

Children of God

Sunday School Materials
for Peace Church Sunday School
January to April 2019

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Introduction

Dear Sunday School teachers.

For 2019 we created and are creating our own Sunday School materials, especially designed to work with the 3 to 11 year-old children at Peace Church.

We worked along Archbishop Desmond Tutu's picture Bible "Children of God."

This Bible exists in English and in German, and we suggest that you read both texts in Sunday School.

We offer you full sessions and let you know what materials you need.

We try to have all the materials in store in the Sunday School storage place so that you do not have to go out and buy things.

We suggest the same style and setting every Sunday, with beginning and end as rituals, to offer the kids a clear structure and let them experience the value of rituals, of things coming in the same way over and over again. It gives the children clarity and a "safe space".

You may take our ideas as suggestions and replace or add your own thoughts and plans. You may also exchange suggestions from one session to another. Feel free to work with these materials as creative and flexible as you like.

We hope you like this and wish you a great time in Sunday School.

If you have any questions or ideas, feel free to approach Cathy or Christine at any time.

All the very best, Cathy & Christine

Munich, December 2018

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Sunday 6th January 2019

The Three Wise Men

Session:

Signal for quiet – gong:

Ask children to sit in a circle

Greeting

Give yourself and the children a chance to get to know each other's names.

Pass a small teddy bear around the circle and when child is holding the teddy they say "My name is Ruth". Adult and other children reply with "Good Morning Ruth".

Second adult or older children use sticky labels and write names on them to stick them onto the children's pullovers.

Thank you prayer

Have a basket full of things which children use in everyday life. (shoes, scarf, books, painting things, toys...)

Let each child choose an item and when they all have one in their hands, let them say or help them say: "Thank you, God, for shoes with which I can go for a walk..."

When all children have said their little thank you sentence, hold each other by the hand and say Amen.

Song

If you like, sing with the children "He's got the Whole World in his Hands ..."

If you don't mind the effort, let them have instruments to play. Do not forget to collect them after the song.

Story Time

The Three Wise Men p 64 in Children of God by Desmond Tutu.

Read the story in English and in German.

Activity: Decorate a crown

Tell the children that the wise men were Kings from the East. Kings sometimes wear crowns that are decorated with jewels. The crowns are very precious because they are made of gold and have lots of precious stones.

Show the children how they can decorate the paper crowns using paper shapes and sequins.

Invite the children to go to the craft tables. They will need to take a flat crown and may need help to use tape to make a crown that fits them. Write name inside crown. The children may then use the collage materials as they wish to decorate the crowns.

Closing prayer / blessing

Use the prayer which comes at the end of Tutu's story. Speak it for the children once. Then repeat it with them. Finish with "Amen".

Sunday 13th January 2019
Jesus goes to Jerusalem with his parents

Session:

Signal for quiet – gong:

Ask children to sit in a circle

Greeting

Give yourself and the children a chance to get to know each other's names.

Pass a small teddy bear around the circle and when child is holding the teddy they say **"My name is Ruth"**. Adult replies with **"Good Morning Ruth"**.

Second adult or older children use sticky labels and write names on them to stick them onto the children's pullovers.

Thank you prayer

Have a basket full of things which children use in everyday life. (shoes, scarf, books, painting things, toys...)

Let each child choose an item and when they all have one in their hands, let them say or help them say: **"Thank you, God, for shoes with which I can go for a walk..."**

When all children have said their little thank you sentence, hold each other by the hand and say **Amen**.

Song

If you like, sing with the children **"God's Love ..."**

If you don't mind the effort, let them have instruments to play. Do not forget to collect them after the song.

Story Time

Jesus goes to Jerusalem with his parents p 66 in Children of God by Desmond Tutu.

Read the story in English and in German.

Activity: Make an ancient scroll

Show the children a scroll you made. Explain that in the time of Jesus they did not have many books. Scrolls and books were very precious and lots of people looked at them. They were written on papyrus or parchment which was brown. Sometimes they were very old.

Show them an A4 piece of paper with the Desmond Tutu prayer on it. Invite the children to decorate the prayer using pencils.

Then using a damp teabag let the children wipe over the paper. It will turn slightly brown. Wave the paper in the air for a couple of minutes so that it dries a little.

Even if it is still a little damp, the scroll can be rolled up and tied with a piece of ribbon.

Closing prayer / blessing

Use the prayer which comes at the end of Tutu's story. Speak it for the children once. Then repeat it with them. Finish with **"Amen"**.

Children should hold their scroll while they are saying this prayer.

Sunday 20th January 2019

Jesus is baptized

Session:

Signal for quiet – gong:

Ask children to sit in a circle

Greeting

With a soft ball roll it across the circle to a child. When the child receives the ball they should say “**My name is Antonia**”. Everyone replies “**Good morning Antonia**” and she rolls the ball back to the leader. The leader then rolls the ball to the next child who responds in the same way and rolls the ball back to the leader.

As each child says name a second adult gives them a dove shaped name tag (see template) and helps them to stick it to their jumper.

Thank you prayer

Thank with the children for their bodies.

Explain that all will stand in a circle and all should look at you. You touch your nose and the first child to your left says “Thank you God, for my nose”. Then the next child would see that you touch your ear and says “Thank you God, for my ears”... Say thank you for so many parts of the body as children are present. Finish with a jointly spoken “Amen.”

Song

If you like, sing with the children “Heads, Shoulders, Knees and toes”.

