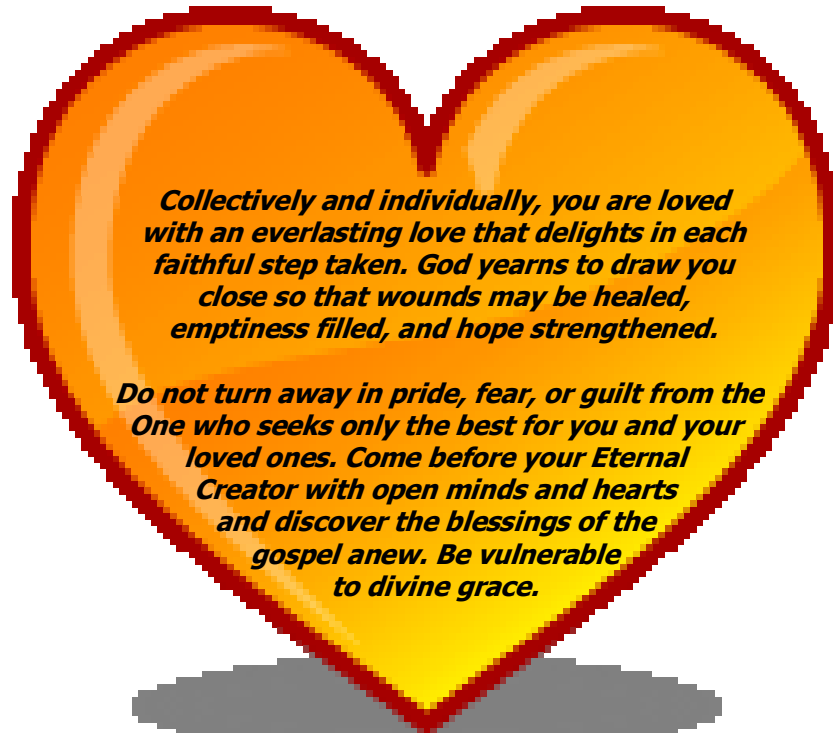


Be Vulnerable to Grace

Reunion 2009 Children's Resources Ages 4 – 11



Contents:

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 - Theme 7 – Forerunners (Leading the Way!)

(Games and crafts are included in each day's lesson plan and are not listed separately in this resource.)

Created by Nancy Brookshaw and Angie Marshall

Recommended Stories



Theme 1

Munsch, Robert. *Class Clown*. Toronto: Scholastic Canada Inc., 2007.

Park, Linda Sue. *The Firekeeper's Son*. New York: Clarion Books, 2004.

Theme 2

Peet, Bill. *Merle the High Flying Squirrel*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1974.

Tutu, Archbishop Desmond and Douglas Carlton Abrams. *God's Dream*. Massachusetts: Candlewick Press, 2008.

Theme 3

Dr. Seuss. *The Lorax*. New York: Random House, 1971.

Upjohn, Rebecca. *Lily and the Paper Man*. Toronto: Second Story Press, 2007.

Theme 4

Clements, Andrew. *Bright Christmas: An Angel Remembers*. New York: Clarion Books, 1996.

Paterson, Katherine. *The Light of the World: The Life of Jesus for Children*. Singapore: Arthur A. Levine Books, 2008.

Theme 5

Dr. Seuss. *I Had Trouble in Getting to Solla Sollew*. New York: Random House, 1965.

Thomas, Patricia. *The One and Only Super-Duper Golly-Whopper Jim-Dandy Really-Handy Clock-Tock-Stopper*. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1990.

Theme 6

Dr. Seuss. *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. New York: Random House, 1957.

Lucado, Max. *Jacob's Gift*. USA: Thomas Nelson, 1998.

Theme 7

Dr. Seuss. *Hunches and Bunches*. New York: Random House, 1987.

Munsch, Robert. *Just One Goal!* Toronto: Scholastic Canada Inc., 2008.

Theme #1-Identity and Calling (Me and My Mission)



Welcome

The Name Game—Individually, have students describe themselves by using the first letter of their name. For example: “My name is Paul and I like pears. My favourite snack is popcorn and my favourite animal is a polar bear.”

Quote of the Day

If we're growing, we're always going to be out of our comfort zone.

—John Maxwell

Story Choices

The Firekeeper's Son

“Set in Korea in the early 1800s, the story of a young boy's moment of decision is gracefully and suspensefully told...” (*from book cover*)

Class Clown

“Leonardo has been funny ever since he was a baby. When his teacher asks him not to make all the kids in the class laugh any more, he tries and tries...but he just can't help being the class clown!” (*from book cover*)

Calling Samuel!

