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Cover design: Amy Rich
Layout: Communications Team
Writer: Suzie Godfrey
Editors: Janné Grover, Susan Naylor, Elaine Garrison

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INTRODUCTION

The Children’s Activity Guide is for those age 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.

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 product. 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. Many of the hymns are suggested in the worship helps so children are familiar with the songs. 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 after snacks. Be aware of food allergies and avoid such foods. An allergic child can have a severe reaction simply through smell or touch.
LESSON ONE

ON THE WAY

FOCUS
Children will begin their journey through the week by exploring “Who is my neighbor?”

SCRIPTURE
Luke 10:25-37
(Parable of the Good Samaritan)

OBJECTIVES
The learner will…

- Hear the story of the Good Samaritan.
- Discuss “Who is my neighbor?”
- Create a neighborhood.
- Discuss Blessings of Community, an Enduring Principle.

SUPPLIES
- Skittles or other multi-colored candies (be aware of food allergies)
- Lectionary Story Bible, Year C or NRSV Bible
- Large sheet of bulletin board paper or roll of paper
- Paper lunch sacks (at least enough for each child)
- Construction paper
- Miscellaneous art supplies (optional)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Heart-shaped stickers

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

Welcome the children. Allow each child to introduce themselves and tell something about themselves. Spend a few minutes setting expectations for the week. These might include how we show respectful listening when others are speaking, how we will treat one another, and how the teacher will get the group’s attention.

Tell the class we will be going on a journey this week. The journey will take us from our comfortable neighborhood, through some stories of Jesus, and out into the world.

Each day this week, we will explore a different part of our journey. Today we will try to answer “Who is my neighbor?”

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

Read Luke 10:25-37 or “The Good Samaritan” from pages 172-173 of Lectionary Story Bible, Year C.

Give each child one Skittle or other colorful candy. Be aware of food allergies and provide an alternative for children who need it. Have children answer a question about the story based on the color of their candy.
If your candy is... | Answer this
---|---
red | What did the priest do when he saw the injured man?
orange | What did the Levite do when he saw the injured man?
yellow | What did the Samaritan do when he saw the injured man?
green | What is Jesus trying to teach us with this story?
purple | How does this story help us answer “Who is my neighbor?”

RESPOND

Takes the learners from hearing to doing
(35% of lesson time)

Today is the beginning of our reunion journey. We are talking about “Who is my neighbor?” In the scripture passage, the Samaritan man followed God’s commandment to “love your neighbor as yourself.” His neighbor actually was a stranger.

Jesus was teaching us that we should help all people. We should help people who live near us but also those who are different from us or live far from us. We are going to create a “neighborhood.”

Discuss what features a neighborhood would need. Ideas include enough housing for everyone, a park, a hospital, a grocery store, a church, trees, or a community garden.

Give each child a paper lunch bag and provide scissors, glue, and other art supplies. Encourage children to be creative and work together as they create a neighborhood. Each child can create a house or building to add to the neighborhood. If you provide a large sheet of paper to place all the buildings on, children can draw streets, parks, and other things.

SEND

Explores how the lesson might be lived
(10% of lesson time)

One of the Enduring Principles of Community of Christ is Blessings of Community. This is how the church describes it:

- The gospel of Jesus Christ is expressed best in community life where people become vulnerable to God’s grace and one another.
- True community includes compassion for and solidarity with the poor, marginalized, and oppressed.
- True community upholds the worth of persons while providing a healthy alternative to self-centeredness, isolation, and conformity.
Sacred community provides nurture and growth opportunities for all people, especially those who cannot fully care for themselves.

We value our connections and share a strong sense of trust in and belonging with one another—even if we never have met.

Some disciples are called and ordained to particular priesthood responsibilities and ministries for the sake of the community, the congregation, and the world.

We are called to create communities of Christ’s peace in our families and congregations and across villages, tribes, nations, and throughout creation.

Discuss: How does our neighborhood reflect or show the Enduring Principle of Blessings of Community? If time allows, discuss each part of Blessings of Community. (Example: How does our neighborhood show compassion for the poor? How does our neighborhood nurture those who cannot care for themselves?) Give each child a heart sticker. Let them place the heart sticker on a place in the neighborhood where the Blessings of Community might be lived out.

**BLESS**

Time of prayer, praise, blessing, and help (5% of lesson time)

Say a group prayer of blessing for our neighbors. Invite each child to think of someone who is a neighbor. It could be the name of a friend or family member, someone at reunion, someone in our communities such as teachers or police officers, or someone in the world such as people in a different country.

Begin the prayer: “God, we thank you for our neighbors. Please bless them.” Let each child continue the prayer with, “Please bless _____.”
LESSON TWO

LIVING JESUS TODAY

FOCUS
Children will explore the idea of walking with Jesus.

SCRIPTURE
(The Road to Emmaus)

OBJECTIVES
The learner will…

- Hear the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus.
- Learn to look for God’s presence around us.
- Create “binoculars.”
- Discuss Continuing Revelation, an Enduring Principle.

SUPPLIES
- *Let’s Go for a Drive* by Mo Willems
- NRSV Bible
- Small suitcase, Bible, compass, and pair of binoculars
- Cardboard tubes, such as from rolls of toilet paper
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Stickers, markers, washi tape, or other supplies for decorating “binoculars”
- Hot glue and glue gun or double-sided tape
- Stapler or glue for attaching yarn to binoculars

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

*Read Let’s Go for a Drive by Mo Willems.*

Yesterday we heard the story of the Good Samaritan and we talked about “Who is our neighbor?” We learned that our neighbor can be anyone who needs our help.