If you don't mind the effort, let them have instruments to play. Do not forget to collect them after the song.

Story Time

Jesus is baptized p 68 in Children of God by Desmond Tutu.

Read the story in English and in German.

Activity: Bible Play

Invite the children to act out the story.

Offer them props: blue sheet for the river, bread buns to share, clothes to share, white dove

Let one or two of them make the river.

Offer them roles to play: John the Baptist, people being baptized, people on the river bank, Jesus.

Give each child one item to dress up (cap, headscarf, tea towel, shirt, blouse...)

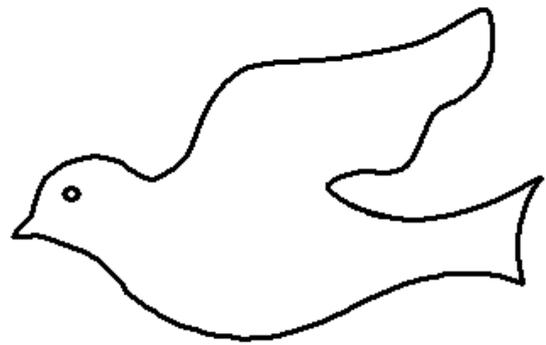
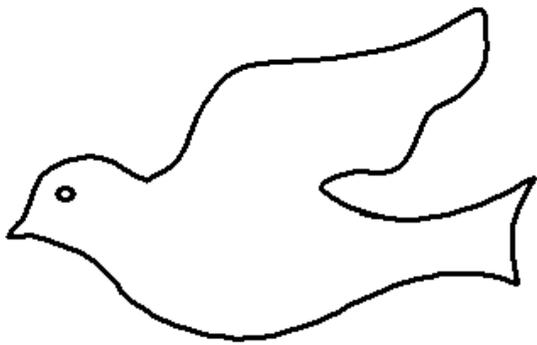
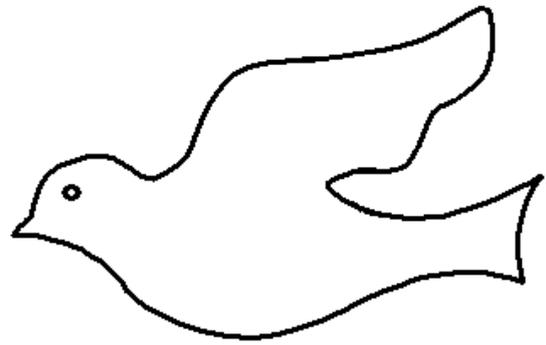
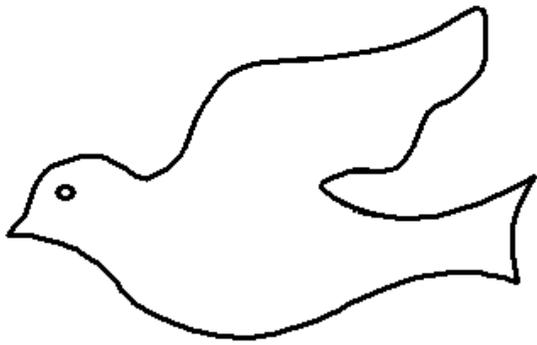
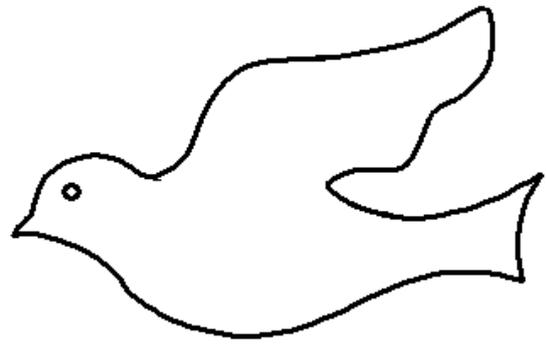
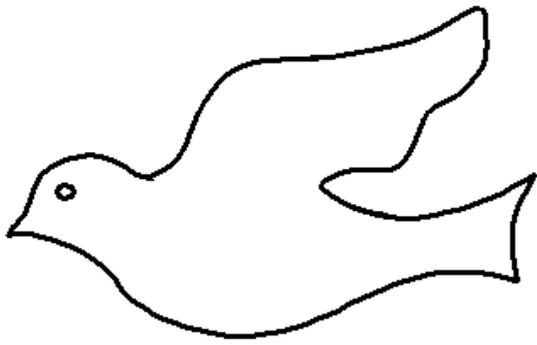
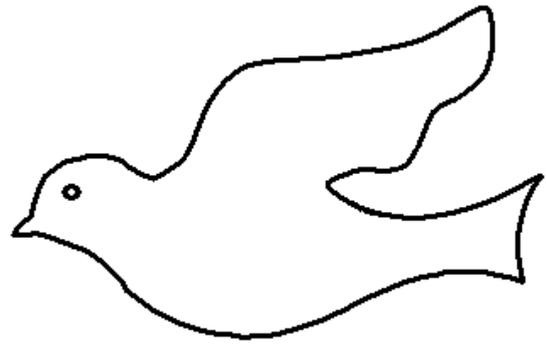
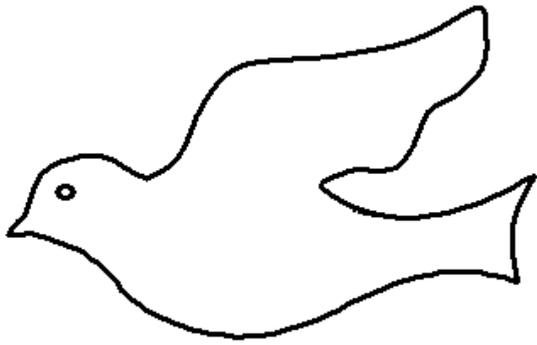
Let them dress up.