1 Samuel 3: 1-21

What Do You Think?

1. What makes you special?
2. Does God know your name?
3. Have you heard God call your name?
4. What would he ask you to do?

Scripture Time

Doctrine and Covenants 163:1

“‘Community of Christ,’ your name, given as a divine blessing, is your identity and calling. If you will discern and embrace its full meaning, you will not only discover your future, you will become a blessing to the whole creation. Do not be afraid to go where it beckons you to go.”

Scripture Thoughts

Have you ever heard of V.I.P.? Well, that stands for VERY IMPORTANT PERSON, and that means you! Yes, you! Each one of us has our own identity and our own calling. We are on a mission, a mission for God.

It tells us in Section 163 of the Doctrine and Covenants that we should not be afraid and should go where we are called to go. Samuel was called by God. He woke up from his deep sleep and heard his name being called. It took Samuel a little while to figure out who was calling him, but he answered God's call and was blessed! Will God call your name out loud and wake you up in the middle of the night like Samuel? It probably won't happen quite like that, but know for sure that God knows you by your name and God has a job for you to do. Each job will be different and unique. You may be called to do something you have never done before. God knows you the best and wants you to get to know yourself. Find out who you are and what you are good at. What makes you happy? What makes you sad? Learn as much about yourself as you can. You are a child of God, and God loves you so much. As you go on your mission, do not be afraid to go where God beckons you to go!

Songs of the Day

"I Am a Promise"

"I Believe I Can Fly" (Space Jam)

Activity Center—All About Me

Give each child a piece of paper. Fold them into four squares. Write the following titles in each square, and have the children draw a corresponding picture:

Me

Things I Like to Do

My Family

When I Am Older...

Craft

"I (Eye) Can!" Pencil Holder

Supplies: empty frozen-juice can, scissors, old magazines, stickers of eyes, white glue, paint brush, decoupage paste or craft spray (optional)

- Cut pictures of human and animal eyes from magazines. Stickers of eyes can be used too.
- Glue eyes on can.
- After the can is completely covered in eyes, use decoupage paste or craft spray for a finishing effect.

Musical Chairs Prayer

Tape cards of each child's name facing down on a chair. Play musical chairs. Whoever is "out" picks a chair and reads the prayer card. Each prayer card will say "God Bless (insert child's name)."

Continue the game until a prayer has been said for each child.

Community Game

Where Are My Shoes?

- Everyone takes off their shoes and piles them in the middle of the room.

- Every child wears a blindfold.
- When ready, the teacher will mix up the shoes and say go. Everyone searches at the same time for their shoes.
- When everyone has two shoes on that they think are their own, remove the blindfolds and see if they found the correct shoes.

Theme #2—Pathways for Peace



Welcome

On My Journey I Will Take...

Go around the room and have each child say what they will take with them on their journey beginning with the letter "a." (E.g., "On my journey I will take an apple.") The next child will take something beginning with the letter "b." Continue through the whole alphabet.

Quote of the Day

There is no way to peace. Peace is the way.

—A.J. Muste

Story Choices

Merle the High Flying Squirrel

"How Merle finally finds his redwood trees, or rather how they find him, makes a hilarious story, one which is, however, not without its serious side. For Merle does learn the vast and very important difference between feeling measly small as he did in the city and mighty small in the great redwood forest." *(from book cover)*

God's Dream

"For families and friends to share together, *God's Dream* is a lovely introduction to Archbishop Tutu's unique message of forgiveness and empathy and a beckoning pathway toward joy that even very young readers will delight in following." *(from book cover)*

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10: 25–37

What Do You Think?

1. What are some pathways you have been on?
2. Who have you met on your pathway?
3. Have you ever been a neighbour to someone?
4. Has someone ever been a neighbour to you?

Scripture Time

Doctrine and Covenants 163:3a–c

3 a. "You are called to create pathways in the world for peace in Christ to be relationally and culturally incarnate. The hope of Zion is realized when the vision of Christ is embodied in communities of generosity, justice, and peacefulness.

b. "Above all else, strive to be faithful to Christ's vision of the peaceable Kingdom of God on earth. Courageously challenge cultural, political, and religious trends that are contrary to the reconciling and restoring purposes of God. Pursue peace.

c. "There are subtle, yet powerful, influences in the world, some even claiming to represent Christ, that seek to divide people and nations to accomplish their destructive aims. That which seeks to harden one human heart against another by constructing walls of fear and prejudice is not of God. Be especially alert to these influences, lest they divide you or divert you from the mission to which you are called."