Today we will begin our journey with Jesus and learn what it means to walk with Jesus in our life. In *Let’s Go for a Drive*, Elephant and Piggie are getting ready for a trip. They are making sure they have everything they need. Today we will make sure we have everything we need for our journey with Jesus.

*Show children a small suitcase or travel bag. Ask them what they might need for their trip. From the bag, take a Bible, a compass, and a pair of binoculars. Each item is a clue about something they will be making or learning about on their journey.*

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

*Our scripture passage today comes from Luke 24:13-35. Read the scripture passage or tell the story using the script below. As you tell the story, invite three of the children to act out the story.*
One plays the part of Jesus and the other two are the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

The disciples walk along the road and Jesus joins them. They do not recognize him.

**Jesus:** What are you two talking about?
**Disciple 1:** We are talking about Jesus and how great he is!
**Disciple 2:** And how he was killed on the cross.
**Disciple 1:** The women went to his tomb and it was empty. They saw an angel who said Jesus is alive.
**Disciple 2:** But we went there and just saw an empty tomb.
**Jesus:** Let me tell you what it says in the scriptures.

Then Jesus told them all about what the scriptures say about Jesus’s life, death, and resurrection. When they got to the village, they invited Jesus to stay with them. They still didn’t realize he was Jesus.

When the disciples sat with Jesus, he took the bread, blessed it, and broke it. Suddenly they realized he was Jesus. Then Jesus disappeared. The disciples went and told the others what they had seen.

---

**RESPOND**

Takes the learners from hearing to doing

(35% of lesson time)

When the disciples were walking along the road, they didn’t realize Jesus was with them. On our journey through our lives, Jesus is always with us, whether we recognize him or not. Even though Jesus doesn’t actually come and walk next to us in human form, God sent the Holy Spirit to be with us always. What are some ways we can notice or recognize God/Jesus/the Holy Spirit with us (in the kindness of friends and strangers, in peaceful moments by the campfire, in a still small voice, in a feeling or nudging in our hearts and minds)?

God’s spirit guides us on our way, much like a compass guides a hiker or a traveler.

*Show children a compass. Tell them the needle always points to the north, so a compass can be used to help hikers or travelers find their way.*

*Demonstrate how to make a compass.*

In the scripture passage, the disciples had a hard time noticing Jesus was with them. We will create binoculars to help us “see” Jesus on our journey.

Children will make binoculars out of cardboard tubes. Use double-sided tape or hot glue to attach two toilet-paper tubes together. Allow children to decorate them with stickers, markers, and washi tape. Staple a piece of yarn to the “binoculars” so children can wear them around their necks. Challenge children to watch for signs of God/Jesus/the Holy Spirit with them this week.
One of the Enduring Principles in Community of Christ is Continuing Revelation. This means God speaks to us through scripture but also in other ways:

Scripture is an inspired and indispensable witness of human response to God’s revelation of divine nature.
- God graciously reveals divine will today as in the past.
- The Holy Spirit inspires and provides witness to divine truth.
- In humility, individually and in community, we prayerfully listen to understand God’s will for our lives, the church, and creation more completely (from www.CofChrist.org/enduring-principles).

The disciples in the story did not realize Jesus was with them and speaking to them until they had a meal with him. We made our binoculars today to remind us that we should always be looking for ways God is with us and speaking to us. God speaks to us through scripture, prayer, nature, the people around us, and in countless other ways.

In Let’s Go for a Drive, which we read at the beginning of our class, Elephant and Piggie learned that their journey doesn’t always take them where they think it will, but when they are together they can have fun anyway.

Our journey with Jesus might take us to unexpected places, but we will surely be blessed along the way.

Say a short prayer thanking God for the blessings you have noticed in the class today or invite children to thank God for the blessings they have noticed. Ideas include children working together, people being kind to one another, adult volunteers who are willing to help, or friends sharing together.
LESSON THREE

LIVING PEACE

FOCUS

Children will take a break on our journey through the week to explore the idea of welcoming and forgiveness.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 7:37-50
(A woman washes Jesus’ feet)

OBJECTIVES

The learner will…

• Hear the story of the woman washing Jesus’ feet.
• Discuss importance of welcoming and forgiveness.
• Create a table where all are welcome.
• Discuss Worth of All Persons, an Enduring Principle.

SUPPLIES

• Small snack and drink for each child (be aware of food allergies)
• Lectionary Story Bible, Year C or NRSV Bible
• Pencil and paper for each child
• Per group: roll of masking tape, index cards, frozen treat sticks, and construction paper
• Pipe cleaners

GATHER

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

Invite children to gather in a circle or at a table. Talk about how the week is going. Ask if anyone is starting to feel tired from the busy schedule of reunion.

This week, we have been on a journey with Jesus. We started by learning about our neighbors and the blessings of community. We heard the story of the Good Samaritan. Yesterday we walked the Road to Emmaus with the disciples and learned to be watching for God with us in the world.

Today we are going to take a small break on our journey. Offer children a small snack and drink.

As they eat, discuss:
• How do people rest and refuel to feel better?
• How do we feel when we get to share a meal together?
• How do we feel when someone does something kind for us when we are tired?

ENGAGE

Invites exploration and interaction (35% of lesson time)

Today’s scripture story is about a woman who did something very kind for Jesus as he rested from his journey.
Give each child a piece of paper and a pencil.

Read Luke 7:37-50 or read The Woman Who Washed Jesus’ Feet from pages 160-161 in Lectionary Story Bible, Year C.

