We Share
Lessons for Children
Ages 6–11
INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this course is for children ages 6–11 to learn who we are as Community of Christ. Specifically, children will explore how we are part of the sacred story, how we share shalom, and what it means to be peacemakers who follow Jesus. They will also discover that we share the gifts we receive from God with others and that God’s family is made stronger through its diversity.

This course includes six lessons based on the We Share picture book, written by Monica Bradford, illustrated by Sue Cornelison, and published by Community of Christ. The hardbound book is available through Herald Publishing House. All lessons include downloadable scripture posters and MP3 song files.

► WHEN YOU SEE THIS ARROW...
Suggested language for teachers is indicated by a callout arrow (►) and a change in font. These statements or questions do not need to be quoted word for word but carry important main ideas for the lesson.
Focus
To introduce who we are as Community of Christ. To discover that we are all part of the sacred story. To realize that we each have a story to share about God in our lives.

Focus Scripture
Do not fail to listen attentively to the telling of the sacred story, for the story of scripture and faith empowers and illuminates.
—Doctrine and Covenants 161:5

Objectives
THE LEARNERS WILL...
• become acquainted with the other students through a series of getting-to-know-you questions.
• read We Share and discuss in detail the sections on “Sacred Story” and “Continuing Revelation.”
• document their personal sacred stories.

Materials
• Poster paper or white board and dry erase markers
• Lesson 1 focus scripture poster (page 6)
• One story booklet for each child. Prepare the booklets before the first class using these instructions: On paper 8½ x 11 in (216 x 279 mm), print one copy of the story template (pages 7–8), printed front to back, for each child. Fold in half with a blank piece of paper folded around the outside for the cover. Staple together. Each book should now have four inside pages for recording a story, plus a front and back cover. When copying the story template, print the pages lengthwise so the pages will turn in sequence as in a book.
• Or choose other paper options for recording stories (lined or large blank paper)
• Pencils and markers or crayons (pastels)

Resources
• We Share by Monica Bradford, illustrated by Sue Cornelison (Herald Publishing House, 2012, ISBN 9780830915224)
• Doctrine and Covenants 161:5
• Optional: PowerPoint slides of the We Share picture book
• Optional: Downloadable MP3 file for “We Are Community of Christ” from www.CofChrist.org/onlineressources/reunion/

GATHER
Activates background knowledge, prepares, and motivates for lesson

Warmly welcome the children as they enter the room and invite them to sit in a circle with you. Discuss together:
• What do we do when we meet someone new?
• How can we learn more about that person?

What questions can we ask to learn a little bit about who he or she is?

Decide together on a list of three to five questions and display them for all to see. Go around the circle and invite each child to share his or her name and answer the questions.
By sharing together, we have learned a little bit about each of you. But I know that you are so much more than what you have shared today. As we go through our time together we will learn more about each of you by playing together, learning together, sharing our stories and our talents, and by asking questions.

Today, we will read a book called *We Share*. Before I read the story, I want you to notice two very special things about this book. (Open to the first spread.) What do you notice about the words on this page? This book is trilingual! That means that each page has three languages on it! Can anyone guess what languages we have in this book? (*English, Spanish, and French*). Why do you think this book has been published in those three languages? (*So more children in many countries can read the book; so more children who speak different languages can learn what “we share”*) The other thing I want you to notice is this little bug here. (*Point out the little bug on the first page.*) The bug’s name is CC. As I read the story, quietly watch and see if you can find CC on each page.

Read the entire *We Share* book to the children. Allow the children to enjoy the flow of the story without stopping to discuss each page. We will discuss the story in more detail in later lessons. When you finish reading the story, discuss:

- What was your favorite part of the story?
- What kinds of things did you notice CC doing in the story?

*We Share* is a special story about who we are as Community of Christ. Stories about God are very important to us as a church. I’d like to re-read one part of the book.

We do the same thing as a church! As Community of Christ, we discover more about who we are in exactly the same way—by playing, learning, sharing, and questioning together. We’re going to read a story that helps us understand a bit more about who we are, as people, and as a church community.

We do the same thing as a church! As Community of Christ, we discover more about who we are in exactly the same way—by playing, learning, sharing, and questioning together. We’re going to read a story that helps us understand a bit more about who we are, as people, and as a church community.
Help me remember...who is the sacred story about? (people and God together) And when do we listen for God? (every day) Hmm...sacred story is about people and God in relationship. We believe that God’s guiding presence is with us every day. Do you know what that means? That means that you are a part of the sacred story, and you, and you, and you, and you, and me! We are all part of the sacred story!

Today you are going to record a story about your relationship with God. You might share how you listen for God every day, or a story about your congregation, or a story about how your family praises God. You can share any story that describes something about your relationship with others or with God. You can tell your story in any way that makes sense to you. Use pictures, words, poetry—anything works when sharing your story about God.