Scripture Thoughts

You will take many different "pathways" during your life. You may take different ways to school, move to different cities, or even move to different countries. The pathway you are on will change many, many times during your life, but what will remain the same on your pathway is one person who will always walk with you. Jesus is always beside you and walking with you. When times are hard and dark on your pathway and you might think that Jesus isn't there anymore, he is. He is not always beside you, because he is often carrying you through the dark parts.

The story of the Good Samaritan gives us a good example of how to react on our pathway for peace. We can react like the priest, the Levite, or the Samaritan! We will meet many different people on our journey. People will need our help at school or work and even church. Section 163 tells us not to let fear or prejudices stop us from fulfilling our mission. On our pathway, we are the Samaritans. We are to make "neighbours" and do as Jesus did on his path here on earth!

Songs of the Day

"Peace Like a River"

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

"Walking Down Zion's Road"

Activity Center—Finger Labyrinth

Create a finger labyrinth for children to "walk" their finger through. Discuss what they see on the way in, while in the middle and on the way out again. Explain how the labyrinth represents a journey to our center and back again into the world and symbolizes our search for answers.

See template for Finger Labyrinth on the following page.

Finger Labyrinth Template



Craft

Sidewalk Chalk

Supplies: large disposable bowl, paint stick or wooden spoon, tempera paint (liquid or powder), disposable plastic gloves, small paper cups, plaster of Paris

- Mix a small amount of plaster of Paris with water in a large bowl. The texture should be stiff but creamy. Be sure to use a stick or wooden spoon to stir.
- Add a small amount of tempera paint to the plaster. Stir well for a solid colour or slightly for a marbled look.
- Pour the plaster into small paper cups. When the plaster is hard (20–30 minutes), take the chalk out of the cups. It's best to wait a full day before using.

Prayer for Your Nation

Have a flag of your nation displayed or several small ones that the children can hold. If possible, show the children a picture of your country's leader. Pray for peace and guidance for your country.

Community Game

Stepping Stones

Divide the class into two groups and give each group three large cut-out paper rocks. Make start and finish lines. The whole team must get across the water using the rocks, but only one person can be on a rock at a time. The rocks may be moved as the members move along.

Theme #3—In Their Welfare (For Their Happiness)



Welcome

Weave Us Together Game

Using a ball of yarn and sitting in a circle, the first person holds the end of a ball of yarn and states, "I love ____" (e.g., baseball, my mom, school, etc.). They then pass the ball of yarn to another person who will state what they love, hold a part of the yarn, and then pass it on. Encourage the children to think of different answers. Continue passing the yarn until a huge web of love is made.

Quote of the Day

Be the change that you want to see in the world.

—Mohanda Gandhi

Story Choice

The Lorax

"When Dr. Seuss gets serious, you know it must be important. Published in 1971, and perhaps inspired by the 'save our planet' mindset of the 1960s, *The Lorax* is an ecological warning that still rings true today amidst the dangers of clear-cutting, pollution, and disregard for the earth's environment." (*from editor's review, amazon.com*)

Lily and the Paper Man

"Walking with her mother on the way home from school one day, Lily bumps straight into a gruff and untidy-looking man selling papers on the street. Frightened, Lily insists on taking the bus home every day for fear she will run into him again. But when the weather turns cold, Lily starts to see the Paper Man differently; she sees his bare toes through the holes in his boots and his thin shirt through the holes in his coat. As she lies in her warm bed at night, she wonders about the Paper Man and how he stays warm. Then Lily comes up with a wonderful idea... This beautifully illustrated picture book tells the heartwarming story of a child's giving heart."

(*from editor's review, amazon.com*)

Jesus Heals a Crippled Man

Mark 2:1–12

What Do You Think?

1. What is a friend?
2. Who is your best friend? Why?
3. How can we be friends to people we don't even know?

Scripture Time

Doctrine and Covenants 163:4a–c

4 a. "God, the Eternal Creator, weeps for the poor, displaced, mistreated, and diseased of the world because of their unnecessary suffering. Such conditions are not God's will. Open your ears to hear the pleading of mothers and fathers in all

nations who desperately seek a future of hope for their children. Do not turn away from them. For in their welfare resides your welfare.

b. "The earth, lovingly created as an environment for life to flourish, shudders in distress because creation's natural and living systems are becoming exhausted from carrying the burden of human greed and conflict. Humankind must awaken from its illusion of independence and unrestrained consumption without lasting consequences.

c. "Let the educational and community development endeavors of the church equip people of all ages to carry the ethics of Christ's peace into all arenas of life. Prepare new generations of disciples to bring fresh vision to bear on the perplexing problems of poverty, disease, war, and environmental deterioration. Their contributions will be multiplied if their hearts are focused on God's will for creation."