Tell the story slowly, allowing children to draw what they picture is happening in the story as you go. Include these parts of the story in your telling:

- Jesus had stopped to eat at a Pharisee’s house.
- A woman brought a jar of ointment and washed Jesus’ feet with it. She wiped his feet with her hair. She was crying.
- The Pharisee said the woman should not be near Jesus because she was a sinner.
- Jesus told a story about forgiveness. He said, “I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment.” He said this woman, even though she was sinful, had been forgiven because she showed great love.

Allow children to share drawings with the rest of the group.

Discuss:

- What do you think this story teaches us about Jesus?
- About kindness?
- About forgiveness?

In yesterday’s story about the Road to Emmaus, the disciples finally recognized Jesus when they ate a meal together. In today’s story, Jesus was sharing a meal when the woman washed his feet. Many times in scripture stories, meals are shared. In the sacrament of communion, we share a meal with each other to help us remember Jesus’ sacrifice for us.

Sharing a meal together can help people build community, find rest, draw closer to one another, and even draw closer to God. In Community of Christ, we believe all people are welcome at God’s table.

PROJECT: BUILD A TABLE

Children will work in small groups to build a table using the supplies given. Each group will have a roll of masking tape, index cards, frozen treat sticks, and construction paper.

When groups are finished, do a gallery walk, where the class walks around the room to view the other works. Keep the tables intact for the next activity.

SEND

Explores how the lesson might be lived
(10% of lesson time)

One of the Enduring Principles of Community of Christ is **Worth of All Persons**. This means:

- God views all people as having inestimable and equal worth.
- God wants all people to experience wholeness of body, mind, spirit, and relationships.
- We seek to uphold and restore the worth of all people individually and in community, challenging unjust systems that diminish human worth.
• We join with Jesus Christ in bringing good news to the poor, sick, captive, and oppressed.

*Invite children to use pipe cleaners to create a person who can sit at their table. Have each child tell the group who their person is. It could be someone from one of the scripture stories this week (the Samaritan, Jesus, a disciple), or it could be someone they know or someone they don’t know.*

*Remind children that God loves every person and that God views all people as having inestimable and equal worth.*

**BLESS**

Time of prayer, praise, blessing, and help  
(5% of lesson time)

*Say a prayer to thank God for our times of rest and for God’s love for all people.*

*Invite a child to add to the prayer as well.*
LESSON FOUR
TOWARD THE PEACEFUL ONE

FOCUS
Children will journey to the lakeside where Jesus called the first disciples and explore the idea of whole-life stewardship.

SCRIPTURE
Matthew 4:18-22
(Jesus calls the first disciples)

OBJECTIVES
The learner will...

- Hear the story of Jesus calling the first disciples.
- Discuss following Jesus.
- Create a boat.
- Discuss All Are Called, an Enduring Principle.

SUPPLIES
- Blanket (any color)
- Blue blanket
- NRSV Bible
- A way to play sound effects, such as the water sounds, are available at https://www.jshaw.co.uk/sfx.
- Recycled materials, such as plastic containers or bottles, cardboard or paperboard, paper towel rolls, newspaper, plastic foam packaging, duct tape, or anything else that is available
- Kiddie pool or tub filled with water
- Straws
- A small stone for each child

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

Challenge the children with a teamwork activity. Place a blanket on the floor and tell them they need to stand on the blanket together. They cannot leave anyone out. The first time they try, this challenge will be easy. Then fold the blanket in half and have them try again. If it is still easy, fold the blanket in half again and have them try again. Each time you fold the blanket, they will have to fit the same number of children on a smaller and smaller space. Encourage them to communicate with each other, listen to each other’s ideas, and be creative. See how small you can make the blanket before it becomes impossible to fit everyone on it.

Gather the children in front of you. Tell them that this week we have been on a journey, discovering what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

We learned about the Good Samaritan and loving our neighbor. We walked on the Road to Emmaus and learned that God is always with us. We rested with Jesus and learned that God forgives us and loves all people. Today on our journey, we will be visiting the lakeshore, where Jesus called his first disciples.

Just as the children were challenged to include everyone, the disciples learned that Jesus calls
each person to serve him. No one is left out. Also, just as we had to keep giving up part of the blanket, the disciples had to give up a lot to follow Jesus.

**ENGAGE**
Invites exploration and interaction (35% of lesson time)

*Place a blue blanket on the floor to represent a lake. Invite the children to join you at the “lakeside” to hear the story. If possible, play background noise that sounds like a lake.*

*Invite the children to imagine they are by the lake watching the story take place. Read Matthew 4:18-22. Read the story twice. Then ask the children to share what they pictured as you read the story.*

*Discuss what they noticed and what they are wondering about the story.*

What lesson does the story teach us about following Jesus? (It takes a whole-life commitment, sometimes you must give up other things to follow Jesus, we need to trust Jesus, Jesus is calling them to fish for people/tell others about Jesus.)

**SEND**
Explores how the lesson might be lived (10% of lesson time)

One of the Enduring Principles in Community of Christ is All Are Called. This means:
- God graciously gives people gifts and opportunities to do good and to share in God’s purposes.
- Jesus Christ invites people to follow him by becoming disciples who share his life and ministry.
- Some disciples are called and ordained to particular priesthood responsibilities and ministries for the sake of the community, the congregation, and the world.
- We respond faithfully, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to our best understanding of God’s call.

We just created boats. In our scripture story, the disciples had to leave their boats behind and follow Jesus. Could you leave your boat behind if Jesus asked you to? What is something you have had to give up because Jesus is calling you to certain responsibilities or ways of serving?