OPTIONS
• Use pre-made books with a space for illustrations and text to write your personal story.
• Use regular notebook paper to write your personal story.
• Use poster paper to design your story.
• Create a cartoon of your story.

Once everyone has created their stories, allow children to share. Based on the number of children and the time available, have each child share with the whole group or make pairs and allow them to share with their partner.

People use stories and songs to share about their relationships with others and with God. Today you shared a part of your story with us! Who else could you share that story with? Find at least one person today with whom to share your story. For an extra challenge, ask that person to tell you a story about his or her relationships with others or with God.

Sharing our stories and listening for God every day is part of what makes us Community of Christ...but there is so much more! Let’s sing together “We Are Community of Christ” which is based on a campfire song. You may have heard this song before.

**WE ARE COMMUNITY OF CHRIST**

We are Community of Christ
Mmm and a little bit more.

We share joy, hope, love, peace
Mmm and a little bit more.

We love all people who come Knocking at our door.

We follow Jesus Christ
Mmm and a little bit
Mmm and a little bit
Mmm and a whole lot more.

Words: Adapted by Monica Bradford, 2012
Tune: “I Wanna Be a Friend of Yours” by Kermit Goell, 1947

Gather children in a circle and say a prayer of blessing affirming who they are and encouraging them to share their personal stories with others.
DO NOT FAIL TO LISTEN ATTENTIVELY TO THE TELLING OF THE SACRED STORY FOR THE STORY OF SCRIPTURE & FAITH EMPOWERS & ILLUMINATES

DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 161:5

We Are Part of the Sacred Story — 6
DO NOT FAIL TO LISTEN ATTENTIVELY TO THE TELLING OF THE SACRED STORY. FOR THE STORY OF SCRIPTURE & FAITH, EMPOWERS & ILLUMINATES. WE ARE PART OF THE SACRED STORY.
LESSON 2
We Share Shalom

Focus
To understand what it means to care for God's creation through Responsible Choices by hearing sections of the We Share picture book.
To discover what choices we can make to join God in caring for creation.

Focus Scripture
Then God said to the people, “I’m giving you this beautiful world—this beautiful universe. Please take good care of it. Please be kind to it.”
—Based on Genesis 1

Objectives
THE LEARNERS WILL...
• explore Genesis 1.
• read We Share and discuss in detail the sections on “God’s Vision for Creation,” “Sacredness of Creation,” and “Responsible Choices.”
• experience how creation is interconnected.
• discover examples of creation and document what they find.
• discuss ways to care for creation each day.

Materials
• Create a mess in the classroom—for example: scatter trash on the floor, move furniture, and leave doors open
• Candy bar or snack
• Lesson 2 focus scripture poster (page 12)
• Two different colored balls of yarn
• Paper and pencils, pens, crayons, or markers for each student (possibly something solid to write on)

Resources
• We Share by Monica Bradford, illustrated by Sue Cornelison (Herald Publishing House, 2012, ISBN 9780830915224)
• Optional: PowerPoint slides of the We Share picture book
• Optional: Download MP3 files for “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” and “We Are Community of Christ” from www.CofChrist.org/onlineresources/reunion/

GATHER
Activates background knowledge, prepares, and motivates for lesson
Before class create a mess in the room (for example: trash on the floor, furniture moved around, doors left open). As children come in the room be eating a candy bar and possibly texting on your phone. Don’t really look at the children as they come in. Tell the children to come sit down. As they do, begin by telling them how important it is to pick up after themselves when they are in the classroom. In the middle of your lecture toss your candy bar wrapper on the floor, and find ways to do a few other irresponsible things like drawing and then leaving lids off markers or knocking things over and not picking them up. As children begin to question your behavior, discuss:
What did you think when you entered the room today?

How did it feel when I told you to make good choices when I was making poor choices?

What does it mean to be responsible?

What can we do to care for our classroom?

When we create something, we want to see it taken care of. God feels the same way. God wants us to care for all that has been created and given to us. There is a story in Genesis that people told many, many years ago. They told the story, because they were trying to understand why God made the world. Let me read it to you.

Read, “God Makes a Universe” (based on Genesis 1) Lectionary Story Bible, Year A, page 121.

- Let me read you that last part again. “I’m giving you this beautiful world—this beautiful universe. Please take good care of it. Please be kind to it.” That sounds like it’s important for us to take care of God’s creation. I want us to remember that this week, so let’s add it to our scripture wall!

As you add the new scripture passage to the wall, re-read the previous scripture passages already displayed.

ENGAGE
Invites exploration and interaction

Last time I showed you the book called We Share. Let’s see what we believe about caring for creation. Remember to watch for our little friend CC as I read.

Read “Vision for Creation” on pages 6–7. Discuss:
- What does it mean to live peaceably together?
- What is CC doing on this page?
- What do the other drawings show us about living peaceably?
- Take a closer look at each pair of animals, why is it strange to see those animals playing together?

