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INTRODUCTION

The Children’s Activity Guide is for ages 4-11. Recognizing the range of ages and learning styles, instructors are encouraged to adapt activities according to needs and abilities. This guide is designed for use in different settings. For full-inclusion classes, select from the craft, music, recreation, and snack recommendations to enhance each lesson based on length of session and setting. For rotation schedules, recommendations for lessons, crafts, music, recreation, and snacks are provided for instructors.

If teaching a multiage class, remember younger children look to older children as models and want to be engaged with them in challenging activities. Older children like to share their skills with younger children. All understand faith through action and experience and want to learn the meaning of church life. You can, on occasion, group younger or older children together for tasks.

LESSONS
Lessons are designed for 20- to 30-minute sessions and incorporate themes with interactive learning experiences.

CRAFTS AND PROJECTS
Crafts give children the opportunity to create a tangible reminder of the lesson’s focus. Creating is more important than the final project. This process also can be an opportunity for deeper discussions about the lesson focus. Be mindful of opportunities to bring the theme into craft time.

MUSIC
Hymn and song suggestions are provided to accompany each lesson. For each theme there is a selection from Community of Christ Sings as well as additional song suggestions. Hymns and songs from Community of Christ Sings cannot be copied without a license. Contact Community of Christ Office of General Counsel for more information if you wish to make copies. Printed music included in this activity guide may be copied as needed. Accompaniment tracks for hymns can be found on the Community of Christ Sings audio recording thumb drive available through www.HeraldHouse.org. Encourage motions or sign language, incorporate movement and dance, or include rhythm instruments.

RECREATION
Cooperative games and activities are provided to reinforce the lesson focus. Games help children practice skills of cooperation and peacebuilding. Each child is uniquely abled. Upholding the Worth of All Persons, instructors are encouraged to adapt games and activities by simplifying or adding more complex layers based on children’s ages and abilities. It is important to remember participation and cooperation are more important than competition!

HEALTHY SNACKS
Model “healthy relationships with...the earth” (Doctrine and Covenants 163:2b) by providing healthy snacks rather than processed, high-sugar, high-fat, and preservative-filled foods. As much as possible, serve snacks using reusable or paper plates and cups, preferably compostable or containing recycled content. If possible, allow time for children to help with preparing, serving, and cleaning up snacks. Be aware of food allergies and avoid such foods. An allergic child can have a severe reaction simply through smell or touch.
LESSON 1
CALLED INTO THE FUTURE...WHERE IS THE SPIRIT LEADING?

FOCUS
How am I called to follow Jesus?

SCRIPTURE
Matthew 4:18-22: “Jesus Calls the Disciples”

OBJECTIVES
The learners will...

- hear the story of Jesus calling the disciples.
- explore their own giftedness and specific calling.
- discuss Develop Disciples to Serve, a Mission Initiative.

RESOURCES
Bible or children’s story Bible

SUPPLIES
- Large chart paper and markers or chalkboard and chalk
- Tape (optional) to mark spots on the floor for game
- Worksheet (included in this lesson) and pencils, crayons, or markers

Play the Telephone Game.

Gather children in a circle. Whisper a message in the first child’s ear. They repeat the message to the person beside them, who then whispers the message to the next child, until the message gets to the last child. The last student says the message out loud to the class. Possible messages to whisper include:

“God loves you.”
“Welcome to reunion!”
“Jesus is calling.”
“Where is the Spirit leading?”
“Jesus called the disciples”

The message likely will change as it is passed on. Tell the children that the lesson is about listening carefully for how Jesus is calling us in our lives. Jesus doesn’t call us on the phone; he calls us by showing his example, blessing us with specific gifts, and guiding us to do good in the world. Our question is, “How am I called to follow Jesus?”

Read the story of Jesus calling the disciples from Matthew 4:18-22 or from a children’s story Bible. Have the children act out the story. Assign children to play the parts of Jesus, Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John. Invite children to imagine what Jesus might have said to the disciples and how they might have responded.

- How did Jesus call the disciples? What did he ask them to do?
- How did the disciples respond?
- What did the disciples have to give up so they could follow Jesus?
- Why do you think Jesus chose these disciples? What character traits did they have that made them good disciples (hardworking, generous, kind, courageous, helpful)?
Each of the disciples had gifts, talents, and character traits that made them good disciples. Each of us has gifts and talents that help us serve God, serve others, and be good disciples. Ask participants, “What gifts or talents do you have?” Make a list of those gifts and talents on a large piece of paper or chalkboard.

Play the game I Love My Neighbor:

- Children stand in a circle with one person in the center.
- The person standing in the center of the circle begins the game by saying “I love my neighbor, especially my neighbor who…”
- The child in the middle completes the sentence with a piece of information that is true for him or her. For example, “I love my neighbor, especially my neighbor who is good at singing.”
- As soon as the person in the middle is finished with the statement, everyone (including the person in the center) to whom this applies moves from their place to an empty place in the circle that is not right next to them. Mark spots on the floor ahead of time with chalk or a piece of tape.
- The last person to find a spot in the circle goes to the center of the circle and begins the next round of the game. You might want to teach the children how to play Paper, Rock, Scissors if there is a disagreement about who goes next.