Maybe children have had to give up play time to practice piano because God has gifted them with a talent for music and they want to develop it. Maybe they have had to give up friends who ask them to do things they know are wrong.

**PROJECT: BUILD A JUNK BOAT**
Using recycled materials, children will build a boat. Materials might include plastic containers or bottles, cardboard or paperboard, paper towel rolls, newspaper, plastic foam packaging, duct tape, or anything else that is available. *Let children test their boats in a kiddie pool or plastic tub filled with water. They can use a straw to create “wind” to propel their boat. If time allows, let them make changes and improvements to their boat after testing it.*
Have children place their boats at the “lakeside” in the classroom as a symbol of giving up something to follow Jesus.

**BLESS**

Time of prayer, praise, blessing, and help

(5% of lesson time)

Give each child a small stone or rock. Ask them to hold it in their hand.

Say a prayer of praise: “Thank you, God, for calling all people to serve you and to serve others. Please help us to follow you like the first disciples did. We thank you for many things.”

Invite each child to think of something they are thankful for, then gently toss their stone into the “lake.”
LESSON FIVE

LIVING HOPE

FOCUS
Children will complete their reunion journey by exploring ways they can promote economic justice and environmental stewardship in their home communities.

SCRIPTURE
Luke 19:1-10
(Zacchaeus story)

OBJECTIVES
The learner will…

- Hear the story of Zacchaeus.
- Explore environmental stewardship.
- Create a tree.
- Discuss Sacredness of Creation, an Enduring Principle.
- Commit to a plan for making a difference in their home communities.

SUPPLIES
- Tree leaves, sticks, and seeds
- NRSV Bible
- Blank paper for each child
- Pencil for each child
- Wangari’s Trees of Peace by Jeanette Winter
- Paper lunch bag for each child
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Seed paper
- Markers or pencils
- Seeded plantable note paper

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

Bring items such as tree leaves, sticks, and seeds. Tell children these items are a clue about today’s story. Ask if they can figure out what today’s story is about.

Tell them that this week we have been on a journey, discovering what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

We learned about the Good Samaritan and loving our neighbor. We walked on the Road to Emmaus and learned that God is always with us. We rested with Jesus and learned that God forgives us and loves all people. Yesterday we visited the lakeshore, where Jesus called his first disciples.

Today on our journey we will hear about a man who wanted to see Jesus so badly, he climbed a tree to see him. We will also hear a story about someone who changed many lives just by planting trees.

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

Give each child a blank piece of paper and a pencil. As you read Luke 19:1-10, stop after every few lines so
children can draw what they are imagining is happening.

For example, read verses 1-4, then have kids draw the tree with Zacchaeus in the tree. Read verse 5 and stop so children can draw Jesus talking to Zacchaeus. Read verses 6 and 7, then stop so children can draw Jesus at Zacchaeus’ house and the grumbling crowd. Read verse 8, then stop so children can draw Zacchaeus giving back four times what he had stolen. Read verses 9 and 10, then stop so children can draw Jesus forgiving Zacchaeus even when others would not.

As children draw, discuss important points in the story. Point out that Jesus spoke with and ate with Zacchaeus, even though Zacchaeus was not accepted by others. Discuss the part where Jesus says, “The Son of Man came to seek out and save the lost.”

Jesus does not just come for those who seem to be doing everything right. Jesus comes to help those who are most in need of help. As disciples, we should do the same.

**RESPOND**

*Takes the learners from hearing to doing*  
(35% of lesson time)

Read *Wangari’s Trees of Peace* by Jeanette Winter.

Discuss: Today is the last day of reunion. On our journey this week, we have learned about God’s great love for all people. We have learned about forgiveness and community. We have learned about helping others and treating people the way Jesus would treat them. In the scripture story, we saw Jesus treating Zacchaeus like a beloved child of God. In Wangari’s Trees of Peace, Wangari saw a need in her community and she found a way to help. She also saw the environment being misused and abused, and she found a way to help.

**CRAFT: PAPER BAG TREES**

Invite children to create a *tree out of a paper bag*. They can draw a small picture of Zacchaeus and glue him in the tree. Provide a paper bag for each child, as well as a paper to make leaves and Zacchaeus.

**SEND**

*Explores how the lesson might be lived*  
(10% of lesson time)

One of the Enduring Principles of Community of Christ is Sacredness of Creation. This means:
- In the beginning, God created and called it all good.
- Spirit and material, seen and unseen, are related.
- Creation’s power to create or destroy reminds us of our vulnerability in this life.
- God is still creating to fulfill divine purpose.
- We join with God as stewards of care and hope for all creation.

Wangari noticed the environment being abused. She knew the Earth was a gift from God, and we must live here responsibly. As we leave reunion, our journey continues into our communities and our schools. How will you help others as when you leave reunion? How will you care for the Earth?

Give children a piece of *seed paper*. This special paper is made with seeds, and if it is planted the seeds will sprout. On the paper, children can write something they will do when they leave reunion.
Show children how to do a yoga tree pose.

- Stand with feet together.
- Slowly raise your right foot until your foot is on the inside of your left thigh.
- Turn your right knee outward.
- Place your hands together in front of your chest.
- If you are able, lift your hands above your head.

Invite children to do the pose while saying a silent prayer of praise and thanksgiving.
DAY ONE – CRAFTS AND PROJECTS

FIRST AID KIT

TODAY’S LESSON
On the Way

In today’s lesson, students …
• Heard the story of the Good Samaritan.
• Discussed “Who is my neighbor?”
• Created a neighborhood.