Now read the story again. Let the kids choose in which language and ask them to play while you read. Best is you all stand when you begin. The reader remains standing so that she or he can walk up to individual kids and help them find their way/role.

The children may like to repeat the story with others taking on the major roles.

Closing prayer / blessing

Use the prayer which comes at the end of Tutu's story. Speak it for the children once. Then repeat it with them. Finish with “Amen”.



Sunday 27th January 2019

Jesus in the desert

Session:

Signal for quiet – gong:

Ask children to sit in a circle

Greeting

With a soft ball roll it directly across the circle to a child. When the child receives the ball they should say **“My name is Antonia”**. Everyone replies **“Good morning Antonia”** and she rolls the ball back to the child sitting on the right of the leader. This child then says his name and rolls the ball to the child sitting on the right of Antonia. This child says their name and the greeting continues until all children are greeted.

Make sure no child has been left out.

Thank you prayer

Thank with the children for their bodies.

Explain that all will stand in a circle and all should look at you. You touch your nose and the first child to your left says “Thank you God, for my nose”. Then the next child would see that you touch your ear and says “Thank you God, for my ears”... Say thank you for so many parts of the body as children are present. Finish with a jointly spoken “Amen.”

Song

If you like, sing with the children “God’s Love....”.

If you don’t mind the effort, let them have instruments to play. Do not forget to collect them after the song.

Story Time

Jesus in the desert p 70 in Children of God by Desmond Tutu.

Read the story in English and in German.

Activity: Treasure Chest picture

Invite the children to make a collage picture with you. The collage will contain lots of things that the children like games, footballs, music, dancing, toys

You need magazines, newspapers, postcards, pictures.

Let the children look at the magazines and photos and give them scissors to cut out as many different activities, games etc that they really like.

When they have lots of pictures give out glue sticks and stick them all onto a big piece of paper. You could stick the treasure chest (see below) in the middle of the paper. While you are sticking talk to the children about the things that they have chosen and share their interests.

When the poster is done, sit or stand around it with the kids and let them share what they like most on the picture. Remind them also that there are times they must not be tempted by these toys and they must do their homework.

Closing prayer / blessing

Use the prayer which comes at the end of Tutu’s story. Speak it for the children once. Then repeat it with them. Finish with “Amen”.



Sunday 3 February 2019

Jesus turns water into wine

Session:

Signal for quiet – gong:

Ask children to sit in a circle

Greeting

Give yourself and the children a chance to get to know each other's names.

Use sticky labels and write names on them and stick them onto the children's pullovers.

Ask school kids to help the younger ones to write their name.

Thank you prayer

Have a basket full of things which children use in everyday life. (shoes, scarf, books, painting things, toys...)

Let each child choose an item and when they all have one in their hands, let them say or help them say: **"Thank you, God, for shoes with which I can go for a walk..."**

When all children have said their little thank you sentence, hold each other by the hand and say **Amen**.

Song

If you like, sing with the children "This is the day..."

If you don't mind the effort, let them have instruments to play. Do not forget to collect them after the song.

Story Time

Jesus turns water into wine p 72 in Children of God by Desmond Tutu.

Read the story in English and in German.

Activity: Bible Play

Invite the children to act out the story.

Offer them props: table cloth, cups, plates, biscuits, cakes, water, read juice as wine – anything you would like to use with the children in a wedding meal.

Let them set the table.

Offer them roles to play: bride and bridegroom, Jesus, Jesus' friends, servants, master of the banquet, guests.

Give each child one item to dress up (cap, headscarf, tea towel, shirt, blouse...)

Let them dress up.

Now read the story again. Let the kids choose in which language and ask them to play while you read. Best is you all stand when you begin. The reader remains standing so that she or he can walk up to individual kids and help them find their way/role.

For Jesus you will need 2 jugs, one with water, one empty with a fruit tea teabag at the bottom. So that when Jesus pours the water from jug A into jug B the water in B will turn red. Let the children try...

Read the story to its end and sing with the wedding party "This is the day" again.

Closing prayer / blessing

Use the prayer which comes at the end of Tutu's story. Speak it for the children once. Then repeat it with them. Finish with "Amen".

Sunday 10 February 2019

Jesus goes fishing

Session:

Signal for quiet – gong:

Ask children to sit in a circle

Greeting

Give yourself and the children a chance to get to know each other's names.

Bring a "treasure box" along in which you have lots of beautiful things like a feather, a marble, a ring, a book, a pen, a little doll, a piece of stone, a key, a toy car, a toy train, a doll's dress, a postcard etc

Let the children choose an item and go round the circle letting them say their name and what they love about the thing they chose from the treasure box.

Thank you prayer

Thank with the children for their bodies.

Explain that all will stand in a circle and all should look at you. You touch your nose and the first child to your left says "Thank you God, for my nose". Then the next child would see that you touch your ear and says "Thank you God, for my ears"... Say thank you for so many parts of the body as children are present. Finish with a jointly spoken "Amen."

Song

If you like, sing with the children "Be bold, be strong".

If you don't mind the effort, let them have instruments to play. Do not forget to collect them after the song.

Story Time

Jesus goes fishing p 74 in Children of God by Desmond Tutu.