Read “Sacredness of Creation” on pages 16–17. Discuss:
- What is CC doing on this page?
- Is God the only one that can create? What are other examples of creation?
- This drawing shows a storm on one side, and light on the other. Why do you think the artist chose to show both storm and light on a page about creation?

Read “Responsible Choices” on pages 24–25. Discuss:
- What is CC doing on this page? What does this drawing show us about making responsible choices?
- Tell me about a responsible choice you made this week.
- Give me some examples of responsible choices that make our world a better place.

RESPOND
Takes the learners from hearing to doing.

Have students stand in a circle. Pass a ball of yarn among the children as they answer your questions. Instruct students to hang on to part of yarn as they pass the yarn ball to the next student.

- Choose one child to answer and hand that child the loose end of the ball of yarn.
- What do all living things need if they are thirsty?
- Name one body of water. What lives in that water?

Let’s talk a bit about creation. Raise your hand if you know where the light for Earth comes from.
Pass the yarn to the child who answers. Continue asking questions about God’s creation and passing the yarn ball until each child is holding on to the “creation yarn.” This exercise creates a web. God is connected to and is a part of each piece of creation.

With the second ball of yarn, begin passing it back and forth weaving it through the circle. With their free hands have each child take hold of the “God yarn.” Once everyone is connected to the “creation yarn” and the “God yarn,” begin introducing scenarios that affect creation.

What happens when pollution begins to block the sun? The person who first answers sits down, anyone who feels a tug on the yarn also sits down. Continue in that manner until all are sitting down. Discuss:

- What happened when someone sat down? Did it affect only them?
- What happened as more and more of creation was damaged?
- How does this relate to the Earth today?
- What is creation?

Have children list parts of creation (such as, sun, plants, animals, water). Be sure they also include human-made items.

Let children know what signal you will use to call them back to class. Once you return to class discuss:

- When you got outside and took time to notice creation, what kinds of things did you record on your map?
- Did you see places where people have not taken good care of creation?
- What can we do this week to care for creation?

OPTION
If you are unable to take the class outside, have children draw a poster of things they could do to care for the Earth. Then ask children to share their creations with the class.

BLESS
Time of prayer, praise, blessing, and hope

I’m curious, how many of you shared your story from our last class with someone? Did you take the extra challenge and ask someone to share his or her story with you? Tell us about it!

When you leave class today, see if you can find at least one way to care for creation! For an extra challenge, keep track of how many ways you find to care for creation. Next time we are together, let’s see who comes up with the most ways to care for creation!

Caring for creation and making responsible choices is part of what makes us Community of Christ…but there is so much more! Sing together “We Are Community of Christ.”

Gather children in a circle and say a prayer of blessing. Encourage them to care for God’s creation through responsible choices.
THEN GOD SAID TO THE PEOPLE, “I’M GIVING YOU THIS BEAUTIFUL WORLD. PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT. BE KIND TO IT.”

© NVNKARTHIK | DREAMSTIME.COM

We Share Shalom — 12
Focus
To understand what it means to be a peacemaker by hearing sections of the We Share picture book. To discuss what actions we use as peacemakers with one another.

Focus Scripture
A great leader will teach us how to be kind. Then everyone will beat their swords into ploughs and their spears into garden tools. They will not fight with each other anymore.²

—Based on Isaiah 2:1–5

Objectives
THE LEARNERS WILL...
• participate in a prayer for peace.
• explore Isaiah 2:1–5.
• read We Share and discuss in detail the sections on “The Peace of Jesus Christ” and “Pursuit of Peace (Shalom).”
• compare actions in a peaceful world and actions in world of conflict.
• join in a pledge for peace.

Materials
• Lesson 3 focus scripture poster (page 16)
• Poster paper or white board and markers
• One candle
• One copy per child of the “Kids for Peace: Peace Pledge” available at www.kidsforpeaceglobal.org
• Optional: Computer and projector to watch Kids for Peace Pledge video
• Optional: Video camera

Resources
• We Share by Monica Bradford, illustrated by Sue Cornelison (Herald Publishing House, 2012, ISBN 9780830915224)
• Bible (New Revised Standard Version)
• Kids for Peace Pledge video at youtube/c5dwKamQ6CQ
• Optional: PowerPoint slides of the We Share picture book
• Optional: Downloadable MP3 files for “Lord, I Want to be a Peacemaker” and “We Are Community of Christ” from www.CofChrist.org/onlineresources/reunion/


GATHER
Activates background knowledge, prepares, and motivates for lesson

Invite the children to come in quietly and sit in a circle.

Did you know that each day at Community of Christ Temple in Independence, Missouri, people gather for the Daily Prayer for Peace? Today we are going to begin our class with our own prayer for peace.

Light the candle, open your Bible to Matthew 5:9, tell the children to breathe deeply in and out as you read Matthew 5:9 NRSV “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” Then invite the children to pray with you.
Loving God,

We come before you today on behalf of the children of our families, the children of our neighborhoods and communities, and the children of our world. God, you know each of your children by name. You know each of their needs. Today we pray for peace and justice for children everywhere. We pray that all children will have enough to eat, and access to doctors and nurses when they are sick. We pray that children everywhere will have the opportunity to go to school. We pray that boys and girls will be treated equally.