FOCUS
Children will begin their journey through the week by exploring “Who is my neighbor?”

SCRIPTURE
Luke 10:25-37
(Parable of the Good Samaritan)

CRAFT
First Aid Kit

SUPPLIES FOR EACH CHILD
• One travel container for bar soap
• A few adhesive bandages
• A few individually wrapped hand wipes
• A few individually wrapped breath mints
• Other “first aid” items of your choice, such as small bottles of hand sanitizer, tissues, or single-use tubes of antibiotic ointment (optional)
• Permanent markers
• Adhesive googly eyes, or googly eyes and glue

DIRECTIONS
Allow children to decorate their container by sticking a band-aid to the front and drawing a smiling face on the band-aid using the markers and googly eyes. Let each child fill their container with band-aids and other items that they can use throughout the week to help people in need. Discuss how they can be like the good Samaritan, who stopped and helped the person in need instead of just walking past.
DAY TWO – CRAFTS AND PROJECTS

BANDANA BAG

TODAY’S LESSON
Living Jesus Today

In today’s lesson, students …

- Heard the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus.
- Learned to look for God’s presence all around us.

FOCUS
Children will explore the idea of walking with Jesus.

SCRIPTURE
(The Road to Emmaus)

CRAFT
Bandana Bag

SUPPLIES
- Two bandanas per child
- Scissors for cutting fabric

DIRECTIONS
Place two bandanas together. Cut off part of three sides in one long piece. Save for the handle. Cut slits along three sides. Tie the pieces together along the three sides. Use the long pieces removed at the beginning to braid a handle for the bag. Tie the handle to the bag. See https://www.fun365.orientaltrading.com/project/bandana-tote-bag-diy for more detailed instructions.
DAY THREE – CRAFTS AND PROJECTS

SPIRAL ART

TODAY’S LESSON

Living Peace

In today’s lesson, students …
- Heard the story of the woman washing Jesus’ feet.
- Discussed the importance of welcoming and forgiveness.
- Created a table where all are welcome.
- Discussed the Enduring Principle “Worth of All Persons.”

FOCUS

Children will take a “break” on their journey through the week to explore the idea of welcoming and forgiveness.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 7:37-50
(A woman washes Jesus’ feet)

CRAFT

Spiral Art

SUPPLIES
- Thin paper plates (one per child)
- Scissors
- Markers
- Yarn or string
- Hole punch (for attaching the string)

DIRECTIONS

Help children cut paper plates into a spiral shape, starting at the outside edge. If necessary, draw the spiral first and let them cut along the line, or cut the spiral for them. Let children color the spiral with colorful markers. Punch a hole in the center of the spiral and hang it from a string to make a spinner. Remind children that the Community of Christ Temple in Independence, Missouri, USA is shaped like a spiral. The Temple is dedicated to the pursuit of peace. Discuss ways the woman in today’s scripture story pursued peace. Discuss ways the children can Live Peace as they follow Jesus. These spirals could be used as a decoration someplace on the campground during the week of reunion.
DAY FOUR – CRAFTS AND PROJECTS

LAKE IN A BOTTLE

TODAY’S LESSON

With the Peaceful One

In today’s lesson, students …

- Heard the story of Jesus calling the first disciples.
- Discussed following Jesus.
- Created a boat.
- Discussed All Are Called, an Enduring Principle.

FOCUS

Children will journey to the lakeside where Jesus called the first disciples and explore the idea of whole-life stewardship.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 4:18-22
(Jesus calls the first disciples)

CRAFT

Lake in a Bottle

SUPPLIES

- Clean, empty water bottle for each child
- Water
- Blue food coloring
- Funnel
- Vegetable oil
- Small items such as shells, rocks, plastic fish or fish-shaped plastic beads, glitter, sand, and plastic boats
- Glue

DIRECTIONS

Fill each bottle half-way with water. Add 2-3 drops of blue food coloring. Add small items. Use a funnel to fill the rest of the bottle with oil. Put glue in the lid and screw the lid onto the bottle. Explore with making waves in the “lake.” Remind children that the disciples were fishermen. Jesus called them to leave their boats and to follow him so he could make them fishers of people. We are all called to follow Jesus.

https://mercercountylibrary.blogspot.com/2013/07/ocean-in-bottle-craft-for-kids.html?m=1
DAY FIVE – CRAFTS AND PROJECTS

NEWSPAPER SEED POTS

TODAY’S LESSON

Living Hope

In today’s lesson, students…

- Heard the story of Zacchaeus.
- Explored environmental stewardship.
- Created a tree.
- Discussed Sacredness of Creation, an Enduring Principle.
- Committed to a plan for making a difference in their home communities.

FOCUS

Children will complete their reunion journey by exploring ways they can promote economic justice and environmental stewardship in their home communities.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 19:1-10
(Zacchaeus story)

CRAFT

Newspaper Seed Pots

SUPPLIES

- Newspaper (actual newsprint, not glossy inserts).
- Potting soil (approximately one cup of soil per child)
- Seeds (any variety of flowers that will grow in your area)
- Aluminum cans
- Rulers
- Scissors

DIRECTIONS

Cut strips of newspaper that are about five to seven inches wide and as long as an open sheet. Wrap a sheet of newspaper around a can to create a pot. See detailed instructions at https://getbusygardening.com/newspaper-seed-starting-pots. Fill pots with soil. Show children how to make a hole in the top of the soil with their finger and place the seeds in the hole. Do not water the seeds. When children get home, they can plant the pot in the ground. The newspaper will decompose. Remind children about the story Wangari’s Trees of Peace. Everyone plays an important part in God’s story—even each of us!
DAY ONE

MUSIC

TODAY’S LESSON

On the Way

In today’s lesson, students …

- Heard the story of the Good Samaritan.
- Discussed “Who is my neighbor?”
- Created a neighborhood.
- Discussed Blessings of Community, an Enduring Principle

FOCUS

Children will begin their journey through the week by exploring “Who is my neighbor?”