God made each of us special. Just like Jesus called the disciples, God calls us to follow Jesus. The disciples used their gifts and talents to serve others. How can our gifts and talents help us serve God? Refer to the paper or board with the list of children’s gifts and talents.

Discuss: How could we use these to follow Jesus?

For example, how could a talent for singing be used to follow Jesus? How could a talent for reading, math, friendship, or sports give someone an opportunity to serve Jesus?

Ask children to complete the paper, included in this lesson, titled “How am I called to follow Jesus?”

Children can write or draw their answers.

Close by playing The Telephone Game one more time.

Start with “God calls you to follow Jesus,” and have participants pass the message along.

End with a prayer.
### HOW AM I CALLED TO FOLLOW JESUS?

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LESSON 2
EMBRACING NEW LIFE...WHAT IS FORMING IN US?

FOCUS
How can we follow Jesus in community?

SCRIPTURE
John 13:1-17: “Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet”

OBJECTIVES
The learners will...
- hear the story of Jesus washing the disciples’ feet.
- explore new ways to live in community.
- discuss Invite People to Christ, a Mission Initiative.

RESOURCES
Bible or children’s story Bible

SUPPLIES
- Play-Doh
- Wet wipes or baby wipes

Engage
Invites exploration and interaction (35% of lesson time)
Read the story of Jesus and washing the disciples’ feet from John 13:1-17 or from a children’s story Bible.
- How dirty would the disciples’ feet have been?
- Why did Jesus wash their feet? Was it just to clean their feet, or to teach them a lesson?
- What lesson was he trying to teach?
- What did he say we should do?

Gather
Activates background knowledge; prepares and motivates for lesson (15% of lesson time)
Play a thumbs up/thumbs down game.

Read each statement and have children show thumbs up if they think it is true or thumbs down if they think it is false.
- In Jesus’ time, people traveled by car or bus. (false)
- In Jesus’ time, people traveled mostly by foot. (true)
- Jesus would have worn comfortable walking shoes. (false)
- Jesus would have worn simple sandals. (true)
- People in Jesus’ time did not bathe very often. (true)
- People in Jesus’ time had pretty clean feet. (false)
- Jesus tried to find ways to show us how to be servants for others. (true)
Jesus challenged the disciples to look at the world in a new way. When Jesus, their teacher and master, washed their feet, he challenged their ideas about what it meant to be a leader. When Jesus washed their feet, he made them feel like they were part of a community where they were valued and loved. Jesus challenged them to go and do the same for other people. The same challenge is for us today. How can we invite others and form a community of people who follow Jesus and know they are valued and loved?

Invite People to Christ, a Mission Initiative, is focused on finding ways to invite others to know Jesus.

Steve Veazey, president of Community of Christ, said in his President’s Challenge: “A Time to Act!,” on September 20, 2017: “The future church is being formed by a basic concept: Our chief purpose is to birth, nurture, and multiply communities of disciples and seekers engaged in spiritual formation and compassionate ministry and action. This basic blueprint—spiritual formation, community, compassionate ministry and action—is true to the vision of Christ. …Such communities of disciples and seekers can gather anywhere, any time.”

President Veazey is challenging us as a church to think of new ways we can create communities of disciples who are making the world a better place. We are going to explore what ideas are forming in us for what church could look like if we could make it look any way we want it to look.

Give each child some Play-Doh. Invite them to create a model of how church could look in the future. Encourage them to think beyond the walls of a church building. Ask:

- What would community look like for you?
- How would you gather?
- Why would you gather?
- What would you do?
- Where would you gather? Why?
- How would you worship?
- How would you Invite People to Christ?
- How often would you gather? When? What day? Why?
- How could you share Jesus’ love and message in this community?

Allow each child to share their dough creation and their ideas for a community of disciples. One way you could do this is to have a “gallery walk.”

Display each child’s creation on a table and allow the class to walk around and hear about each one.

Have each child quickly form their Play-Doh into something for which they would like to pray. It can be a person, the Earth, an animal, or anything they choose. As children hold their prayer concern model in their hands, offer a prayer for the group.

For example, “God, we lift up our thanks and our concerns to you. Please bless each of us and the things that are on our hearts. Amen.”
LESSON 3
COMPANIONS ON A JOURNEY...HOW DO WE NURTURE WHAT IS EMERGING?

FOCUS
How can we be generous and inclusive as we follow Jesus?

SCRIPTURE
Matthew 14:13-21: “Jesus Feeds the Multitudes”

OBJECTIVES
The learners will...

- hear the story of Jesus feeding the multitudes.
- explore new ways to be generous and inclusive like Jesus, especially to those who are different from us.
- discuss Abolish Poverty, End Suffering—a Mission Initiative.

RESOURCES
Bible or children’s story Bible

SUPPLIES
- Popcorn (unpopped)
- Air popper
- Cups or plates

Engage
Invites exploration and interaction (35% of lesson time)

Read the story of Jesus feeding the multitudes from Matthew 14:13-21 or from a children’s story Bible. To illustrate the idea of how Jesus was able to feed so many from so little, place popcorn kernels in an air popper. As the popcorn is popping, invite children to predict what will happen when the kernels heat up. How much popcorn do they think it will make?