God we pray for a world, where peace is real! We pray for the world you intend for us. Help us create a world where we change all of our weapons into things that are good for the earth and its people—things like windmills and sun panels. We have faith, God, that one day we will know this world, your world, your peace. And that we will be a part of bringing that world into reality.

In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

—Lu Mountenay (used with permission)

Let’s close our prayer for peace time by singing together “Lord, I Want to Be a Peacemaker.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LORD, I WANT TO BE A PEACEMAKER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lord, I want to be a peacemaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In my heart, in my heart.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lord, I want to be a peacemaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In my heart.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lord, I want to be a peacemaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In my heart.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Words: Adapted by Monica Bradford
Tune: “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” HS 464

There is a Bible story that teaches us about being peacemakers. Let me read it to you.

Read “Making Ploughs out of Swords” (based on Isaiah 2:1–5) on pages 13–16 of Ralph Milton’s Lectionary Story Bible, Year A.

Oh, I love one part of that story! Let me read it to you again. “A great leader will...teach us how to be kind. And then everyone...will beat their swords into ploughs. They will make garden tools from their spears. They will not fight with each other anymore.” That sounds like a wonderful reminder to us all! We must learn to be peacemakers—to be kind and not fight with each other anymore. I think we should add this to our scripture wall!

As you add the new scripture passage to the wall, re-read the previous scripture passages already displayed.

Let’s look in We Share to see what we believe about being peacemakers. Remember to watch for our little friend CC as I read.

Read “The Peace of Jesus Christ” on pages 8–9. Stop and discuss:

- What is CC doing on this page? What do the other pictures show us about sharing the peace of Jesus Christ?
- Take a closer look at each image. Our church has a special name for each of these practices. Do you know what we call them?
- How do the sacraments help us share the peace of Jesus Christ?

Read “Pursuit of Peace (Shalom)” on pages 26–27. Discuss:

- What is CC doing on this page? What do the other drawings show us about the pursuit of peace?
- What is the main symbol of our church? Do you notice that symbol somewhere on this page?
- How do the lion, lamb, and child relate to the idea of peace?
- What does it tell you about our church that the lion, lamb, and child together has been our symbol for a long time?
- What is important to us as Community of Christ?

We Are Peacemakers — 14
I'm curious, how many of you found ways to care for creation since our last class? Did you take the extra challenge and keep track of how many ways you cared for creation? Tell us about it!

Today we have learned so much about being peace-makers. But part of our job is to tell others! I have a copy of the peace pledge for each of you. When you leave here today, I want you to share this pledge with others.

For an extra challenge ask the others if they are willing to join us in the pledge to be peacemakers. If so, have them sign the back of the pledge.

Let’s see who can get the most signatures!

Being a peacemaker is part of what makes us Community of Christ…but there is so much more! Sing together “We Are Community of Christ.”

Check out these kids! They have pledged to make peace a part of their lives.

Watch the Kids for Peace Pledge video youtube/c5dw KamQ6CQ.

Wow! Those kids have made a pledge to work hard at being peaceful. I think we ought to make our own peace pledge video!

Divide the peace pledge so each child has a part to read. Practice it a few times and then with your video camera record the kids reciting their peace pledge.

If you are not able to show the video or use a video camera, use one of these options:
- Divide the peace pledge so each child has a part. Write the words and illustrate that part of the pledge. Put all the pages together to create a class book.
- Ask the children to document with pictures or words what peace means to them.

We are Community of Christ
Mmm and a little bit more.
We share joy, hope, love, peace
Mmm and a little bit more.
We love all people who come Knocking at our door.
We follow Jesus Christ
Mmm and a little bit
Mmm and a little bit
Mmm and a whole lot more.

Words: Adapted by Monica Bradford, 2012
Tune: “I Wanna Be a Friend of Yours” by Kermit Goell, 1947

Gather children in a circle and say a prayer of blessing. Ask God to guide them as they work to become peacemakers.

We Are Peacemakers — 15
A GREAT LEADER WILL TEACH US HOW TO BE KIND.
AND THEN EVERYONE WILL BEAT THEIR SWORDS INTO PLOWS AND THEIR SPEARS INTO GARDEN TOOLS.
THEY WILL NOT FIGHT WITH EACH OTHER ANYMORE.

BASED ON ISAIAH 2:1-5

We Are Peacemakers — 16
Focus
To understand what it means to follow Jesus by hearing sections of the We Share picture book. To discuss how we live together in communities of joy, hope, love, and peace.

Focus Scripture
The Spirit of God is inside me because God has chosen me to tell people about God's love.3

—Based on Luke 4:14–21

Objectives
THE LEARNERS WILL…
• experience Christ-like actions through a game of “follow the leader.”
• read We Share and discuss in detail the sections “Promote Communities” and “Christ’s Mission.”
• reflect on sharing the message of Jesus Christ through a science experiment.
• create a work of art as a reminder that even one person can make a difference.