Scripture Thoughts

God cries as he watches his children suffer. This is not how God wanted the world to be. It is now our job to help those people in need. Take a look around the world, your city, neighbourhood, school yard, and even inside your own home. There are people hurting all around us. We can ignore their calling out for help, or we can do something about it!

Jesus always helped those who were suffering. In the Bible story (Mark 2:1–12), the man who was crippled couldn't get himself to Jesus for healing, so his friends lowered him down through the roof! It would have been a lot easier to just tell the man that Jesus was too busy to see him, or that there was no way to get him close enough to even see Jesus, but they didn't. They raised a man who couldn't move his own body onto the roof and lowered him down inside so he could be healed by Jesus. Those were some good friends and for that man's happiness, I'm sure his friends found their own happiness.

Songs of the Day

"Zion Is a Wonderful Place"

"Make Me a Servant" (*NS 35*)

Activity Center—Sweet Charms

String Fruit Loops and/or Cheerios on shoestring licorice. Leave lots of room to tie the ends into either a necklace or bracelet. Enjoy wearing and eating the Sweet Charms!

Craft

Japanese Hanging Koi (goldfish)

- Materials: old magazines, coloured paper scraps, aluminum foil, glue, scissors, stapler, markers/crayons, hole punch, 2–3 crepe-paper streamers, string/yarn
- Draw a fish on one piece of paper. Trace it and cut out both fish so they are the same.
- Cut magazines and aluminum foil into circles and glue them on the fish so they look like scales on the outside of the fish's body.
- Decorate the tail and head of the fish using markers/crayons.
- Staple the two sides of the fish together and have pieces of crepe paper streamers coming out of the tail.
- Punch holes in the fishes face and string with yarn.
- Hang these in your classroom.

Prayer for Homeless Children

- Put a large cardboard box in a corner of the room with a dustpan full of "clean" garbage tipped on the floor.
- Encourage children to imagine what it's like to sleep in a box and to look through garbage in order to survive.
- Allow the children to sit in the box and pray for these children.
- Using a large white sheet of paper taped to the wall, encourage children to write prayers for the street children. You can refer to the paper as a Graffiti Wall.
- Show pictures and share information about different countries or projects relating to helping the homeless.

Community Game

Wrap Up to Stay Warm

- Divide the group into teams of two to four people.
- Supply all teams with two rolls of toilet paper.
- Have each team decide who will be wrapped on their team.
- Set the timer for five minutes.
- The team must wrap their designated person as best they can to help them stay warm.
- Optional—Judge on the best design.

Theme #4—An Indispensable Witness (A Very Important Messenger)



Welcome

String Us Together

Material: pieces of yarn cut in different lengths (one piece per child)

- Clump all the pieces into a ball and have each child pick one.
- Individually, have the children slowly wind the yarn around their index finger while introducing themselves.
- Some introductions will be very short and some very long depending on the length of the yarn. They should keep talking until the yarn is completely wrapped around their finger.

Quote of the Day

Jesus said "I am the way, and the truth, and the light."

—John 14:6 NRSV

Story Choices

The Light of the World

"When the people looked at all the sadness and evil in the world, they had trouble believing that God was in charge. 'God's kingdom,' said Jesus, 'is as tiny as the smallest of seeds, but when it is planted it grows into such a huge tree that the birds make their nests in its branches.'

"Newbery Medalist and minister's wife Katherine Paterson retells the life of Jesus in simple, beautiful language for all ages, making the story new again through her trademark generosity and compassion. Iconic images from Jesus' life light the text with the same warmth and directness." *(from editor's review, amazon.com)*

Bright Christmas: An Angel Remembers

"Angels have always brought light and truth to the earth. But one glorious evening they saw a light that shone brighter than any other, and they shared the good news with all the world. Told from the angels' point of view, this unique story will fill readers with the joy and wonder of that first Christmas night."

(from book cover)

An Angel Appears to Mary

Luke 1: 26–38

What Do You Think?

1. What is a witness?
2. How can you be a witness for Jesus?
3. Which is most important: What we do or what we say—or both?
4. Have you ever been an important messenger?