Read the story in English and in German.

Activity: Colourful Fish Collage

Invite the children to do some crafts to add to the story.

You can sponge waves in bluish colours on sheets of paper. Dry the sheets with a hair dryer.

Then offer the kids scissors and glue and card paper, all sorts of little paper bits in colourful and sparkly shades. Have some fish patterns for the kids from which they can pencil their own fish on a piece of card, cut it out and decorate it a bit like in the Rainbow Fish picture book. If you manage, have the rainbow Fish book with you... or other colourful pictures of fish.

You can make a water sheet with fish on for every kid. Or you make a big collage and put it up on the wall in the Sunday School room for one or two Sundays.

(You need: card paper, colourful paper bits, glue, scissors, "glitter pens" etc)

Closing prayer / blessing

Use the prayer which comes at the end of Tutu's story. Speak it for the children once. Then repeat it with them. Finish with "Amen".

Sunday 17 February 2019

Jesus teaches the secret of happiness

Session:

Signal for quiet – gong:

Ask children to sit in a circle

Greeting

Give yourself and the children a chance to get to know each other's names.

Let them sit in a circle and let each of them say their name. Then take a soft ball and throw it to one of the kids saying his or her name. Ask the child to do the same: throw the ball to another child and say the child's name. Make sure every child has a turn.

Thank you prayer

Ask each child what makes him or her happy. Write the things the children say on a piece of paper. Then speak a prayer with them thanking for all that makes them happy. For example: "Thank you God, for making Esther happy when she has friends. Thank you God, for making Davis happy when he plays football..."

Song

If you like, sing with the children "If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands...".

(you can add all sorts of things: stomp your feet, shake your head, touch your mouth, waggle your ears etc)

Story Time

Jesus teaches the secret of happiness p 76 in Children of God by Desmond Tutu.

Read the story in English and in German.

Activity: Huge Poster of Happy People

Invite the children to make a picture with you. A huge poster of happy people. You need magazines, newspapers, postcards, pictures.

Let the children look at the magazines and photos and give them scissors to cut out as many happy faces as they can find.

When the cutting out is over and you have a real pile of happy faces, display an A1 size sheet of card (Fotokarton), give the children glue sticks and help them glue together all the faces.

You could write on the poster: "God wants people to be happy".

You need: scissors, glue, card A1, magazines & all sorts of photos.

When the poster is done, sit or stand around it with the kids and let them share what they like most on the picture.

Closing prayer / blessing

Use the prayer which comes at the end of Tutu's story. Speak it for the children once. Then repeat it with them. Finish with "Amen". For prayers with kids it is always meaningful to stand in a circle and hold hands.

Sunday 24 February 2019

Jesus blesses the little children

Session:

Signal for quiet – gong:

Ask children to sit in a circle

Greeting

Give yourself and the children a chance to get to know each other's names.
Let them sit around a medium sized parachute and tell each other their names.

Thank you prayer

Ask each child what he or she finds very special on this Sunday morning. Let them say little Thank-you-sentences: "God, thank you for my breakfast. ...that I can wear my new dress... that granny came to stay with us..." Finish with a jointly spoken "Amen", when all kids had a turn.

Song

If you like, sing with the children "God's love is deeper... wider... higher..."
Invite them to join you with the movements we have for this song.
You might use the parachute with the song too.

Story Time

Jesus blesses the little children p 78 in Children of God by Desmond Tutu.
Read the story in English and in German.

Activity: Parachute Games

Parachute games can make all children happy. Parachute games are an excellent way to teach children the importance of teamwork.

Mushroom:

Tell the kids to spread out while holding the edge of the parachute.
Now tell them to pull the parachute taut and then lower it to the ground and the knee level.
As you say go, all the kids have to raise the parachute upwards. The parachute will fill with air and rise like a giant mushroom.

Circus Tent:

Tell the players to raise their arms with the parachute as high as possible.
Once the chute is high, and as you signal, the kids have to take 3 to 4 steps towards the center.
While holding the parachute tightly, tell the kids to sit at the edge of the chute, what now appears to be the circus tent.

Ball Surfing:

Tell all the kids to hold the parachute tightly. Place a beach ball on the parachute.
Now each kid has to lift the parachute just after the ball rolls by. Make sure that they get the timings right. If they are too late, then the ball will run off the parachute or into the player, and if they are too soon, then the ball will stop rolling.

The Cave:

Tell the kids to hold the edge of the parachute and then inflate.
Now tell them to take a few steps towards the center while the chute is inflated.

Now tell the kids to release one hand from the chute and pull the parachute behind the head with the other hand.

Have them kneel down, holding the edge towards the ground.

The players have to stay inside the parachute until it begins to deflate.

Crossing Over And Crossing Under:

Number the players. You have to give one number to two players.

Now make the players kneel and make rough waves.

Then begin by calling out the numbers. As you call out the number, the player has to crawl on the chute instead of running under it. The kid with the same number has to crawl under the sheet and make a statue.

Repeat the game until all the players get the chance to become statues.

Closing prayer / blessing

Bless each child by holding the parachute up with all the other kids, and place the child to be blessed under the parachute. "God bless Miriam." And out she comes and another child goes in.

Use the prayer which comes at the end of Tutu's story. Speak it for the children once. Then repeat it with them.

