

Here We Come!

Choose stories that are familiar to the children. As they arrive, greet each one as a character from a story. “Ah, here comes Goldilocks. What lovely curls you have, Goldilocks.” Or say “What furry paws you have, Baby Bear. Can you find a chair your size?” Continue the activity as if the children were those characters. Why do they begin acting the part? Why do we enjoy being a character in a story?

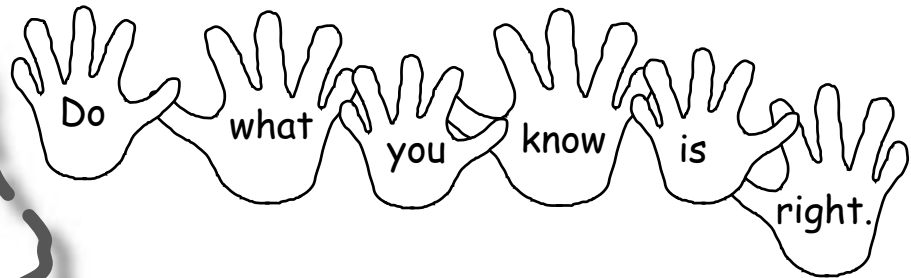
If people believe you are Papa Bear or Mama Bear in the familiar story, they will expect you to behave a certain way. People who know the story know what to expect. The same should be true of Christians. If we know the stories and are truly disciples of Jesus, people can expect to see those behaviors acted out in our lives.

Live the Story

Behave as if you believe.

Scripture Words and Worship

Jesus taught people how to get along with each other and how to be close to God. The scripture verse puts the message in a simple statement. Print the words on hand shapes and talk about ways children help others



Scripture Words

Do what you know is right.—1 Timothy 1:19
LB

Up and at 'Em

If you haven't been moving around for the stories, provide opportunities for stretching, bending, and other large-muscle movement.

Sense-ations

Add smells to the sensory experiences. Place an object in a paper sack, and let the child sniff the opening without looking in. For fruit, scratch the skin slightly to enhance the aroma. For spices like cinnamon, ask the children what they think of when they smell that. Scratch and sniff stickers would be great for this lesson.

Live and Learn

The scripture for the day comes from Acts 2:42–47 and describes the early church after Jesus ascended. They learned about Jesus’ teachings and put them into practice in their relationships. Because of this, there was a notable difference in the attitude of the Christians. When they gathered in homes, people brought food to share, listened to stories about Jesus, and prayed.

But because it was Jesus’ teachings they were modeling, they not only shared with each other—they were happy to do it! Phrases can be found in the scripture such as “with glad and generous hearts” and “having all things common.” If someone had a need, the others helped them meet that need. Sometimes they even sold their own possessions to get money for others.

Put the children into the story as if they were living it. Have pretend gatherings in different locations around the church. Share some food that needs to be divided such as grapes or cheese. Pass out toys unevenly and see how the children respond to sharing. Provide a coloring activity with only two or three crayons. How is the situation handled?

Pass out copies of the picture of the children who listened to Jesus (page 56), along with plenty of crayons. As they work, ask questions about stories they can remember from the life of Jesus. The birth story and the Easter story may be the most familiar. What lessons about being kind, sharing, and doing what’s right can be learned from the stories?



Story Talking

Encourage the children to tell a story about something they have done or somewhere they have been. Guide with questions to keep the story on track. When the story is finished, discuss it.

- Why do others enjoy listening to your story?
- Are you reminded of a similar experience?
- Can you imagine the scene as it is described?
- Would you want to do the same thing?
- What would Jesus do if he had been there?

Moving Music

Use songs with several verses that tell a story. “There’s a Hole in the Bucket” from the lesson on February 27, page 22, would fit here.

There We Go

Using the picture of the children who came to hear Jesus from the pattern section, ask what stories they might have been listening to. Share the picture and stories with family and friends.

What stories
did Jesus tell
the people?

What did he do
when someone
was sick?

What did Jesus
say about the
children?



Many people
came to hear
Jesus tell stories.