Scripture Time

Doctrine and Covenants 163:7a–d

7 a. "Scripture is an indispensable witness to the Eternal Source of light and truth, which cannot be fully contained in any finite vessel or language. Scripture has been written and shaped by human authors through experiences of revelation and ongoing inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the midst of time and culture.

b. "Scripture is not to be worshiped or idolized. Only God, the Eternal One of whom scripture testifies, is worthy of worship. God's nature, as revealed in Jesus Christ and affirmed by the Holy Spirit, provides the ultimate standard by which any portion of scripture should be interpreted and applied.

c. "It is not pleasing to God when any passage of scripture is used to diminish or oppress races, genders, or classes of human beings. Much physical and emotional violence has been done to some of God's beloved children through the misuse of scripture. The church is called to confess and repent of such attitudes and practices.

d. "Scripture, prophetic guidance, knowledge, and discernment in the faith community must walk hand in hand to reveal the true will of God. Follow this pathway, which is the way of the Living Christ, and you will discover more than sufficient light for the journey ahead."

Scripture Thoughts

What a beautiful and important message an angel had the privilege of sharing...the message to Mary, that she would carry the son of God! Jesus was definitely an important messenger (and indispensable witness). He spent his whole life from birth until his death delivering God's message to everyone he met. He was the ultimate witness or messenger, and being a witness is not always the easiest thing to do. Jesus had his work cut out for him. He had people who didn't believe he was the son of God. There were people who hated Jesus, wanted to kill him, and eventually did just that. But did he ever give up?

We, too, are here to deliver a very important message. As we learn God's words and how he wants us to treat ourselves and others, we are to pass this information along to as many people as we can.

"Scripture is an indispensable witness to the Eternal Source of light and truth." Jesus' life has been documented in the scriptures and these documents will forever be a witness to us of God's love and grace. The story of his life is full of love, compassion, kindness, and acceptance.

The same will hopefully be said for our life. May we learn the art of love, compassion, and kindness so we, too, can be "an indispensable witness."

Songs of the Day

"Peace Is the Flag That's Flown"

"This Little Light of Mine"

Activity Center—Handprint Rainbow

Materials: red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple construction paper; a large piece of neutral-coloured paper (about 2.5 feet X 1.5 feet long); scissors; a pencil and marker; glue

- Have the children trace their hands.
- Make approximately ten handprints of each colour.
- Glue the handprints on the large paper in the shape of a rainbow.

Craft

Dream Catcher: They trap the bad dreams and let the good dreams filter down to the sleeper.

Materials for each dream catcher: a bendable twig about one foot long, a few inches of thin wire, some twine, beads with large holes, a few feathers

- Have an adult make a circle loop from a twig. (Wrap a short length of thin wire around the overlapping ends.)
- Tie one end of the twine to the twig hoop.
- String a few beads onto the twine and push the beads toward the tied end.
- Wrap the twine around the other side of the twig loop. Now string more beads and wrap the twine around the other side of the loop. Continue this until you have made a web design.
- Tie a short length of twine on the hoop, string a bead or two and tie a feather onto the end. Repeat. Have two or three feathers hanging from the hoop.
- Encourage the children to hang their dream catchers by their beds.

Prayer Circle

Sitting in a circle and holding hands, have an adult start the prayer. Go around the circle and have each child add a line or two to the prayer. If they are too shy, they can simply squeeze the hand of the person next to them and keep the prayer circle going.

Community Game

Feather Volleyball

- Lay a string or rope across the floor to divide the room.
- Just like volleyball, the idea is to get the feather to fall to the floor, inbounds, on the other team's side.
- No hands are allowed, only blowing! There are no limits on the number of passes while on one side, but each person can only blow a maximum of three times in a row.

Theme #5—A Sanctuary of Christ's Peace (A Shelter of Jesus' Peace)



Welcome

Start the day with a short, guided meditation. Playing soft background music, have the children close their eyes, leading them on a journey to what they see as the shelter of Jesus' peace.

Quote of the Day

As you walk through the valley of the unknown, you will find the footprints of Jesus both in front of you and beside you.

—Charles Stanley

Story Choices

The One and Only Super-Duper Golly-Whopper Jim-Dandy Really-Handy Clock-Tock-Stopper

"Take: one old, gray, grouchy porcupine; one clock with too loud a tick, tock; and one fast-talking, rascal rabbit who just happens to have the one and only, super-duper, golly-whopper, jim-dandy, really-handy clock-tock-stopper! Mix them together and what do you get? A whale of a tale!"