Resources
• We Share by Monica Bradford, illustrated by Sue Cornelison (Herald Publishing House, 2012, ISBN 9780830915224)
• “Fireworks in a Jar” experiment (see http://chemistry.about.com/od/4thofjulychemistry/a/waterfireworks.htm)
• Optional: PowerPoint slides of the We Share picture book
• Optional: Download MP3 files for “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” and “We Are Community of Christ” from www.CofChrist.org/onlineresources/reunion/

Materials
• Lesson 4 focus scripture poster (page 21)
• Gather materials for “Fireworks in a Jar” experiment: jar or glass filled with water, cooking oil, 1–2 tbsp/15 ml measure, four colors of food coloring, an additional cup for mixing the oil and food coloring, fork for stirring
• Large vase or jar of water (different from the smaller one listed in the experiment materials above)
• Small paper cups for each child with 1–2 tbsp/15 ml of oil
• Stir sticks
• Extra food coloring (for art project)
• Paper coffee filters
• Water-filled spray bottle
• Paper plates, newspaper, or paper towels
• Paper clips and string

GATHER
Activates background knowledge, prepares, and motivates for lesson

Play a game of “follow the leader,” with you as the leader. Begin with generic simple actions like reaching high, or marching in place. Once everyone is engaged in the game, begin to portray Christ-like actions (for example: giving a hug, picking up trash, serving food). When you finish, sit down and discuss how your actions modeled Jesus’ actions. Then give students the chance to be the leader and come up with some Christ-like actions.

ENGAGE
Invites exploration and interaction

► Jesus Christ is the example of how to live God’s way. Throughout his life, Jesus showed us what it meant to share joy, hope, love, and peace with others. There is a Bible story that tells us more about the mission of Jesus. Let me read it to you.


► It sounds like Jesus had an important job! Let me read part of it to you again. “The Spirit of God is inside me because God has chosen me to tell people about God’s love. God has sent me to tell...everyone that God is with them, around them, inside them.” If we are truly going to follow the example of Jesus, then this is our job, too! Let’s add this scripture passage to our scripture wall to help us remember our job!

As you add the new scripture to the wall, re-read the previous scripture passages already displayed.

Read “Promote Communities” on pages 4–5. Discuss:

► What is CC doing on this page? Why are the words Joy, Hope, Love, and Peace highlighted on this page?

► Do you notice something familiar about this picture? Can you think of a building that looks something like this?

► The spiral is another symbol of our church. Just like a spiral travels both in and out, walking with God means spending time with God inside ourselves and going out to show and tell about God in the world. How does that relate to feeling joy, giving hope, sharing love, and seeking peace?

Read “Christ’s Mission” on pages 10–11. Discuss:

► What is CC doing on this page? What do the other drawings show us about following Jesus in community?

► What does the word mission mean?

RESPOND
Takes the learners from hearing to doing

► The world is a big place.
1. Place the jar or glass of water so everyone can see.

► Sometimes I wonder how I can make a difference; I’m just one person!
1. Take the extra cup and pour 2–3 tbsp/15 ml of oil into the jar or glass of water.

   I do feel joy.

2. Add one drop of yellow food coloring to the oil.

   I try to give hope.

3. Add one drop of green food coloring to the oil in a different spot than the yellow.

   I definitely share love.

4. Add one drop of red food coloring to the oil in yet another spot.

   And, I work hard to be peaceful.

5. Add one drop of blue food coloring to the oil in yet another spot.

   All of these things are a part of me.

6. Use a fork to stir the oil. The food coloring will break up in the oil. But I just don’t see how one person can make a difference in this great big world. Pour oil into the water. The food coloring will begin to mix with the water and create a firework-like visual.

   Wow! Look at that! When I feel joy, give hope, seek peace, or share love with one person it spreads to someone else. And that person spreads it to someone else, and so on. Jesus takes the good we do and works like this water to spread it around to others. We can make the world beautiful by following the example of Jesus! If this is what happens when one person follows Jesus, I wonder what it would look like if everyone followed Jesus.

7. Get out a much larger jar of water (like a large vase). Give each child a small cup with 1–2 tbsp/15 ml of cooking oil in it. Have each child add two drops of one color of food coloring to the oil. Give them each a stir stick to mix the oil and coloring. Then have each child, one at a time, add his or her mixture to the large jar.

   Isn’t that amazing? When we work together in community, look at how much joy, hope, love, and peace we can share with the world!

Sing together this adapted version of “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus.”

To remind you how much difference you can make by sharing joy, hope, love, and peace with others, we are going to make some food coloring art!

