

Ordinary Time, Proper 26



The Children's Illustrated Bible

Praise the Lord, my soul! I will sing praises to my God all my life long. Happy are those whose help and hope are in the Lord; who gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free, opens the eyes of the blind, and lifts up those who are bowed down. The Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over strangers; he cares for the orphan and the widow. The Lord will reign forever for all generations.

Praise the Lord!

—Psalm 146: 1–2, 5–10

Helping Kids and Schools

World Accord and Outreach International are organizations related to the Community of Christ. They help build schools in Brazil, Haiti, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, and India. Outreach International (OI) has many programs for education, poverty, and hunger for children. When children learn to read and write and gain skills in problem solving and community building, they can help change their communities and their own lives.

The class or congregation may wish to help support Outreach International (OI) by contributing \$10 per month. Another way to support children in need is for the congregation to join OI's Partnership Program. Members choose a specific community or program—anything from a school in Haiti, a clean-water project in Kenya, or another available project.

The Great Commandment

Read the story from Mark 12:28–31 where Jesus teaches the Great Commandment. Brainstorm what it means to love God in this way. If you love God with everything within you, what does that mean? Have kids identify ways they love God: walking a neighbor's dog, reading their Bible, praying daily, helping their family with chores, etc. Play a game of loving God with might, mind, and spirit. Use a basketball goal or create an equivalent. Mark some bouncy balls, basketballs, or beanbags with the words: "strength," "heart," "mind," and "soul." Mark three concentric circles around the goal at seven, twelve, and twenty feet with sidewalk chalk or masking tape. Kids may pass, bounce, or hit the balls or beanbags soccer or volleyball style to try to make a basket with each one.



Who Does the Lord Bless?

Read Psalm 146—the psalm of praise for the righteousness of God. On a chalkboard or newsprint, write the people named in the psalm (oppressed, hungry, etc.). Beside that list, have kids identify how the Lord blessed each (with food, justice, etc.). Discuss how God blesses all people.



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What do you like most about school?

What do you like least?