled with the wadded-up gold nugget scriptures. Allow paint and decorations to air-dry after kids create their treasure boxes.