Give each child a paper plate, a sheet of newspaper, or paper towels and place a coffee filter on each. The paper plate, newspaper, or paper towels will protect the work surface from food coloring leaking through. Have the child place a few drops of food coloring on his or her coffee filter. Then allow the child to spray it with water and watch the colors spread. Set the coffee filters aside to dry completely. When they are dry, use paper clips and string to hang the art around the room.
I’m curious, how many of you shared the peace pledge with someone? Did you take the extra challenge and get people to sign the pledge? How many signatures did you get?

Today I want you to remember that you may be just one person, but you have the power to make a difference in the world when you follow Jesus! When you leave class I want you to share joy, hope, love, or peace with everyone you meet. Decide in your head right now which one will be your focus. Don’t tell anyone; just work hard to share that joy, hope, love, or peace with everyone you meet today. Keep it a secret, but for an extra challenge watch to see if you notice those people sharing that same joy, hope, love, or peace with the people they meet. Let’s see if we can help joy, hope, love, and peace spread throughout our community today!

Living like Jesus in community with others is part of what makes us Community of Christ…but there is so much more! Sing together “Community of Christ.”

Gather children in a circle and say a prayer of blessing reminding them of the many examples Jesus has given us if we choose to follow him.
The Spirit of God is inside me because God has chosen me to tell people about God’s love. Based on Luke 4:14–21.
Focus
To understand what it means to receive and share by hearing sections of the We Share picture book. To discuss what gifts we have and how we can share those gifts with others.

Focus Scripture
When people are willing to share, there is always enough for everyone.4
—Based on John 6:1–13

Objectives
THE LEARNERS WILL…
• experience how sharing can benefit everyone.
• read We Share and discuss in detail the sections “Grace and Generosity” and “All Are Called.”
• recognize the gifts and talents in themselves and others.
• create a mural of the many ways to receive and to share their gifts and the love of God.

Materials
• Lesson 5 focus scripture poster (page 25)
• Ingredients and tools to make treats (see recipe below for specific ingredients and equipment needed)
• One gift bag for snack ingredients for each child
• Large sheet of butcher paper
• Crayons and markers

Resources
• We Share by Monica Bradford, illustrated by Sue Cornelison (Herald Publishing House, 2012, ISBN 9780830915224)
• Treat recipe (see one example below)
• Optional: PowerPoint slides of the We Share picture book
• Optional: Download MP3 file for “We Are Community of Christ” from from www.CofChrist.org/onlineresources/reunion/

Snack Recipe Example
Makes enough for one person. Multiply by the number of students in the class.

INGREDIENTS
¼ cup (57 grams) of Chex® Gluten Free cereal
1 teaspoon (5 ml) caramel syrup
2 teaspoons (10 ml) powdered sugar
1 resealable sandwich size plastic bag

DIRECTIONS
Place the cereal into a resealable plastic bag. Add the caramel syrup. Seal the bag and shake it until the caramel coats the cereal. Open the bag and add the powdered sugar. Reseal the bag and shake it until all the cereal is coated with the powdered sugar. Eat!

Before children arrive, put each item or ingredient needed to make the treats in a small gift bag. Have a bag for each person. You can wrap each measuring cup and utensil in separate bags.

As children come in ask them to sit by a gift, but not to touch it or open it yet. Tell them that today you wanted to share with them a special gift. You want to give them a delicious, homemade treat. Be very excited for them to open their gifts. Ask them to open the gifts very carefully so they don’t make a mess of their special treat. As they open their gift bags don’t let on that you know anything is wrong. Smile big and tell them how much you hope they like their treats. As the children begin to question you, be very disappointed as you realize you forgot to make the treat. Tell them you don’t know what you are going to do, and that you really wanted them to have a yummy snack. Say that you would make it right now if you only had a plastic bag. The child that has the bowl may volunteer his or her bag for you to use.

► Really? You’ll share this gift of a bag with me?

Thank the child and then continue naming each thing you need. Each time thank the child for sharing a gift with you.

When the treats are made say to the children:

► You each were given gifts when you came in today, some of you may have even been okay with keeping the gift for yourself! But if you hadn’t shared your gift, none of us would have been able to enjoy this wonderful snack!

There is a Bible story about a little boy who shared his food to help feed many people. Let me read it to you.

Read “A Child Helps Jesus” (based on John 6:1–13) on page 173 of Ralph Milton’s Lectionary Story Bible, Year A.

► It’s amazing to think that because one little child was willing to share his food all the people were fed. Today when the first person offered to share their gift with me, did it make you more willing to share yours? When you saw that by sharing we could all benefit, did it make the gift easier to give? I think it was like that for the people in this story. When they saw a small child willing to share all he had, they became more willing to share what they had. And because they were willing to share, there was enough for everyone! What a great reminder this is for us!

Let’s add this scripture passage to our scripture wall to help us remember to share!

As you add the new scripture passage to the wall, re-read the previous scripture passages already displayed.

► Let’s look in We Share to see what we believe about sharing with others. Remember to watch for our little friend CC as I read.