SCRIPTURE

Luke 10:25-37
(Parable of the Good Samaritan)

MUSIC

“Takwaba Uwabanga Yesu!”  CCS 121
“Weave”  CCS 327
DAY TWO

MUSIC

TODAY’S LESSON
Living Jesus Today

*In today’s lesson, students …*
- Heard the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus.
- Learned to look for God’s presence all around us.
- Created binoculars.
- Discussed Continuing Revelation, an Enduring Principle.

FOCUS
Children will explore the idea of walking with Jesus.

SCRIPTURE
(The Road to Emmaus)

MUSIC

“Enduring Principles” PDF
Words and audio:
Audio only file:

“Prayer of Peace” CCS 164
Enduring Principles

Janné Grover

D G D A D

G7 D

A D G D A D

Enduring Principles, they're important! Enduring Principles, they're ever-lasting! They show the world just what God's love is like and how to live like Jesus Christ.

©Community of Christ
Enduring Principles

Grace and Generosity, Sacredness of Creation, Continuing Revelation, Worth of All Persons, and All Are Called.

Responsible Choices, Pursuit of Peace, that's
Enduring Principles

God's shalom. Unification Diversities Blessings of Community.

Enduring Principles, they're important! Enduring Principles, they're ever-lasting!

- asting! They show the world just what God's love is like and how to live like Jesus Christ.
Enduring Principles

Grace and Generosity,* Sacredness of Creation,* Continuing Revelation,* Worth of All Persons, and All Are Called,* Responsible Choices,* Pursuit of Peace, that's
Enduring Principles

God's shal-om.* Un-i-ty in Div-er-si-ty, Bles-sings of Com-mun-i-ty.*

live like Je-sus Christ.

(The following phrases can be inserted, in the order they appear, where indicated by the music.)

*We receive God's love and share with everyone.
*All creation is precious to God.
*We listen for God every day.
*We value the amazing gifts in all people.
*Good decisions can make the world a better place.
*We are peacemakers!
*We belong to one another and are stronger because we are different.
DAY THREE

MUSIC

TODAY’S LESSON
Living Peace

*In today's lesson, students …*
- Heard the story of the woman washing Jesus’ feet.
- Discussed the importance of welcoming and forgiveness.
- Created a table where all are welcome.
- Discussed Worth of All Persons, an Enduring Principle.

FOCUS
Children will take a break on our journey through the week to explore the idea of welcoming and forgiveness.

SCRIPTURE
Luke 7:37-50
(A woman washes Jesus’ feet)

MUSIC
“Peace Salaam Shalom”  
“For Everyone Born” (verses 1, 3, 5)
DAY 4

MUSIC

TODAY’S LESSON
Toward the Peaceful One

In today’s lesson, students …
- Heard the story of Jesus calling the first disciples.
- Discussed following Jesus.
- Created a boat.
- Discussed the Enduring Principle “All Are Called.”

FOCUS
Children will journey to the lakeside where Jesus called the first disciples and explore the idea of whole-life stewardship.

SCRIPTURE
Matthew 4:18-22
(Jesus calls the first disciples)

MUSIC

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”
campfire song
“In My Life, Lord”
CCS 602
DAY 5

MUSIC

TODAY’S LESSON
Living Hope

*In today's lesson, students…*

- Heard the story of Zacchaeus.
- Explored environmental stewardship.
- Created a tree.
- Discussed Sacredness of Creation, an Enduring Principle.
- Committed to a plan for making a difference in their home communities.

FOCUS
Children will complete their reunion journey by exploring ways they can promote economic justice and environmental stewardship in their home communities.

SCRIPTURE
Luke 19:1-10
(Zacchaeus story)

MUSIC

Zacchaeus  PDF
“All Things Bright and Beautiful”  CCS 135
“This is God’s Wondrous World”  CCS 136
Zacchaeus

Traditional

MOTIONS: (1) Hands in front, right palm raised above left palm. (2) Move palms closer together. (3) Alternate hands in climbing motion. (4) Shade eyes with right hand and look down. (5) Shade eyes with right hand and look up. (6) Look up, gesture to Zacchaeus to come down. (7) Clap hands on accented beat.
DAY ONE

GAMES

TODAY’S LESSON

On the Way

In today’s lesson, students …

• Heard the story of the Good Samaritan.
• Discussed the question, “Who is my neighbor?”
• Created a neighborhood.
• Discussed the Blessings of Community, an Enduring Principle.

FOCUS

Children will begin their “journey” through the week by exploring “Who is my neighbor?”

SCRIPTURE

Luke 10:25-37
(Parable of the Good Samaritan)

GOOD SAMARITAN GAME

SUPPLIES

• Two cloth bandages
• Two Hula Hoops
• Four cones
• Other obstacle course items of your choice

Directions

Set up two obstacle courses. Organize children into two teams. Participants run through the obstacle course and run back to tag the next person on their team. For example, you might have participants run around two cones, step through a Hula Hoop, and wrap a cloth bandage around someone before running back. Encourage teams to cheer for one another. Remind children that the Good Samaritan had to go through many obstacles to help the wounded man.