The boy in the scripture passage had very little to share, but he went ahead and shared what he had. In doing so, he blessed many people. Do we sometimes hesitate to share because we feel we do not have much to give? Allow children to enjoy a popcorn snack when the popping is finished. If any children are allergic, offer them an alternative.

The account of Jesus feeding the multitudes is an example of God’s grace and generosity. It represents God’s inclusive and self-giving nature. It also reminds us of our call as disciples to be generous and to include others, even when they are different from us.

We have been challenged to create and nurture communities where we take care of one another and seek ways to include everyone, especially those who are sometimes left out.

Gather
Activates background knowledge; prepares and motivates for lesson (15% of lesson time)

Show children a handful of unpopped popcorn kernels. Ask them if it looks like there is enough for everyone to have a snack. If you only had a handful of something, would you have enough to share with others? In our story, we will hear about a boy who generously shared with others and became a blessing.
Read aloud *Should I Share My Ice Cream?* by Mo Willems.

Share the ice cream game.

One of the Mission Initiatives in Community of Christ is Abolish Poverty, End Suffering. It is important to us that we live Jesus’ teachings about generosity and giving, especially to those who are in need.

The boy in our scripture passage showed us how giving just a little bit can bless many people. How can we be a blessing to people in need in our communities and around the world? Give each child an opportunity to share an idea with the group.

Sing “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me,” CCS 581.

Sing several times and have children call out different words to sing in place of “live.”

- I’m gonna sing...
- I’m gonna pray...
- I’m gonna love...
- I’m gonna share....
LESSON 4
GROWING DEEPER...HOW CAN WE FREE OUR FULL CAPACITY?

FOCUS
How can we make the world more colorful by following Jesus?

SCRIpTURE

OBJECTIVES
The learners will...
- hear the story of the Great Commission.
- explore ways to go deeper in spiritual practice and go out into the world to share the good news of Jesus.
- discuss Experience Congregations in Mission, a Mission Initiative.

RESOURCES
Bible or children’s story Bible

SUPPLIES
- A plate that will hold liquid
- A spoon
- A small bowl or saucer
- Eye dropper (if you have one)
- Toothpicks
- Milk
- Cooking Oil
- Dishwashing detergent
- Enough sets of dominoes so each group of 3-4 children has a set. Consider asking a local teacher if they have any you can borrow.
- Colorful markers
- White paper
- White crayon

Before class, write “Tell Others about Jesus” with white crayon on a white piece of paper. Ask the children if they know what is on the paper.

When there is no color in the world, the world is a pretty boring place. In our scripture story, we will hear about how Jesus wants us to go out into the world and make disciples.

Jesus wants us to share God’s love and make the world more beautiful. Color over the white crayon with colorful markers, revealing the message.

Engage
Invites exploration and interaction
(35% of lesson time)

Read the story of “The Great Commission” from Matthew 28:18-20 or from a children’s story Bible.

To illustrate how we are to go into the world and make the world more “colorful” with the good news of Jesus, do a Color My World activity.

- Pour a few drops of the dishwashing detergent into a small bowl and soak the ends of toothpicks in it. Set aside.
- Pour a thin layer of milk into the plate so the bottom of the plate is covered.
- Pour oil over the milk. You don’t need as much oil as milk but you’ll need enough for it to eventually form a very thin layer over the milk. Stir with the spoon then set the spoon to the side.
- Spend a few minutes watching the milk and oil separate and form oil clusters. While this is
happening talk about how this looks like the world and all its people. People like to live together in families and towns and countries. The plate looks like a map of the world. Then talk about what it would be like if no one in the world followed Christ.

- Add small drops of food coloring to represent Christians. Each person who is sharing Jesus’ message of love is coloring the world. Small droplets will make the best effects. What if Christians only stayed in one place and never told people about Jesus?

- Now for the fun part! Ask the children what they think the world would look like if Christians were to follow the Great Commission and go out into the world to tell other people about Jesus. Then let the children take turns lightly touching the soap end of a toothpick to one of the drops of food coloring. The food coloring will shoot across the milk and oil and make amazing colors.

- Continue doing this until the white plate is full of colors. The message of Jesus changes the world.

Jesus was continuously in motion, going forward from town to town and calling others to join him in his mission. Jesus’ motion forward continues. As modern disciples who live their lives in Community of Christ, we are called to meet God in mission in our neighborhoods, towns, and communities. We are called to make the world more colorful!

Discuss how each domino is like a person, and when the message of Jesus reaches them the world becomes even more beautiful! Invite children to explore with dominoes, setting up and toppling rows of dominoes.

**Send**

Explores how the lesson might be lived

(10% of lesson time)

Give children colorful markers and a white piece of paper.

Have them draw a picture of a way they could share Jesus’ love with others and make the world more colorful.

**Bless**

Time of prayer, praise, blessing, and help

(5% of lesson time)

Stand in a circle, holding hands.

The leader says, “God, we are thankful for…” One person begins and gently squeezes the hand of the person next to them, thinking about something they are thankful for.

When the second person feels their hand being squeezed they think of something they are thankful for and then passes the squeeze along.

Continue until the squeeze has moved around the circle. End with “amen.”