Read “Grace and Generosity” on pages 14–15. Discuss:

► What is CC doing on this page? What do the other drawings show us about sharing?

► What does the word generosity mean?

► Is food the only way we can share with others? What other kinds of gifts can we share?

Read “All Are Called” on pages 22–23. Discuss:

► What is CC doing on this page? What do the other pictures show us about sharing our gifts?

► How can we use our gifts to do good?
RESPOND

Takes the learners from hearing to doing

► Each of us has gifts—gifts that we can share with others. What gifts do you have? Who gave you those gifts?

Allow children to say what gifts they feel they have and recognize God as the source of all gifts.

► Sometimes it is hard, or embarrassing to name our own gifts. Only when we recognize that our gifts and talents come from God can we truly begin to use them to do good in the world. Can anyone think of someone here whose gift wasn’t named?

Allow children to acknowledge the gifts they see in others. Encourage children to think beyond sports, music, and intelligence to things like being a good listener, or sharing a smile with others. Remind them that we also are to receive what others have to offer, so there is mutual sharing.

► Today we are going to make a mural of gifts. I want us to fill this paper with gifts that can be given and received. Think of how we receive God’s love, how we share God’s love with others, how we use our talents to do good. Find a place on the mural and begin to draw as many gifts as you can think of.

Spread out the large sheet of butcher paper so that all have room to add to the mural. You may even want to write the words “We Receive and Share” somewhere on it.

OPTIONS

1. Make extra treats together, and take them to share with others in your church family.

2. Sometimes sharing our gifts can mean sharing the gift of time to help or visit with others. Decide together what act of service you could do for our church community. You can pick up trash, clean bathrooms, organize a closet, or teach songs to a class of younger children. Decide together what you can do, and set a time to do it.

SEND

Explores how the lesson might be lived out

► I’m curious, how many of you worked to spread joy, hope, love, or peace yesterday? Did you notice others beginning to share as well? Tell me about your experience.

Today I want you to remember that God gives each of us gifts and opportunities to use the gifts for good. Decide how you can use one of your gifts to do good for others. For an extra challenge, find a way to use your gift today!

Sharing our gifts and God’s love is part of what makes us Community of Christ…but there is so much more!

Sing together “We Are Community of Christ.”

BLESS

Time of prayer, praise, blessing, and hope

Gather children in a circle and say a prayer of blessing. Name a gift you recognize in each child. Encourage each child to use those gifts for good in his or her life.

Words: Adapted by Monica Bradford, 2012
Tune: “I Wanna Be a Friend of Yours” by Kermit Goell, 1947
When people are willing to share, there is always enough for everyone.

Based on John 6:1-13
LESSON 6

We Belong

Focus
To understand what it means to belong by hearing sections of the We Share picture book. To discuss how diverse God's family is, and that through that diversity we are a stronger community.

Focus Scripture
Every person in our church helps us be a strong church. Every person is important.5
–Based on 1 Corinthians 12:4–13

Objectives
THE LEARNERS WILL...
• experience that it takes all parts to create a whole.
• explore 1 Corinthians 12:4–13.
• read We Share and discuss in detail the sections “Worth of All Persons,” “Unity in Diversity,” and “Blessings of Community.”
• understand that God’s love connects us all.
• create a collage of the diversity that makes up God's family.

Materials
• Lesson 6 focus scripture poster (page 30)
• Front of a breakfast cereal box cut into equal size rectangles (one piece per child)
• Masking tape
• One folded paper doll pattern (page 31)
• One piece of white paper for each child
• Markers or crayons (pastels)
• Magazines for cutting out pictures for the collage
• Scissors for each person
• Glue or paste
• Optional: Materials for suncatcher

Resources
• We Share by Monica Bradford, illustrated by Sue Cornelison (Herald Publishing House, 2012, ISBN 9780830915224)
• Optional: Diversity Suncatcher (see instructions at http://scrapinspired.com/2012/02/kids-crafts-suncatcher)
• Optional: PowerPoint slides of the We Share picture book
• Optional: Download MP3 file for “We Are Community of Christ” from www.CofChrist.org/onlineresources/reunion/

GATHER
Activates background knowledge, prepares, and motivates for lesson

Before class, cut the front of a cereal box into equal size rectangles. Make enough rectangles for each person to have one. On a table, tape a rectangle large enough for children to reassemble the cereal box within the rectangle. Mix up the pieces of the cereal box and lay them face up beside the taped rectangle. Make sure you can see each piece.

Line students up away from the table (this is a relay game).

Tell the children that they will be playing a “minute to win it” game called “Breakfast Scramble.” As a team, they have three chances to complete a task. When you say, “Go,” the first person will run to the table, place a piece in the square where he or she thinks it goes, and then run back. Then the next person runs to the table, places another piece, and runs back. The team continues until each person has had a chance, and the reassembled box front is complete.