(from book cover)

I Had Trouble in Getting to Solla Sollew

"Our nameless hero--a typical Seuss hybrid who's part bear, part puppy, and part beyond categorization--has an innocent, carefree life, until it's ruined by minor problems. With a toe stubbed, and a tail bitten by a Quilligan Quail ("And I learned there are troubles of more than one kind. Some come from ahead, and some come from behind"), he sets out on an ill-fated journey to find a better, less troublesome place: the fabled city of Solla Sollew, no less, "on the banks of the beautiful River Wah-Hoo,/ Where they never have troubles. At least very few." Like most dreamlands, Solla Sollew is harder to attain than expected--nobody seems to know how to get there, and the journey is far worse than anyone anticipated. When the fair city is finally attained there is, of course, a last straw; but a happy twist suggests troubles may be better faced than escaped.." *(from editor's review, amazon.com)*

Jesus Blesses Little Children

Luke 18:15-17

What Do You Think?

1. What does peace feel like?
2. Where can you feel peace?
3. What feels better—fear or calm?
4. Do you ever sit still and listen after you pray?

Scripture Time

Doctrine and Covenants 163:8a–c

8 a. "The Temple is an instrument of ongoing revelation in the life of the church. Its symbolism and ministries call people to reverence in the presence of the Divine Being. Transformative encounters with the Eternal Creator and Reconciler await those who follow its spiritual pathways of healing, reconciliation, peace, strengthening of faith, and knowledge.

b. "There are additional sacred ministries that will spring forth from the Temple as rivers of living water to help people soothe and resolve the brokenness and pain in their lives. Let the Temple continue to come to life as a sacred center of worship, education, community building, and discipleship preparation for all ages.

c. "As these ministries come to fuller expression, receptive congregations in the areas around the Temple and throughout the world will be revived and equipped for more effective ministry. Vital to this awakening is the understanding that the Temple calls the entire church to become a sanctuary of Christ's peace, where people from all nations, ethnicities, and life circumstances can be gathered into a spiritual home without dividing walls, as a fulfillment of the vision for which Jesus Christ sacrificed his life."

Scripture Thoughts

Get up, make your bed, eat breakfast, brush your teeth, catch the bus, get to school on time. After school, get home, have a snack and get to piano/hockey/karate/soccer, eat supper, do your homework, watch television, brush your teeth, go to bed!

Did you feel the "shelter of Jesus' peace" today? It gets a little busy sometimes, and taking time to feel the peace of Jesus isn't usually packed into our crazy schedules. Jesus had a busy schedule too, but he always made time for children. He said "Suffer the little ones to come unto me" and when they went to him, they were held in his arms in the shelter of his peace.

Jesus still wants to hold each one of us in his arms, scoop us up and protect us in his loving care—so we need to make time for him. Take a break from that busy schedule to notice the beautiful nature around you; listen to the peaceful sound of the wind in the trees. Turn off the TV for just a few minutes and sit in silence. That is when you will feel the shelter of Jesus' peace. Try to spend a few minutes everyday talking to God, with no other distractions around you, and you will find the sanctuary of Christ's peace that you deserve.

Songs of the Day

"Sanctuary"

"Kum Ba Yah"

Activity Center—Peaceful Garden

Materials: small box with a lid (chocolate-candy boxes work well), sand, pebbles, small plastic fork

- Fill the box halfway to the top with sand.
- Use the fork to draw a pattern in the sand.
- Arrange pebbles.
- Play in the peaceful garden.

Craft

Stained-Glass Cross

Materials: two pieces of black construction paper, tissue paper, scissors, glue, white crayon

- Draw a cross in the center of black paper using a white crayon.
- Place the two pieces of black paper together and cut out the cross through both papers. Only cut out the inside of the cross so that the paper around the cross is uncut.
- Stretch and glue a piece of tissue paper across the cross opening on one side of the black paper. Glue second piece of black paper on top.
- Hang your Stained-Glass Cross in the window!

Prayer for Children to Know God's Love

Set up a bowl with water and a sponge. Have the children soak up the water with the sponge while explaining that God is like the water and they are like the sponge. God wants them to soak up God's love. Offer a prayer after all the children have had a turn with the sponge encouraging the children to allow themselves to know God.

Community Game

Where the Winds Blow

- Sit on chairs in a circle, with one person standing in the middle.
- The person in the middle calls out, "The wind blows towards people who have blue on." Everyone wearing blue then stands and must quickly switch places with others who are wearing blue, except for the person next to them.
- The person who doesn't get a chair then goes in the middle and decides where the wind will blow next.