Watch the video *The Amazing Rainbow Spiral.*
LESSON 5
BECOMING BLESSING...WHAT ARE THE NEXT FAITHFUL STEPS?

FOCUS
How do we become a blessing of God’s love and peace?

SCRIPTURE

OBJECTIVES
The learners will...

- hear the story of the Good Samaritan.
- explore concrete ways to follow Jesus in their everyday lives.
- discuss Pursue Peace, a Mission Initiative.

RESOURCES
Bible or children’s story Bible

SUPPLIES
- Three bananas and an orange (plus extras if you want to tell the story more than once)
- Permanent marker
- Large piece of white bulletin board paper or roll of butcher paper
- Washable paint and brushes
- Bucket of water or other way for children to wash paint off their feet
- Magazines feature people around the world

Gather
Activates background knowledge; prepares and motivates for lesson (15% of lesson time)

Show children 10-15 magazine photos of people from around the world.

Ask them, “Who is your neighbor?” Allow several children to respond and ask them to explain why they think that person is their neighbor.

In our scripture passage today, a man asks Jesus the same question: “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus responds by telling a story.

Engage
Invites exploration and interaction (35% of lesson time)

Read “The Good Samaritan” from Luke 10:25-37 or a children’s story Bible. For added fun, retell the story using bananas and oranges as the characters.

Use permanent markers to draw simple character faces on the fruit. Explain to children that oranges and bananas don’t get along. The first banana can represent the man who is hurt and robbed. Squash this poor banana and make him look injured. Then use the other bananas to represent the priest and Levite, who both passed to the other side of the road and did not help.

Finally, use an orange to represent the Samaritan. Usually oranges and bananas avoid one another and even fear one another, but the Samaritan decides to help anyway. Discuss:

- Who was a neighbor in the story?
- What does Jesus tell us to do?
- Who was a blessing to someone else?
- One of the Mission Initiatives in Community of Christ is Pursue Peace. How did the Samaritan pursue peace? What challenges did he face as he pursued peace?
- Do you think the Samaritan was afraid?
- Were you surprised by anything that happened in the story?

The banana and orange idea is from Flame.
In Doctrine and Covenants 164:9b, we read: “When your willingness to live in sacred community as Christ’s new creation exceeds your natural fear of spiritual and relational transformation, you will become who you are called to be.”

We have explored our giftedness, thought about new ways of being together in community, explored ways to be generous, and talked about ways to make the world more colorful with the message of Jesus. This scripture passage is telling us that if we are willing to try new things for God and overcome our fears, we will become who we are called to be. Discuss:

- What fears do you have when you try to follow Jesus?
- How can we be like the Good Samaritan who overcame his fear and treated others the way he wanted to be treated?
- How can we be a blessing of God’s love and peace?

Make a banner together to celebrate our choice to follow Jesus.

Lay a large piece of white bulletin board paper on the floor. Write “Following Jesus” on the paper.

Have each child paint the soles of his or her bare feet and walk along the paper.

Gather in a circle. Invite each child to finish: “I can be like the Good Samaritan by…”

Possible answers might be:

- helping a friend who is hurt.
- smiling at a new student.
- cleaning up at church or home.
- encouraging someone who had a hard day.
- taking food to a food pantry.
- donating to a charity.

Sing CCS 499, “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus.”
CRAFTS AND PROJECTS
DAY 1

LESSON
Called into the future...Where is the Spirit leading?

FOCUS
How am I called to follow Jesus?

IN THIS LESSON, THE CHILDREN WILL...
• hear the story of Jesus calling the disciples.
• explore their giftedness and specific calling.
• discuss Develop Disciples to Serve—a Mission Initiative.

SCRIPTURE
Matthew 4:18-22: “Jesus Calls the Disciples”

FOOTPRINT PAINTINGS
Children will create paintings representing the feet of the disciples as they decide to follow Jesus.

SUPPLIES
• Canvas or large piece of paper for each child
• Washable tempera paint (white, blue, green, brown)
• Paint brushes
• Sponges
• Tablecloths or other material to cover the floor while making painted footprints
• Sand

DIRECTIONS
Have children draw a wavy horizontal line across the center of their canvas. Have each child paint the bottom half of their paper light brown to look like sand. Then have them paint the top half a mixture of blues and greens to look like water.

Have the children remove their shoes and socks. Use sponges to paint the soles of the children’s feet dark brown. Have each child make two footprints on the light brown area of the painting. While the footprints are still wet, sprinkle some sand on them. As a less-messy alternative, have each child paint a footprint with a paintbrush instead of painting on their own feet.

Add some white paint swirls to the blue part of the painting.

Photo: www.craftymorning.com
LESSON
Embracing new life...What is forming in us?

FOCUS
How can we follow Jesus in community?

IN THIS LESSON, THE CHILDREN WILL...
• hear the story of Jesus washing the disciples’ feet.
• explore new ways to live in community.
• discuss Invite People to Christ—a Mission Initiative.

SCRIPTURE
John 13:1-17: “Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet”

SUGAR SCRUB GIFT
Children will create a gift jar of sugar scrub.