Let children know that the first time through they will keep going until the puzzle is complete even if it is longer than a minute. After the first time through the game, let them know their time. Allow children to strategize together to figure out a way to complete the task in under a minute. Mix up the pieces and play the game again. Give children two more tries to complete the puzzle in under a minute, or at least decrease the time it takes them to finish the game.

Allow time for the class to share observations about the game. Each of these pieces is different, but they are so important to the whole. Call on one child and ask that child to take out the piece he or she placed and then walk over to the side.

► Can we complete the picture if one person takes a piece away? What if half of you took away your pieces? (pick up several more pieces) What would happen to our picture?

There is a story in the Bible about how important we all are. Let me read it to you.

Read “How to Be a Strong Church” (based on 1 Corinthians 12:4–13) on pages 118–119 of Ralph Milton’s Lectionary Story Bible, Year A.

► This is such a great way to describe how important we all are! I love the part where it says, “…your hand doesn’t have to know how to run. And your feet don’t have to know how to pick things up. Your nose can’t hear anything.” That’s so true. As we learned last time, we each have unique gifts and talents. And each of us is important. We are all a part of the bigger picture! Let’s add this scripture passage to our scripture wall to help us remember that we all belong! As you add the new scripture passage to the wall, re-read the previous scripture passages already displayed.

Let’s look in We Share, to see what we believe about how important we all are. Remember to watch for our little friend CC as I read.

Read “Worth of All Persons” on pages 20–21. Discuss:

► What is CC doing on this page? What do the other drawings show us about loving all people?

► What do you notice about the children on this page? (Be sure someone recognizes that not everyone is smiling and happy. Notice that some children are showing concern for others.)

Read “Unity in Diversity” on pages 28–29. Discuss:

► What is CC doing on this page? What do the pictures show us about diversity?

► Does this illustration remind you of a building in our church? Which one?

► How do so many flags show diversity? What does that say about who makes up our worldwide church?

Read “Blessings of Community” on pages 30–31. Discuss:

► What is CC doing on this page? What do the pictures show us about community?

► How can we belong to someone we have never met?
Does anyone know what the word community means? Community is a group of people who come together because they have something in common. It is something they think, feel, or do that is the same. Can you think of any communities you belong to? Are you part of a group of people who come together to do something that is the same? (school, sports, dance, music, neighborhood, church)

This class is a community! What do we come here to do? What is something we share, something we have in common? Do you think that everyone here believes the same things about God or what to do in church?

Sometimes we have very different ideas about how we should spend our time, how we spend our money, or even ideas about God, Jesus, or what it means to be a Christian. When we don’t agree with others in our community, we have two choices: We can get mad (begin cutting out the paper dolls), say or do things that are hurtful to others (continue cutting), cut people out by ignoring them (continue cutting out the dolls, perhaps a bit aggressively). Or, we can let the disagreement become an opportunity to learn more about one another (continue cutting more gently)…to form who we are, we can take our diversity and try to find common ground—something that we share (finish cutting the paper dolls). When we do that, something powerful connects us. What connects us is…(open the paper dolls and allow children to respond with how we are connected)…LOVE!

We belong to God’s family, and God’s love connects everyone in God’s family. Give each child a sheet of paper, and ask the children to each draw a large heart. We are going to create a collage of diversity. I want your collage to show that we value and love all people. Even though we are different, our differences make us stronger. We all belong to this community of love! Cut out pictures from these magazines and fill your heart collage with images that represent the beautiful diversity of God’s family.

Optional Activity: Diversity Suncatcher
Create a diversity suncatcher (see http://scrapinspired.com/2012/02/kids-crafts-sun-catcher). Cut a cardstock ring or outline, for each child (a circle with the middle cut out). Place the cardstock circle on a piece of contact paper (sticky side up). Using ripped pieces of tissue paper fill in the circle outline. Use many colors to represent diversity. After filling the circle, place another piece of contact paper on top (sticky side down). Press firmly to seal. Cut around the outside edge of the circle leaving a small amount of contact paper around the edge. Punch a hole at the top and attach a string. Now you have a beautiful suncatcher—representing diversity with its differently colored paper pieces—that lets the light of God shine through!
I’m curious, how many of you thought of a way you can share your gifts? Did anyone take the extra challenge to share your gift during the day since our last class? Tell me about it!

Today I want you to know there is something special about our community. We have diversity of thoughts, feelings, and actions. But our common ground is that we share the love of God with one another. Not every community connects to the love of God. That becomes our job—to take the love of God from this place into other communities. It is our job to share God’s love with others. Your challenge today is to take what you have learned in our classes together and share that with someone else.

Belonging to a diverse community is part of what makes us Community of Christ…but there is so much more!

Sing together “We Are Community of Christ.”

Gather children in a circle and say a prayer of blessing. Ask God to go with each child. Ask God to guide each one in sharing about God’s community with others.
EVERY PERSON IN OUR CHURCH HELPS US TO BE A STRONG CHURCH.

EVERY PERSON IS IMPORTANT!

Based on Corinthians 12:4-13
paper
doll
chain