Sunday 3rd March 2019

The Good Neighbour

Session:

Signal for quiet – gong:

Ask children to sit in a circle

Greeting

Ask a child to turn to the child next to them and say their name, **"My name is Gideon"**. The second child replies, **"Good morning Gideon"**. He then turns to his neighbour on the opposite side and says **"My name is Nathan"**.

This continues around the circle until all children have had chance to say their name and greet someone else.

Thank you prayer

Say thank you with the children for colours and in particular the colour yellow.

Collect a tray of yellow objects and pictures – bananas, smiley face, yellow pencil, yellow mug
The children may take an item or think of something they know which is yellow. Children say a short thank you sentence for their object.

Finish with a jointly spoken **"Amen."**

Song

If you like, sing with the children **"This little light of mine...."**.

If you don't mind the effort, let them have instruments to play. Do not forget to collect them after the song.

Story Time

The Good Neighbour p 80 in Children of God by Desmond Tutu.

Read the story in English and in German.

Activity: Bible Play

Invite the children to act out the story.

Offer them props: horses, scroll, cross, bowl with cloth, bandages,

Offer them roles to play: robbers, Jewish man, Samaritan, priest, person working at temple, Samaritan, innkeeper, others could be people in the town

Give each child one item to dress up (cap, headscarf, tea towel, shirt, blouse...)

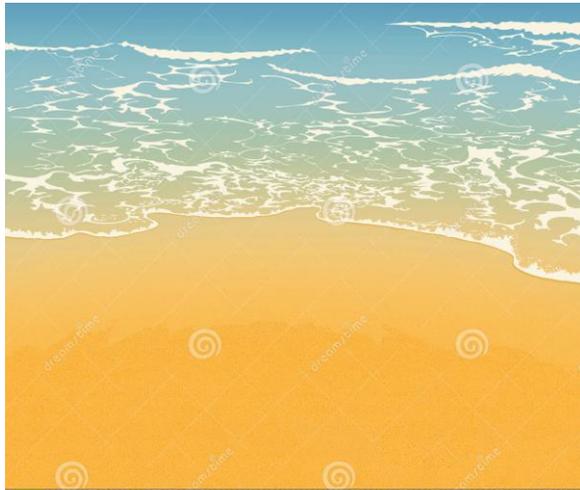
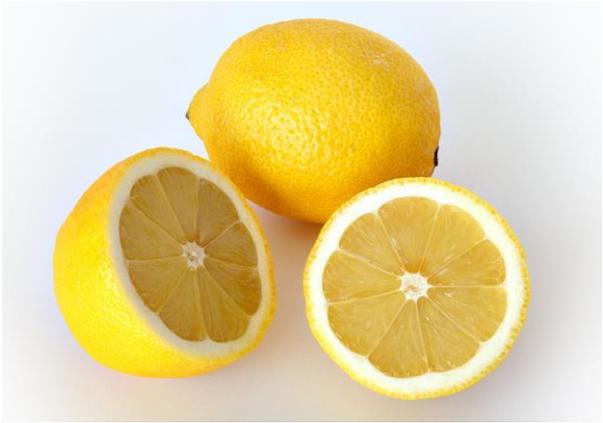
Let them dress up.

Now read the story again. Let the kids choose in which language and ask them to play while you read. Best is you all stand when you begin. The reader remains standing so that she or he can walk up to individual kids and help them find their way/role.

Act the story again with different children taking the leading roles. Perhaps also time to sing again.

Closing prayer / blessing

Use the prayer which comes at the end of Tutu's story. Speak it for the children once. Then repeat it with them. Finish with **"Amen"**.



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Sunday 10th March 2019

The Law of Love

Session:

Signal for quiet – gong:

Ask children to sit in a circle

Greeting

Ask a child to turn to the child next to them and say their name, "**My name is Gideon**". The second child replies, "**Good morning Gideon**". He then turns to his neighbour on the opposite side and says "**My name is Nathan**".

This continues around the circle until all children have had chance to say their name and greet someone else.

Thank you prayer

Think of all the people who know you, help you and love you.

Mum, Dad, brothers and sisters (give names) , neighbours, friends at church, friends from school, teachers, adults, teenagers.

Write down people (including individual names if possible) on a large heart shaped piece of paper.

Thank you prayer for all these people. Children choose one name.

Song

If you like, sing with the children "Jesus loves me this I know....".

If you don't mind the effort, let them have instruments to play. Do not forget to collect them after the song.

Story Time

The Law of Love p 82 in Children of God by Desmond Tutu.

Read the story in English and in German.

Activity: Heart Necklace

Tell the children that a symbol of love is a heart shape. Today we are going to make a necklace to help us remember to love all people around us. We can love people by saying kind things to them, sending them a smile or giving them something.

Show the children a necklace made from three different sized hearts stuck on top of each other. On the smallest heart write the word , "**Love**".

Invite the children to take three different coloured hearts one should be small, one medium sized and one big. They should stick them together.