SUPPLIES
• Small empty glass jar with a lid for each child, about the size of a baby food jar
• Twine or string, paper, and crayons or markers to make gift tags
• For each child, approximately 1/2 cup of white or brown sugar, 1/8 cup of oil (almond, olive, or coconut), and a few drops of essential oil (optional) for scent. Be aware that some are sensitive to strong fragrances.

DIRECTIONS
Give each child about 1/2 cup of white or brown sugar and 1/8 cup of oil. Have them stir the oil and sugar together. Then add a few drops of essential oils and stir (optional). Pour the sugar scrub into a jar. After children decorate a gift tag, help them close their jar and attach the tag with twine. Remind children that just as Jesus washed the disciples’ feet, they can be a servant to others by giving them the sugar scrub or even using it to wash someone’s hands.

When expanding this recipe for many children, just keep a 3:1 ratio of sugar to oil. Each child should fill about 75 percent of their jar with sugar and 25 percent with oil.
LESSON
Companions on a journey...How do we nurture what is emerging?

FOCUS
How can we be generous and inclusive as we follow Jesus?

IN THIS LESSON, THE CHILDREN WILL...
- hear the story of Jesus feeding the multitudes.
- explore new ways to be generous and inclusive like Jesus, especially to those who are different from us.
- discuss Abolish Poverty, End Suffering—a Mission Initiative.

SCRIPTURE
Matthew 14:13-21: “Jesus Feeds the Multitudes”

PAINTED FISH ROCKS
Children will paint rocks to look like fish.

SUPPLIES
- Small, smooth rocks
- Paint
- Paint brushes
- Sequins or other decorations (optional)
- Book: Only One You by Linda Kranz (optional)

DIRECTIONS
You might choose to read the book, Only One You by Linda Kranz. The book includes illustrations of painted rock fish, and encourages each person to make the world a better place.

Invite children to paint rocks to make them look like fish. Later, they can hide them around the campground or give them as gifts as a way to practice generosity.

Photo: https://alittlepinchofperfect.com/
LESSON
Growing deeper...How can we free our full capacity?

FOCUS
How can we make the world more colorful by following Jesus?

IN THIS LESSON, THE CHILDREN WILL...
- hear the story of the Great Commission.
- explore ways to go deeper in spiritual practice and go out into the world to share the good news of Jesus.
- discuss Experience Congregations in Mission—a Mission Initiative.

SCRIPTURE

EARTH TEA LIGHT HOLDERS
Children will create tea light holders that look like the Earth. This is a reminder to shine our light into the whole world.

SUPPLIES
- A small glass bowl or candleholder for each child
- A battery-operated tea light for each child
- Blue and green tissue paper
- White glue
- Paper plates
- Paint brushes or sponge brushes

DIRECTIONS
Pour the glue onto paper plates. If needed, dilute the glue with some water to make the glue easier to spread. Apply a thin layer of glue to the candleholder. Have children tear the tissue paper into small pieces, place the pieces on the candleholder, and brush glue over them to hold the pieces in place. They can arrange the blue and green pieces so the finished candleholder looks like a globe.

Photo © Premeditated.Leftovers
LESSON
Becoming blessing...What are the next faithful steps?

FOCUS
How do we become a blessing of God’s love and peace?

IN THIS LESSON, THE CHILDREN WILL...
• hear the story of the Good Samaritan.
• explore concrete ways to follow Jesus in their everyday lives.
• discuss Pursue Peace—a Mission Initiative.

SCRIPTURE

FOLLOW JESUS SANDALS
Children will create “sandals” to remind them to follow Jesus. They will write ways they can follow Jesus in their everyday lives on the sandals.

SUPPLIES
• White card stock
• A template for the shape of a foot
• Pipe cleaners, cut
• Scissors
• Buttons or beads
• Markers

DIRECTIONS
Have children trace around the template to draw an outline of a foot shape on white cardstock. Have them cut out the foot shape. Help them write on the foot ways they can follow Jesus. Then have them poke three holes in the sandal. The holes should be toward the top of the “foot,” with one in the middle and one on each side like the holes in a flip flop. Children can string beads or buttons onto a pipe cleaner. Then thread the pipe cleaner from underneath the sandal, up through the side holes. Then tuck both ends of the pipe cleaner into the center hole.

Photo: http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/
LESSON
Called into the future...Where is the Spirit leading?

FOCUS
How am I called to follow Jesus?

IN THIS LESSON, THE CHILDREN WILL...
- hear the story of Jesus calling the disciples.
- explore their gifts and specific calling.
- discuss Develop Disciples to Serve—a Mission Initiative.

MUSIC
“Jesu, Tawa Pano” (“Jesus, We are Here”)  CCS 71
“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”  CCS 499
“I Am Amazing!”  PDF
I Am Amazing!

Janné Grover

Community of Christ
make the world a better place to be. We are God's children, we are amazing! We are God's children, we are amazing!
LESSON
Embracing new life...What is forming in us?

FOCUS
How can we follow Jesus in community?

IN THIS LESSON, THE CHILDREN WILL...
• hear the story of Jesus washing the disciples’ feet.
• explore new ways to live in community.
• discuss Invite People to Christ—a Mission Initiative.

MUSIC
“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

“Kanisa Litajengwa”
Oh, Who Will Build the Church Now?