COMMUNITY JUGGLE

SUPPLIES

• Several small foam balls per team of five participants.
• Try to find balls that are easy to catch.
Directions
Organize teams of five participants each. Teams form a circle. One player is given a ball. That player passes the ball to someone in the circle who is not directly to their left or right. The next player then passes the ball to someone else. This repeats until the ball is returned to the starting player. Once players have gotten fast at passing the ball around the circle in this pattern, add more balls and see if they can continue without dropping one. Talk about the importance of each member of this small community being included in this game.

From: https://www.kidactivities.net/41-fun-cooperative-games-for-kids
DAY TWO

GAMES

TODAY’S LESSON

Living Jesus Today

In today’s lesson, students…

- Heard the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus.
- Learned to look for God’s presence all around us.
- Created binoculars.
- Discussed the Continuing Revelation, an Enduring Principle.

FOCUS

Children will explore the idea of walking with Jesus.

SCRIPTURE

(The Road to Emmaus)

BODY PARTS

SUPPLIES: NONE

Directions

Children mingle around in an open area. The leader calls out a number and a body part, such as “four elbows.” Children quickly form a group with those around them.

They might form a group of four children and each put one elbow together with the others, or they might form a group of two children who each put two elbows together. Anyone who gets left out of the group gets to call the next round.

Discuss how important it was to listen and cooperate in this game. The disciples on the Road to Emmaus had to learn to listen to Jesus.

From: www.weareteachers.com/team-building-games-and-activities/
BIRDS OF A FEATHER

SUPPLIES

- Index cards with names of animals on them.
  Make two cards for each animal. Choose animals that make a distinct sound.

Directions
Have each child select a card. Help nonreaders read their card.
In a large, safe, open space, have children close their eyes and begin making the sound of their animal. They must listen for someone else making the same animal sound. When they find their partner, they can open their eyes. The game is over when everyone has found a partner.

Discuss the difficulty of hearing one another with all the noise around the participants. How is that like the disciples, who were too distracted to realize Jesus was with them on the road to Emmaus?

From: https://www.kidactivities.net/41‐fun‐cooperative‐games‐for‐kids
DAY THREE

GAMES

TODAY’S LESSON

Living Peace

In today’s lesson, students…

• Heard the story of the woman washing Jesus’ feet.
• Discussed the importance of welcoming and forgiveness.
• Created a table where all are welcome.
• Discussed Worth of All Persons, an Enduring Principle.

FOCUS

Children will take a break the journey through the week to explore the idea of welcoming and forgiveness.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 7:37-50
(A woman washes Jesus’ feet)

WATER RELAY RACES

SUPPLIES

• Two sponges
• Four cups
• Four buckets of water

Directions

In the spirit of the woman who washed Jesus’ feet in today’s scripture story, play some water relay races. Create two teams.

Game 1: Players must fill a cup with water from one bucket, carry the cup to the other end to an empty bucket, and pour the water into the bucket. The first team to fill their bucket wins.

Game 2: Place a full bucket of water at the front of the line and an empty bucket at the end of the line. The first player soaks the sponge and passes it over their head to the player behind them. The team passes the sponge to the end of the line and the last person squeezes the remaining water into the empty bucket. The last player then moves to the front of the line and this repeats until the bucket is full.
ALL MY FRIENDS
SUPPLIES: NONE

Directions
Have everyone sit in a circle. One person stands in the middle and says, “All my friends _____,” explaining something they like or do.

They might say, “All my friends like the color blue,” or “All my friends went swimming today.” Anyone in the circle who fits that description must leave their spot in the circle and find a new spot. The leader also sits down in a spot. The person left in the middle starts the next round.

Discuss Worth of All Persons, an Enduring Principle, and how this game shows us how much we have in common with others. We are all beloved children of God.

From: www.weareteachers.com/team-building-games-and-activities/
TODAY’S LESSON

Toward the Peaceful One

In today’s lesson, students...

- Heard the story of Jesus calling the first disciples.
- Discussed following Jesus.
- Created a boat.
- Discussed the Enduring Principle “All Are Called.”

FOCUS

Children will journey to the lakeside where Jesus called the first disciples and explore the idea of whole-life stewardship.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 4:18-22
(Jesus calls the first disciples)

WHO IS THE LEADER?

SUPPLIES: NONE

Directions

Children sit in a circle. One person is the guesser and leaves the room or the area. Another child is chosen to be the leader. When the guesser returns, the leader leads the other children in doing something (clapping, tapping a knee, patting their head). The guesser tries to determine who is leading the actions.

FOLLOW THE LEADER

SUPPLIES: NONE

Directions

Play a classic game of Follow the Leader. Children get in a line and follow the leader, who might skip, jump, crawl, or do other things around the area.

Discuss how both games involved following a leader. We are all called to follow Jesus, just as the disciples were called in today’s scripture story.
TODAY’S LESSON

Living Hope

In today’s lesson, students …
- Heard the story of Zacchaeus.
- Explored environmental stewardship.
- Created a tree.
- Discussed the Sacredness of Creation, an Enduring Principle.
- Committed to a plan for making a difference in their home communities.

FOCUS

Children will complete their reunion journey by exploring ways they can promote economic justice and environmental stewardship in their home communities.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 19:1-10
(Zacchaeus story)

PLANT THE TREES GAME

SUPPLIES

- Small beanbags and balls (approximately equal to the number of children in the group. Twenty kids = twenty-thirty balls or beanbags)

Directions

Form two teams.