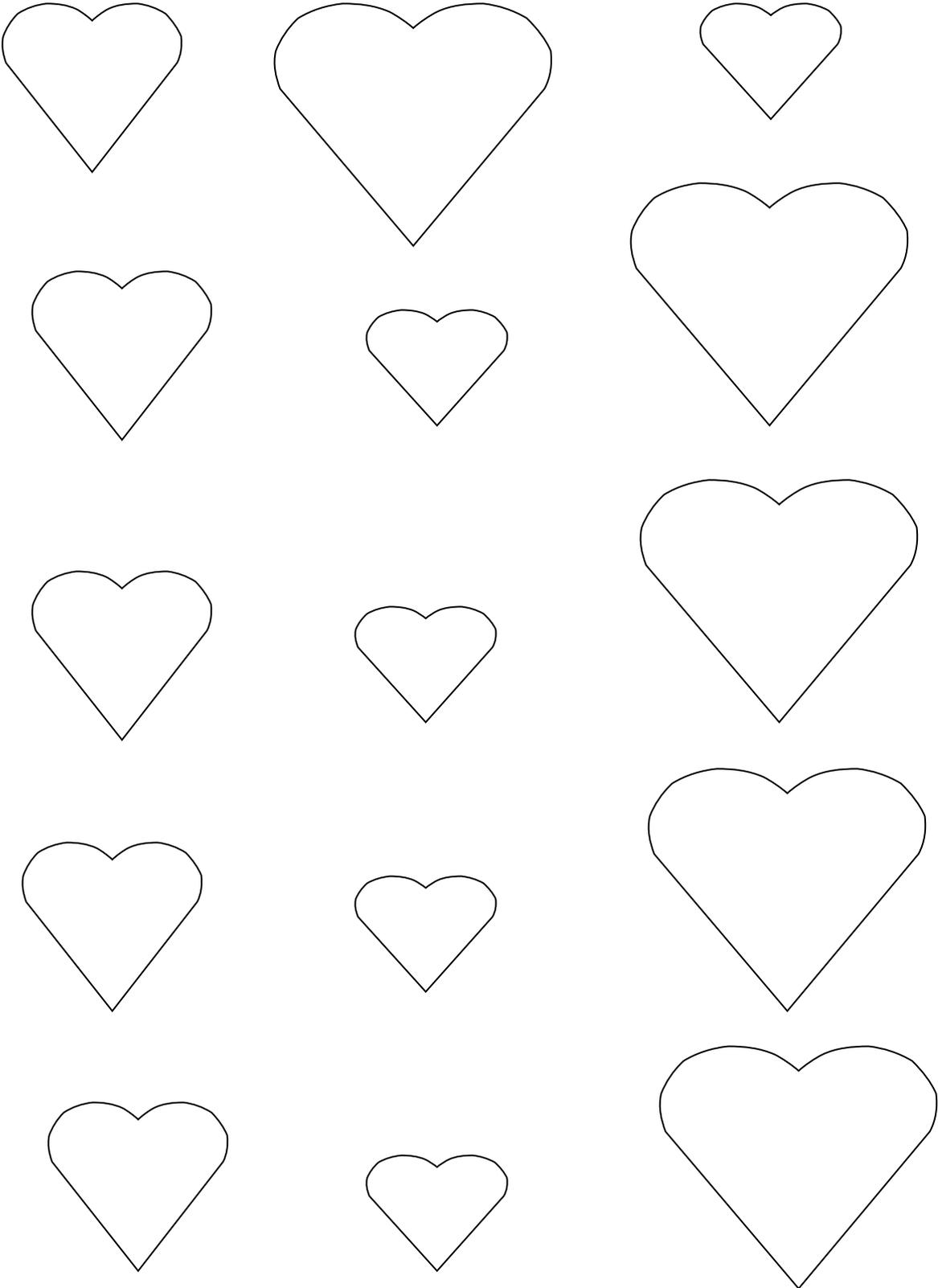
A piece of cord should be put through the heart

Closing prayer / blessing

Use the prayer which comes at the end of Tutu's story. Speak it for the children once. Then repeat it with them. Finish with "Amen".

Children should wear their necklace as they say the prayer

These shapes could be printed on different coloured pieces of paper and cut out



Sunday 17th March 2019

The Disciples Learn to Pray

Session:

Signal for quiet – gong:

Ask children to sit in a circle

Greeting

Give yourself and the children a chance to get to know each other's names.

Pass a small teddy bear around the circle and when child is holding the teddy they say "My name is Ruth". Adult and other children reply with "Good Morning Ruth".

Second adult or older children use sticky labels and write names on them to stick them onto the children's pullovers.

Thank you prayer

Think of the signs of spring – buds on trees, flowers, birds singing, birds making nests, warmer weather, winter coats going away, playing outside, longer evenings,

Make a prayer sentence to say thank you for winter and spring.

Finish the prayer by all holding hands and saying Amen together.

Song

If you like, sing with the children "God's love is deeper... wider... higher..."

Invite them to join you with the movements we have for this song.

You might use the parachute with the song too.

Story Time

The Disciples Learn to Prays p 84 in Children of God by Desmond Tutu.

Read the story in English and in German.

Activity: Make a Book of Prayers

In this story the disciples want to know how to pray. Remind the children that we say two prayers in our Sunday school sessions. One of the prayers is a thank you prayer. The other prayer is a prayer written by a famous man Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Tell the children that Archbishop Tutu has made all the stories in this book easy for children. After each story is a prayer that he has written.

Invite the children to make a little book of all the Desmond Tutu prayers we have read so far. They should collect all the pages and make sure that they are in the correct order. They then need to select a similar sized piece of coloured paper for the cover. The book can be fastened together with two staples. Make sure that the children only use the stapler under close supervision.

The children can then add pictures in their prayer book or make a cover.

Closing prayer / blessing

Use the prayer which comes at the end of Tutu's story. Speak it for the children once. Then repeat it with them.

Sunday 31st March 2019

Jesus becomes a Servant

Session:

Signal for quiet – gong:

Children to sit in a circle on chairs

Greeting

Give yourself and the children a chance to get to know each other's names.