“Weave”
LESSON
Companions on a journey...How do we nurture what is emerging?

FOCUS
How can we be generous and inclusive as we follow Jesus?

IN THIS LESSON, THE CHILDREN WILL ...
- hear the story of Jesus feeding the multitudes.
- explore ways to be generous and inclusive like Jesus, especially to those who are different from us.
- discuss Abolish Poverty, End Suffering—a Mission Initiative.

MUSIC
“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” CCS 499
“Generosity” PDF
“Kanisa Litajengwa” CCS 338
Oh, Who Will Build the Church Now?
G*E*N*E*R*O*S*I*T*Y

Janné Grover

G to the E to the N E R O to the S to the I T Y God

shares it with us, we help it grow then we

spread it a-round and that's how we roll gen-e-ro-si-ty yeah gen-e-

ro-si-ty Gen-e-ro-o-o-si-ty gen-e-ro-o-o-si-ty From

G D A D

God to us, from us to the world gen-e-ro-o-o-si-ty

G to the E to the N E R O to the S to the I T Y we can

change the world if we real-ly care by the way we love and grow and share gen-e-

ro-si-ty yeah gen-e-ro-si-ty Gen-e-ro-o-o-si-ty gen-e-

D A

ro-o-o-si-ty From God to us, from us to the world gen-e-

D G D

ro-o-o-si-ty

2, D

ro-o-o-si-ty Gen-e

Janné Grover
LESSON
Growing deeper...How can we free our full capacity?

FOCUS
“How can we make the world more colorful by following Jesus?”

IN THIS LESSON, THE CHILDREN WILL...
• hear the story of the Great Commission.
• explore ways to go deeper in spiritual practice and go out into the world to share the good news of Jesus.
• discuss Experience Congregations in Mission—a Mission Initiative.

MUSIC
“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”  CCS 499
“Come, All You People”  CCS 84
“For Everyone Born”  CCS 285
LESSON
Becoming blessing...What are the next faithful steps?

FOCUS
How do we become a blessing of God’s love and peace?

IN THIS LESSON, THE CHILDREN WILL...
- hear the story of the Good Samaritan.
- explore concrete ways to follow Jesus in their everyday lives.
- discuss Pursue Peace—a Mission Initiative.

MUSIC
“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” CCS 499

“Make Me a Servant” CCS 597

“Siyahamb’ Ekukhanyen’ Kwenkhos’ ” CCS 95

We are Marching in the Light of God
LESSON
Called into the future...Where is the Spirit leading?

FOCUS
How am I called to follow Jesus?

IN THIS LESSON, THE CHILDREN WILL...
• hear the story of Jesus calling the disciples.
• explore their giftedness and specific calling.
• discuss Develop Disciples to Serve—a Mission Initiative.

SCRIPTURE
Matthew 4:18-22: “Jesus Calls the Disciples”

MOVEMENT NAME GAME
SUPPLIES
• none

Directions
Have participants stand in a circle. The first person says their name and does an action (jumps, claps their hands, touches their toes, or something else). Everyone else repeats the first person’s name and does the action. The next child says their name and does an action. Everyone else repeats their name and action. This continues until everyone has had a turn. You can vary this game by having each child say something that they are good at or name a gift or talent they have.

EVERYONE’S IT TAG
SUPPLIES
• none

Directions
The object of the game is to keep a running count of how many people you have tagged in three minutes. Before playing, review with children how to do soft, safe touches. Set up boundaries. In this version of tag, no single person is it. No one stops playing or freezes when they get tagged. When the time starts, children try to tag as many people as they can. When you are finished playing, talk about how the game was more fun because everyone got to play the whole time. You can tie this game into the theme of Jesus calling the disciples; Jesus calls everyone to follow him! No one is “out.”
RECREATION
DAY 2

LESSON
Embracing new life...What is forming in us?

FOCUS
How can we follow Jesus in community?

IN THIS LESSON, THE CHILDREN WILL...
• hear the story of Jesus washing the disciples’ feet.
• explore new ways to live in community.
• discuss Invite People to Christ—a Mission Initiative.

SCRIPTURE
John 13:1-17: “Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet”

CATERPILLAR CRAWL
SUPPLIES
• Enough hula hoops for each student or at least 10-12 hula hoops
• Small objects such as bean bags, cups, small toys, or other items to scatter throughout the game area

Directions
This is a cooperation game. Assign participants to teams of 5-6 members. If you only have 10-12 hula hoops, you will only have two teams competing at a time. If you have more hoops, you can have more teams.

Place the hoops on the ground with the edges touching, in the form of a caterpillar. Have one child stand inside each hoop. Each team is a caterpillar. The object of the game is for each caterpillar to collect as many objects as possible off the ground by moving forward.

To move the caterpillar forward, the last player in the caterpillar steps into the hoop of the player in front of them. The last player picks up their now-empty hoop and passes it forward to the front of the caterpillar. The front player places the hoop on the ground at the front of the caterpillar. Everyone steps forward one hoop, and the caterpillar has moved forward.

Only the front player may pick up objects, but anyone in the caterpillar can carry the objects.

The game ends when there are no more objects on the ground. The caterpillar with the most objects wins.