Theme #6—Generosity Flows (Big Heartedness Flows)



Welcome

Cooperative Drawing

- Have the group divide into groups of two.
- Give each group a paper and pencil.
- One child makes a squiggly line and gives it to their partner. The partner must make that squiggle into a picture.
- Have the children take turns doing this for a couple of minutes. Share some of their pictures with the class.

Quote of the Day

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt within the heart.

—Helen Keller

Story Choices

Jacob's Gift

"Jacob is a young boy with a gift for carpentry who is busy finishing up a project for a contest. His teacher, Rabbi Simeon, not only instructs him in carpentry, but also teaches him important lessons about God. Rabbi has just taught Jacob that when you give a gift to one of God's children, it's like giving a gift to God. The night before the contest while working on his project, Jacob has fallen asleep in the workshop and is awakened by a bright light. The light is a star which is directly over Jacob's father's stable. As he approaches the stable, he sees a man, a woman, and a newborn baby which is laying in the straw. Remembering what Rabbi Simeon had told him, Jacob returns to the workshop and takes his project (a feeding trough) to the new family. The morning of the contest, the Rabbi was pleased to find out that Jacob has acted upon the lesson he learned and has truly given a gift to God."

(from editor's review, amazon.com)

How the Grinch Stole Christmas

"The Grinch, whose heart is two sizes too small, hates Who-ville's holiday celebrations, and plans to steal all the presents to prevent Christmas from coming. To his amazement, Christmas comes anyway, and the Grinch discovers the true meaning of the holiday." *(from editor's review, amazon.com)*

Loaves and Fishes

John 6: 1-15

What Do You Think?

1. What does giving from the heart mean?
2. Why does God want us to share?
3. How does sharing make us feel?
4. What does it mean to have a big heart?

Scripture Time

Doctrine and Covenants 163:9

9a. "Faithful disciples respond to an increasing awareness of the abundant generosity of God by sharing according to the desires of their hearts; not by commandment or constraint. Break free of the shackles of conventional culture that mainly promote self-serving interests. Give generously according to your true capacity. Eternal joy and peace await those who grow in the grace of generosity that flows from compassionate hearts without thought of return. Could it be otherwise in the domain of God, who eternally gives all for the sake of creation?"

Scripture Thoughts

Giving with our hearts is something we are called to do. When we learn to give in this way, we will be filled with joy and peace.

Giving to others is an amazing feeling. Imagine the little boy in the Bible story—giving his two loaves of bread and his five fishes—watch as his generosity fed thousands of people. You, too, can give generously. Giving generously does not just mean giving money. You can give your gifts, talents, time, and generosity and can spread it to many others. You could help collect food for a food drive or pick up garbage in your neighbourhoods. You could donate your toys and books to children who need them. Giving to others not only helps others and makes them feel good, it makes you feel good! Once you get that warm feeling in your heart, you will want to do it again and again and again. Let your heart overflow with love and generosity for others and give what you can, whenever you can, to do Jesus' work on earth.

Songs of the Day

"Put a little Love in Your Heart"—by Mary, Mary (from *Stewart Little 2* sound track)
"God Forgave My Sin in Jesus' Name" (*HS 382*)

Activity Center—Bubble Painting

Materials: several empty jars (plastic peanut butter jars work well), plain white paper, paint, dish soap, water, and straws

- Use a different jar for each paint colour. Mix three or four tablespoons of dish soap, water, and enough paint to get the colour you wish. Mix gently with a spoon and do not shake.
- Put the straw in the jar and blow gently. Try to get a mix of small and large bubbles.
- Once the bubbles are a few inches above the rim of the jar without overflowing, stop blowing.
- Press your piece of paper onto the top of the jar. The bubbles will break and leave their pictures on the paper.
- Try another colour if desired. Do not pop too many bubbles on the paper, as it will become soggy and the bubble prints will bleed.

Craft

Tissue Paper Flowers

Materials: tissue paper, green pipe cleaners

- Cut four to six pieces of tissue paper into rectangles (about 8 x 10 inches).
- Stack the paper and fold it like an accordion. Tie it in the middle with a pipe cleaner.
- Gently pull each piece of paper towards the top center of the flower. Separate each sheet until they look like flower petals.

Bubble Prayer

Send prayers up with your bubbles! Make sure everyone has their own bottle of bubbles for this.

Community Game

The Giving Game

Material

- gift (bag of candy, gum, or small toys), wrap once and write the words "Share this gift with everyone!" Now wrap it about ten times with newspaper, depending on the size of the group. On each layer write a task (dance like a chicken, spell your name backwards, hop on one foot, etc.).