Pass a small teddy bear around the circle and when child is holding the teddy they say "My name is Ruth". Adult and other children reply with "Have a lovely day Ruth".

Second adult or older children use sticky labels and write names on them to stick them onto the children's pullovers.

Thank you prayer

Explain that today we are going to say thank you for somebody who helps us

Give some examples: Thank you for Mum who made breakfast this morning, Thank you to for the bus driver who brought me to church, Thank you for Hanna my sister who plays with me.

Hold hands in a circle and each child says a sentence. Finish with Amen

Song

If you like, sing with the children "God's love is deeper... wider... higher..."

Invite them to join you with the movements we have for this song.

You might use the parachute with the song too.

Story Time

Jesus becomes a servant p106 in Children of God by Desmond Tutu.

Read the story in English and in German.

Activity: Bible Play

Invite the children to act out the story.

Offer them props: bowl of water, towel

Offer them roles to play: Jesus and disciples

Give each child one item to dress up (cap, headscarf, tea towel, shirt, blouse...)

Let them dress up.

Now read the story again. Let the kids choose in which language and ask them to play while you read. Best is you all stand when you begin. The reader remains standing so that she or he can walk up to individual kids and help them find their way/role.

After acting the story explain to the children that Jesus washed his disciples' feet to show that he was no more important than anyone else and that everyone could serve each other.

Divide into smaller groups each with an adult. Check each group have a bowl of water and towels. Ask for a volunteer who will wash and then dry the feet of others. Let him / her wash one or two people's feet and then swap roles.

Closing prayer / blessing

Use the prayer which comes at the end of Tutu's story. Speak it for the children once. Then repeat it with them.

Sunday 31st March 2019

Jesus shares His Last Meal with His Friends

Signal for quiet – gong:

Children to sit in a circle on chairs

Greeting

Give yourself and the children a chance to get to know each other's names.

Pass a small teddy bear around the circle and when child is holding the teddy they say "My name is Ruth". Adult and other children reply with "Have a wonderful day Ruth".

Second adult or older children use sticky labels and write names on them to stick them onto the children's pullovers.

Thank you prayer

Explain that today we are going to say thank you for somebody who helps us

Give some examples: Thank you for Mum who made breakfast this morning, Thank you to for the bus driver who brought me to church, Thank you for Hanna my sister who plays with me.

Hold hands in a circle and each child says a sentence. Finish with Amen

Song

If you like, sing with the children "If you're happy and you know it clap your hands..."

Invite them to join you with the movements we have for this song.

Story Time

Jesus shares His Last Meal with His Friends p108 in Children of God by Desmond Tutu.

Read the story in English and in German.

Activity: Bible Play

Jesus was sharing the Passover meal with his friends. This was a very important meal and there would have been more than just bread and wine. Show the children food that you have brought for a Passover meal. After showing the food to the children ask for help to set up the Passover feast. Remind the children that no one can eat before the feast begins.

1. Sweet bread. These should be cut into quarters and put on the table.
2. Red fruit squash and water in jugs. Children can make squash in paper cups.
3. Small chunks of cheese. Children could put cheese on sticks.
4. Packets of crisps can be divided into 3 or 4 bowls
5. Biscuits. Children could arrange these really nicely on two plates
6. Cakes. Children can cut up small cakes and arrange on plate.
7. Table cloth and serviettes. Children can set the table and put out chairs.

Make sure there are the correct number of places for all the children and adults. As they sit down explain to the children that Jesus took some bread, tore pieces off and gave some to everyone. He also blessed the wine and gave made sure everyone had some.

A child could play act being Jesus. When dividing the sweet bread into pieces four children could be chosen as Jesus' assistants. Afterwards the children can eat the feast.

Closing prayer / blessing

Use the prayer which comes at the end of Tutu's story. Speak it for the children once. Then repeat it with them.

Sunday 7 April 2019

The trial and death of Jesus

Session:

Signal for quiet – gong:

Ask children to sit in a circle

Greeting

Give yourself and the children a chance to get to know each other's names.

Use sticky labels and write names on them and stick them onto the children's pullovers.

Ask school kids to help the younger ones to write their name.

Thank you prayer

Let the children collect all which is beautiful this morning and thank God for it in a little sentence.

Song

If you like, listen with the children to a beautiful but quiet piece of music from a CD.

(for example an instrumental version of Amazing Grace)

Story Time

Jesus is alive p 110 in Children of God by Desmond Tutu.

Read the story in English and in German.

Discuss with the children what they think and whether this is fair. Let them share when they experience unfairness. Invite them to believe that God's love and the love of family and friends is always stronger than all the bad things which happen in the world. To help remember this, let each child cut out a heart from red paper and let them put it in their pockets to take away. (you need red paper and scissors).

Activity: Colour in Crosses – Maria Gomez Cross

Introduce to the children the story of Maria Gomez:

Maria Cristina Gomez was a teacher in El Salvador in Central America. She belonged to a church that tried to help poor people. She was an ordinary person but she lived in a country with big problems. Maria was a teacher in a town, but at weekends she went to nearby villages to help them. She taught people to read. She thought this was important because if poor people learned to read and write then they could find out what was happening in El Salvador. They could stand up for their rights. Maria particularly worked with women. One day men with guns came to her school. In front of the children they dragged her away and threw her into a van. Friends later found her body dumped by a roadside. She had been shot.