You can tie this game into the theme of working together as a community, trying things in new ways, and following Jesus.
WORLD CUP
SUPPLIES
• 8-12 or more pool noodles
• 2 or more large, lightweight balls (volleyball, large foam balls, other)

Directions
Assign children to teams of 4-6 each. The object of this game is for a team to carry a ball as far as possible using pool noodles. Each child on the team should have a pool noodle. Set a starting line and turn-around point for each team. Teams should stand at the starting line until the “go” signal is given. They must lift the ball with the pool noodles and they cannot touch the ball with their hands at any time. They should carry the ball above their heads to the turn-around point and back. If they drop the ball, they must return to the starting line and start again. The first team to make it back to the starting line wins.

If you have two teams racing at a time, you will need 2 balls and 8-12 pool noodles. If you want to have more teams racing at a time, you will need more supplies.

You can tie this game into the theme of working together as a community, trying things in new ways, and following Jesus.
LESSON
Companions on a journey...How do we nurture what is emerging?

FOCUS
How can we be generous and inclusive as we follow Jesus?

IN THIS LESSON, THE CHILDREN WILL...
- hear the story of Jesus feeding the multitudes.
- explore new ways to be generous and inclusive like Jesus, especially to those who are different from us.
- discuss Abolish Poverty, End Suffering—a Mission Initiative.

SCRIPTURE
Matthew 14:13-21: “Jesus Feeds the Multitudes”

HELPING HANDS TAG
SUPPLIES
- 2-3 bandanas to designate the “taggers”

Directions
Before starting the game, clarify boundaries and a “recharging” station where children will go to do jumping jacks and get back in the game. Designate 2-3 children as “taggers.” Each “tagger” should tie a bandana on their arm or somehow attach it to their clothing.

When the game starts, all players can move within the boundaries. If a child is tagged by one of the “taggers,” the child must freeze with both hands slightly out to their side.

To get unfrozen, two players must help the frozen player. One player holds each hand. The group of three must then make their way to the recharging station. None of them can be tagged on the way to the recharging station.

Once at the recharging station, the two helpers are free to go. The frozen student must do 5 jumping jacks, and may then return to the game.

You can connect this game to the lesson theme of being generous and inclusive.
COOPERATIVE MARBLE RUN

SUPPLIES

- A variety of tubes, such as pool noodles, paper towel tubes, plastic piping, PVC pipe, and flexible tubing. Some pieces can be cut in half horizontally. Each child will need one piece of tube.
- A marble for each group.

Directions

Assign children to groups of 6-10. Each group should stand in a circle, with each person holding a piece of tube. The object of the game is for the children to work together to move their marble around the circle. No one can touch the marble with their hands. No one can touch someone else’s tube, but the tubes can touch other tubes. If the marble falls to the ground, the group must start over.

Discuss how challenging it can be to work with people who are different from us (or in this case, people who have different materials to work with). What challenges do we face when we try to be generous and inclusive? What challenges did Jesus face when trying to be generous and inclusive? What about the disciples? The little boy in our scripture passage?
RECREATION
DAY 4

LESSON
Growing deeper...How can we free our full capacity?

FOCUS
How can we make the world more colorful by following Jesus?

IN THIS LESSON, THE CHILDREN WILL...
• hear the story of the Great Commission.
• explore ways to go deeper in spiritual practice and go out into the world to share the good news of Jesus.
• discuss Experience Congregations in Mission—a Mission Initiative.

SCRIPTURE

COLORED EGGS
SUPPLIES
• none

Directions
Designate one child to be the “wolf.” The other children line up on a line facing the wolf. The wolf should be facing the others, about 100 feet or so from the other children. The wolf and the others say these words:
   Wolf: Knock, knock!
   Others: Who’s there?
   Wolf: The Big Bad Wolf!
   Others: What do you want?
   Wolf: Colored eggs!
   Others: What color?

At this point, the wolf says a color. Anyone wearing that color (even just a little bit) must run to a designated point and back to the starting line as the wolf tries to tag them. For example, if the wolf yells “red,” anyone wearing red must run. The first person who is tagged becomes the next wolf, and the game repeats. If the wolf yells “rainbow,” everyone runs.

You can connect this game to the lesson about making the world more colorful by sharing the good news of Jesus.
CARRYING THE GOOD NEWS RELAY RACE

SUPPLIES
- Two or more playground balls, one for each team
- Two or more towels, one for each team (optional)

Directions
Assign participants to teams, with a ball for each team. The object of the game is to work with a partner to carry the ball (representing the good news) to the goal line and back, then pass the ball to the next pair on your team. Decide how you would like the children to carry the ball; they can stand back-to-back and carry the ball between them, or they can each hold one end of a towel and carry the ball in the towel. You can connect this game to the lesson about sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others.
LESSON
Becoming blessing...What are the next faithful steps?

FOCUS
How do we become a blessing of God’s love and peace?

IN THIS LESSON, THE CHILDREN WILL...
- hear the story of the Good Samaritan.
- explore concrete ways to follow Jesus in their everyday lives.
- discuss Pursue Peace—a Mission Initiative.

SCRIPTURE

BAND-AID TAG
SUPPLIES
• none

Directions
Designate a boundary and an area to be the “hospital” where players recover after being tagged. Review the rules for safe, gentle tagging.