Divide a large playing field into three areas: one area for Team One, one area for Team Two, and a middle section. In the middle, scatter the balls and beanbags. Each team’s area is called their forest. The balls and beanbags are called the trees. Teams start in their forests.

The game begins when the leader yells “Plant!” and participants must run to the middle, pick up as many “trees” as possible, and place them in their “forest.” Participants also may run to the other team’s forest, pick up only one tree at a time, and take it back to their own forest. After 2-3 minutes, the leader yells “Stop!” and the team with the most trees in their forest wins.
Reset the game and play again. Remind children that while this game is just for fun and has a winner, any time we do something to help the environment we are all winners.

From: https://primecoachingsport.wordpress.com/2017/04/13/8-great-warm-up-games-for-grades-3-6/amp

CROSSING THE RIVER

SUPPLIES

- Designate a large area, twenty to thirty feet wide, to be the river.

Directions

Form groups of three-five. Players line up, side-by-side, with one of their feet touching their neighbor’s foot. The team of must move across the “river” with their feet touching.

If at any time someone’s foot loses contact with the rest of the team, the entire team must go back to the starting line and begin again.

This game requires cooperation and communication. Discuss how children will use cooperation and communication to make a difference in their school, neighborhood, or community after reunion.

From: https://www.kidactivities.net/41-fun-cooperative-games-for-kids/
DAY ONE

SNACK IDEAS

TODAY’S LESSON

On the Way

In today’s lesson, participants …
- Heard the story of the Good Samaritan.
- Discussed “Who is my neighbor?”
- Created a neighborhood.
- Discussed Blessings of Community, an Enduring Principle.

FOCUS

Children will begin their journey through the week by exploring “Who is my neighbor?”

SCRIPTURE

Luke 10:25-37
(Parable of the Good Samaritan)

BANDAGE SNACK

SUPPLIES

For each child:
- Rectangular cracker
- Slice of white cheese, such as provolone
- Small slice of red bell pepper

DIRECTIONS

Place a piece of cheese on each cracker.
Place a piece of pepper on top of the cheese.

DAY TWO

SNACK IDEAS

TODAY’S LESSON
Living Jesus Today

In today’s lesson, participants …

- Heard the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus.
- Learned to look for God’s presence all around us.
- Created binoculars.
- Discussed Continuing Revelation, an Enduring Principle.

FOCUS
Children will explore the idea of walking with Jesus.

SCRIPTURE
(The Road to Emmaus)

ROAD TO EMMOAS SNACK

SUPPLIES
For each child:

- Graham cracker
- Cream cheese (any flavor or plain)
- Bear-shaped graham snacks, such as Teddy Grahams

DIRECTIONS
Let each child assemble their Road to Emmaus by spreading cream cheese on the graham cracker and placing the bears on the road to represent Jesus walking with the disciples.

Idea adapted from https://ministry2kidz.com/2018/10/14/road-to-emmaus-snack/
DAY THREE

SNACK IDEAS

TODAY’S LESSON
Living Peace

In today’s lesson, participants …
- Heard the story of the woman washing Jesus’s feet.
- Discussed the importance of welcoming and forgiveness.
- Created a table where all are welcome.
- Discussed the Worth of All Persons, an Enduring Principle.

FOCUS
Children will take a break on their journey through the week to explore the idea of welcoming and forgiveness.

SCRIPTURE
Luke 7:37-50
(A woman washes Jesus’s feet)

APPLE PEACE SIGNS

SUPPLIES
For each child:
- Apple slice (slice the apple horizontally so the slices are circular)
- Peanut butter, almond butter, or cream cheese
- Raisins or chocolate chips

DIRECTIONS
Give each child an apple slice. Let them spread peanut butter, almond butter, or cream cheese on it. Place raisins or chocolate chips on top to create a peace sign shape.

Photo: https://www.cookinglight.com/cooking-101/techniques/core-apples-less-waste
DAY FOUR

SNACK IDEAS

TODAY’S LESSON

Toward the Peaceful One

In today’s lesson, participants …
- Heard the story of Jesus calling the first disciples.
- Discussed following Jesus.
- Created a boat.
- Discussed the All Are Called, an Enduring Principle.

FOCUS

Children will journey to the lakeside where Jesus called the first disciples and explore the idea of whole-life stewardship.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 4:18-22
(Jesus calls the first disciples)

CELERY BOATS

SUPPLIES

For each child:
- Piece of celery
- Filling: peanut butter, cream cheese, or hummus
- Triangular cracker or piece of cheese for the “sail”
- Fish-shaped crackers

DIRECTIONS

Spread filling in a celery slice.
Place a cracker or cheese on top to look like a sail on the “boat.”
Serve with fish crackers.

Photo: https://recipes.sainsburys.co.uk/recipes/20-minute-recipes/celery-sailing-boats
DAY FIVE

SNACK IDEAS

TODAY’S LESSON
Living Hope

In today’s lesson, participants …

• Heard the story of Zacchaeus.
• Explored environmental stewardship.
• Created a tree.
• Discussed the Enduring Principle “Sacredness of Creation.”
• Committed to a plan for making a difference in their home communities.

FOCUS
Children will complete their reunion journey by exploring ways they can promote economic justice and environmental stewardship in their home communities.

SCRIPTURE
Luke 19:1-10
(Zacchaeus story)

PRETZEL TREES

SUPPLIES
For each child:
• Pretzel sticks
• Green grapes

DIRECTIONS
Let children arrange pretzel sticks and green grapes in the shape of a tree.

https://ministry2kidz.com/2014/04/05/zacchaeus-snack/