The people who knew Maria wanted to remember her. So they paid an artist to paint a wooden cross. (Christine has one and can give it to you for Sunday School) It shows the people who Maria helped and how she helped them. Maria was not going to be alive again, but the people wanted to keep her memory alive.

This is exactly what people did with Jesus.

Let the children colour in crosses which you hand to them. (You need coloured pencils).

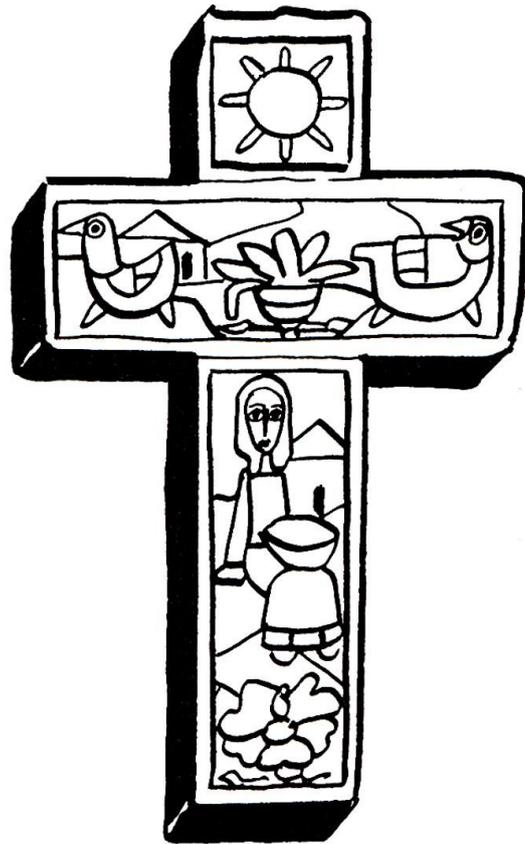
Blessing

Tell the children that Jesus did something amazing: he forgave his enemies.

We don't always manage that, but we can ask God to help us.

Finish with the prayer which comes at the end of Tutu's story. Speak it for the children once.

Then repeat it with them. Finish with "Amen".



Sunday 21 April 2019

Jesus is alive

Session:

Signal for quiet – gong:

Ask children to sit in a circle

Greeting

Give yourself and the children a chance to get to know each other's names.

Let the children share their names and what they liked most on this Easter morning.

Thank you prayer

Let the children thank for each other. Look at the neighbour to your right and say: "Thank you God for "so and so". Make sure that every child is thanked for.

Song

If you like, sing with the children "The women on that Easter day" from the Kid's Source.

Story Time

Jesus is alive p 112 in Children of God by Desmond Tutu.

Read the story in English and in German.

Ask the children what they liked most in the story. Let them ask their questions. Try to give answers, but let the children learn that not every question must find an answer. Let them discover that there is a mystery in so many things, and especially in the Christian Easter story.

Activity: Make Easter Gardens

The transformation of the deep sadness after Jesus' death into the joy of the Easter Day is often symbolised by the creation of an Easter garden.

Nobody really understands what happened on Easter morning. Nobody can tell exactly how the resurrection came about. Nobody knows how it worked that people could see Jesus, that they knew he was alive and still with them.

And because people did not understand fully, they needed other ways to express "life". A garden is a great symbol to express life, hope and a new beginning. A garden expresses joy with all its colours and its beauty.

Therefore let each child make a little Easter garden. You will need: plates, stones, a little piece of white cloth, grass, maybe moss, angels, women, crosses, little flower pots, tiny spring flowers such as snowbells, primroses, crocuses. Let the children take the Easter gardens home.



Blessing

Finish with the prayer which comes at the end of Tutu's story. Speak it for the children once. Then repeat it with them. Finish with "Amen".

Sunday 28 April 2019

The Good News

Session:

Signal for quiet – gong:

Ask children to sit in a circle

Greeting

Give yourself and the children a chance to get to know each other's names.

Bring little pieces of card with a hole (can be circles, stars, triangles, squares). Hand one to each child. Let each child write his/her name on the card, hand the kids a 60 cm long piece of woollen thread, pull the thread through the hole of the card and make a necklace for each child with the name on. Let them put the necklace round their necks and then say their names one after the other.

Thank you prayer

Let the children thank for each other. So you look at your right-hand neighbour and say: "Thank you God, for "so and so"... So it goes all the way round, until each child thanked God for another child.

Song

If you like, sing "God is good" from the Kids' Source with the children.

Story Time

The good news p 114 in Children of God by Desmond Tutu.

Read the story in English and in German.

Let the children discover that after Jesus' death and resurrection more and more people wanted to hear the good news of Jesus being alive and Jesus being near.

Activity: Make Paper Chains

Bring along lots of papers in many colours and explain to the children how to make paper chains. Best you have an example with you to show to the kids.

(You definitely need to be more than one Sunday School teacher!) 😊

You can make chains of hearts as a sign of God's love, and chains of people as a sign of the community God wants us to live in, as a sign of the friends God wants us to have and to be.

You could organise the children in pairs or threes and make a competition out of the activity.

Who has the longest chain? And you can give the kids prizes for their achievements...

An **alternative idea** would be: use **finger paints** and make a big poster or fabric cloth the a circle of the children's handprints in all rainbow colours. Here you need help of several adults or teenagers. And you need water bowl and towels to clean the children's hands afterwards.

Prayer

Stand in a circle, hold hands and finish with the prayer which comes at the end of Tutu's story. Speak it for the children once. Then repeat it with them. Finish with "Amen".