In this game, everyone is “it” and can tag others and be tagged. If a player is tagged, he or she must put a hand on the place where tagged. The player can keep running and tagging, but now only one hand is free. If tagged a second time, the player must put their other hand on the second place tagged. If a player is tagged a third time, he or she must go to the “hospital” and do five jumping jacks to get back in the game.

GOOD SAMARITAN RELAY GAME
SUPPLIES (FOR EACH TEAM OF 4-5 CHILDREN)
• 10-15 Band-Aids
• A clean cup of water
• Extra supplies if you want to play the game more than once

Directions
Choose one person from each team to be the hurt man from the story of the Good Samaritan. This person goes to the other end of the playing area. Teams must race to their “hurt” team member, put 10 bandages on the person, give them a drink of water, and carry them back to the starting line.
**HOUSE, TREE, NEIGHBOR**

**SUPPLIES**
- none

**Directions**

Have participants stand in a circle. The leader stands in the center of the circle.

For each round of play, the leader points to one player and the leader says “house,” “tree,” or “neighbor.”

If the leader says “house,” the player must squat down. The players to the right and left of them must face each other, make a high-ten over the middle player, and form a “house.”

If the leader says “tree,” the player must stand with their arms to their side. The players on either side of them must stand with their backs to the player and raise their arms out in an arch to make the “branches” of the tree.

If the leader says “neighbor,” the player must cross their arms in front of their body, reaching out a hand to the players on either side of them. The players on the sides quickly shake the middle player’s hands.

The pace can increase as children learn the game. If a player makes a mistake, he or she can do jumping jacks to get back into the circle, or they can cheer for the remaining players.

These games can be used to make a connection to the theme of caring for others and being a neighbor in the lesson about the Good Samaritan.
LESSON
Called into the future...Where is the Spirit leading?

FOCUS
How am I called to follow Jesus?

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SCRIPTURE
Matthew 4:18-22: “Jesus Calls the Disciples”

BOATS AND FISH
Make boats out of apple wedges, with pretzel sticks for masts and cheese wedges for the sails. Serve with fish crackers.

SUPPLIES
- Apples
- Pretzel sticks
- Cheese cut into wedges
- Fish crackers

DIRECTIONS
Cut apples into wedges. Give each child an apple wedge, a pretzel stick, and a cheese wedge. Let children make “sailboats.” Serve with fish crackers.

Photo: http://bibleschoolteachers.blogspot.com
LESSON
Embracing new life...What is forming in us?

FOCUS
How can we follow Jesus in community?

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SCRIPTURE
John 13:1-17: “Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet”

DIRTY FEET CRACKERS
Serve teddy bear crackers in chocolate pudding.

SUPPLIES
- Teddy bear crackers
- Chocolate pudding

DIRECTIONS
Serve each child some pudding and some teddy bear crackers. They can “wash” the dirty feet by eating the pudding.
LES ON
Companions on a journey...How do we nurture what is emerging?

FOCUS
How can we be generous and inclusive as we follow Jesus?

IN THIS LESSON, THE CHILDREN WILL...
• hear the story of Jesus feeding the multitudes.
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SCRIPTURE
Matthew 14:13-21: “Jesus Feeds the Multitudes”

LOAVES AND FISHES —OPTION 1
Supplies
• Sliced cheese, cut into circles and triangles
• Crackers

Directions
Give each child some circles and triangles of cheese, which they can arrange on their plate to look like fish. The crackers are the “loaves” from the scripture passage.

LOAVES AND FISHES —OPTION 2
Supplies
• Oranges (sliced into circles)
• Raspberries
• Sprinkles that look like eyes (such as Wilton candy eyeballs)
• Crackers

Directions
Give each child some orange slices, raspberries, and an eyeball for each orange slice. They can use the supplies to make loaves and fishes.

Photos: www.ididityoudoit.blogspot.com and www.Pinterest.com
LESSON
Growing deeper...How can we free our full capacity?

FOCUS
How can we make the world more colorful by following Jesus?

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SCRIPTURE

EARTH SNACK
Make a yummy and healthy Earth treat.

SUPPLIES
- Rice cakes
- Blueberries
- Kiwi
- Cream cheese (consider using whipped cream cheese, which is easier to spread)
- Plastic knives or craft sticks for spreading

DIRECTIONS
Each child can spread cream cheese on a rice cake, then decorate the top with blueberries and kiwi slices to make it look like Earth.

Photo: www.mamaguru.com
LESSON
Becoming blessing...What are the next faithful steps?

FOCUS
How do we become a blessing of God’s love and peace?

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- explore concrete ways to follow Jesus in their everyday lives.
- discuss Pursue Peace—a Mission Initiative.

SCRIPTURE

FOLLOWING JESUS SNACK

SUPPLIES
- Peanut-shaped cookies, such as Nutter Butter.  
  Be aware of possible allergies in your group.
- Frosting
- Small coated candies, such as mini M&Ms
- Regular-sized coated candies, such as M&Ms

DIRECTIONS
Children can create “feet” by putting a small amount of frosting on the end of a cookie, then adding 4 mini candies and 1 regular candy to each cookie to look like toes.

Photo: www.Pinterest.com