

Date: 10-7-18

Theme: Coming to Jesus (World Communion Sunday)

Scripture: Mark 10: 2-16

Materials and Preparation:

- a. You will need eleven copies of the skit (page 3 below), a copy for each teacher and nine copies for the players. (If fewer than nine students are present, the teachers can play roles; or one student can play two roles, e.g., the roles of James and John.)
- b. Find costumes for the skit (in the resource room) and bring them to class. You will need costumes for Jesus, Parent 1, Tommy, Parent 2, Suzy, Peter, James, and John. (You might also consider bringing something special for the narrator to wear, e.g., a hat or vest.)
- c. Bring a small piece of bread and a cup of grape juice to class. (These will serve as a visual focus during the discussion of the Lord's Supper.)
- a. Print a copy of Mark 14: 22-25 using page 4 below. Post this so you can refer to it as the students discuss this passage.
- b. The New Revised Standard Version of today's Bible text is copied for your convenience on page 5 below; it may be of interest to you as background information.

Vocabulary Words: disciple, communion, Lord's Supper, covenant

Objective: To understand what it means to come to Jesus as a little child and to come to Jesus around the communion table.

Opening: Have the students recite the Lord's Prayer. (They may need to repeat each line after you.)

Reading:

One day some parents brought their children to meet Jesus. *What happened?* Let's see.

Read Mark 10: 2-16 (*Whirl Story Bible* or *Spark Story Bible*).

To get a better understanding of this passage, let's try acting it out.

Activity: *Skit: Jesus Welcomes the Children* (see page 3 below).

Have the students perform the skit three times with different students playing different roles. (Be sure to have the costumes on hand.)

After the students have performed the skit several times, lead a discussion using these questions:

1. Why were parents bringing their children to Jesus?
2. Why did the disciples tell the parents *not* to bring their children to Jesus?
3. What do we learn about Jesus from this story?
4. What do we learn about people from this story?
5. What do you like about this story?
6. What is the meaning of the story? What does it tell us about our relationship with God?

Coming to Jesus around the Lord's Table

Today is World Communion Sunday, a day when Christians around the world take the Lord's Supper. This is one way Christians *come to Jesus*—by coming together to remember what Jesus said and did.

Place a piece of bread and a cup of grape juice before the students.

What is Communion or the Lord's Supper? What does it mean? Let's read something the Bible says about this:

[Post the print-out of Mark 14:22-25 where the students can see it, so you can refer to it as they discuss this passage.]

Mark 14: 22-25 While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

1. What does the word "covenant" mean? (Agreement or pledge: Christ made a new covenant which replaces the old covenant God made with Israel.)
2. In church we eat a small piece of bread dipped in grape juice. What does the bread stand for? The grape juice?
3. Why should we remember Jesus' body and blood?
4. How can we come *as little children* to the Lord's Supper? (Consider this: children *know* they need help and they *expect* to be loved.)

Closing: Offer a short prayer stressing our deep need for God's help in all that we do.

Offering: Perform the skit for the congregation. (Suggestion: rehearse the skit one more time before performing it for the congregation.)

SKIT: JESUS WELCOMES THE CHILDREN

Narrator: One day, when Jesus was teaching, many children were present.

Jesus: Judge not that you be not judged.

Parent 1 [shouting]: Jesus, please bless my little boy, Tommy.

Parent 2 [shouting]: Jesus, please bless my little girl, Suzy. She's not feeling well.

Disciple Peter: Hey, can't you see Jesus is trying to teach important things?

Disciple John: Yeah, Jesus has more important things to do than to bless these little kids.

Disciple James: Get these kids out of here!

[Tommy and Suzy begin to cry.]

Jesus: Whoa! Stop right there. Let the children come to me.

Disciple Peter: But Jesus, the kids are making too much noise.

Jesus: Let me tell you something, Peter. In God's kingdom, it's important to be like a child.

Disciple James: What does that mean? Be like a kid? Kids just need help all the time.

Disciple John: Yeah, and kids don't know much, either.

Jesus: Listen! Here's something everyone needs to understand: Compared to God, everyone—including every adult--is like a child. If you try to pretend you don't need God, you'll never be close to God. Let the children come to me.

Narrator: The little children rushed to Jesus' side.

[Tommy and Suzy walk quickly to Jesus.]

Narrator: Jesus blessed the children.

Mark 14: 22-25 While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

Teachers: The New Revised Standard Version of today’s Bible lesson is copied here for your convenience, as helpful background information. (The NRSV stays much closer to the original Greek text than does the *Whirl Story Bible* or *Spark Story Bible*. In this case the NRSV obviously contains a lot of material—on divorce—that does not appear in the Story Bibles.) I do not recommend having the students read from the NRSV but it may be of interest to you.

Mark 10: 2-16 (NRSV) ² Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” ³ He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” ⁴ They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” ⁵ But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶ But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ⁷ ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸ and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹ Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” ¹⁰ Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹ He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹² and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

¹³ People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.