Directions

- Children sit in a circle and hand the gift around the circle while music plays. When the music stops, whoever is holding the gift unwraps one layer and reads the task. Everyone completes the task together before the music starts the next round. Game continues until the gift is completely unwrapped. Whoever unwraps the final layer shares the gift with everyone.

Theme #7—Forerunners (Leading the Way!)



Welcome

Rain and Thunder

- Sit in a circle with eyes closed and have the group follow the leader.
- The leader begins by rubbing their hands together. The person to the left does the same and the action continues around the circle.
- Each time around, the leader will begin a new action: snapping fingers, then clapping thighs, and finally stomping feet.
- The storm then starts to fade. The leader will do the same actions but in reverse order until the rain ends.

Quote of the Day

Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss it you will land among the stars.

—Les Brown

Story Choices

Hunches and Bunches

"A little boy, trying to decide what to do, has all sorts of ideas presented to him by grinchy-looking hunches who give good, bad, and silly ideas. The book has Dr. Seuss's bright, funny illustrations and rhymes."
(from editor's review, amazon.com)

Just One Goal!

"`A rink! A rink!' said Ciara. `A rink on the river would be nice.' Ciara wants to build a rink behind her house, but nobody in her family wants to help. So she decides to build her own. Now she and her friends can play hockey whenever they want—and Ciara is determined to win a game, no matter what!"
(from book cover)

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

Luke 5:1–11

What Do You Think?

1. What does a leader look like?
2. Have you ever been a leader?
3. Can you be a leader for Jesus? How?

Scripture Time

Doctrine and Covenants 163:11a

a. "God is calling for a prophetic community to emerge, drawn from the nations of the world, that is characterized by uncommon devotion to the compassion and peace of God revealed in Jesus Christ. Through divine grace and wisdom, this faith community has been given abundant gifts, resources, and opportunities to equip it to become such a people. Chief among these is the power of community in Christ

expressed locally in distinctive fashions while upholding a unity of vision, foundational beliefs, and mission throughout the world.”

Scripture Thoughts

“God is calling for a prophetic community to emerge, drawn from the nations of the world.” The disciples took a leap of faith. There they were, just fishing on the lake trying to make a living, and Jesus came up to them and said, “Follow me,” and they did. They gave up everything they had. They had faith in Jesus and followed him. I can’t imagine giving up everything I have and just leaving.

We are lucky, because Jesus is not asking us to leave our homes and families and all our “stuff,” but he is asking us to lead the way. Leading the way could mean many things. In our lives, we can lead the way by being a good role model and by standing up for the things we believe in. You can lead the way even as a child. Did you know that the children of today (meaning you) will be the leaders of tomorrow? You will be the doctors, the lawyers, the electricians, the carpenters, the pastors, and the teachers. You are the future, the forerunners, the leaders. Lead the way for Jesus!

Activity Center—Kool-Aid Painting

Materials: several packages of sugar-free Kool-Aid drink mix, white construction paper, tape, ice cubes

- Tape the paper to either the table or floor and sprinkle Kool-Aid on it.
- Give each child an ice cube and have them spread the Kool Aid with it.
- Keep “painting” until the ice is melted.

Songs of the Day

“Where He Leads Me I Will Follow”

“We Are One in the Spirit” (HS 466)

Craft

Rain Sticks

Materials: aluminum foil, small dried beans, unpopped popcorn, dry rice or tiny pasta, thick brown paper or construction paper, glue, scissors, crayons/markers, paper-towel tubes

- Draw around the end of your tube onto the brown paper.
- Draw a larger circle around this circle and join them with lines. Cut out the large circle and cut on the lines.
- Place glue on the lines and glue this cap onto one end of the tube.
- Using a piece of aluminum foil that is approximately one and a half times the length of the tube and six inches wide, crunch the foil into two long, thin rolls and twist them into a spring shape. Place the foil springs inside the tube.
- Coat with a thin layer of shellac/varnish/polish. You can also coat it with a thin layer of white glue but it will not be waterproof.
- Add the noise filling of your choice so the tube is only 1/10 full.

- Make another cap and glue it on the remaining end.
- Decorate the rain stick!

Prayer Walk

Lead the children on a prayer walk outside. Thank God for the different things you see.

Community Game

Balloon Heads

- Divide the group into two teams and have them pair up within their groups.
- Give each team a partially filled balloon (either with air or water).
- Teams must race to the finish line carrying the balloon between their heads without using hands. For increased difficulty, build an obstacle course to go through.