

Sunday between June 5 and 11 – year B

Preparation

Read the Gospel [Mark 3:20-35](#) over. Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearb/properb5.htm>

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-bwv.htm#p10>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Green cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Small votive candles
- Magazine pictures of different families

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the candle and the Bible on the cloth. Light the candle. Then have each child place a small votive candle by the large candle. As you light their candles say, *We are so happy that (name of child) is with us today.* Pray the following prayer together:

For a time to learn and grow, thank you God.

For friends to share and love, thank you Jesus.

For the time to pray and listen, thank you Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blow out the candle. Ask the children what they think makes up a family. Wait for their responses. Then lay out the different family pictures that you have gathered. Ask the children to describe the different families in the pictures. Now ask the children if they know of families that are different – say there is only one parent? or that there are grandparents living with them? Wait for their responses. Explain to the children that in today's story Jesus is questioned by his family and he tells everyone about a different kind of family.

Story Time

Materials needed

- A comfortable place to tell the story –around a table or on the floor with cushions

Instructions

Teach the children the following chant:

**We are God’s children
We are God’s family
We show the love of God.**

Jesus had been away from home for a while. He and his friends decided that it was time to go home, rest, eat and spend time with their families.

**We are God’s children
We are God’s family
We show the love of God.**

When they got home there was a large crowd there. Jesus’ mother and the rest of his family came to him. They said, “Jesus you need to get this under control. Do you know what people are saying about you? They are saying that you must have been taken over by an evil spirit. They are saying that you are not God’s chosen one.”

**We are God’s children
We are God’s family
We show the love of God.**

Jesus responded by telling them this. “How can an evil spirit cast out another evil spirit? That would mean that members of the same family were working against each other. That sort of family would not be able to stay together. They would not be able to work together. That family would fall apart.”

**We are God’s children
We are God’s family
We show the love of God.**

Then Jesus said, “The people will have their sins forgiven. The people will have their hurts healed. God’s love will be shared with everyone. “

**We are God’s children
We are God’s family
We show the love of God.**

Again Jesus’ mother and family called to him. Jesus was sitting with his friends and many other people. They said to him, “Your mother and family are calling you. They want you to come and spend time with them.”

**We are God’s children
We are God’s family
We show the love of God.**

Jesus looked around at his friends and all those who were with them. He said, “Here are my mother. Here are my brothers. Here are my sisters. All those who loves God and does as God asks are my family.”

**We are God’s children
We are God’s family
We show the love of God.**

Response

Project Idea 1: God's Family Poster

Being part of God's family is important for all of us who are part of the church. This response will be a way for the children to share their learning with others.

Materials needed

- poster board
- marker
- glue
- scissors
- newsprint
- magazines
- white paper
- glitter (optional)

Instructions

Print across the top of the poster board the following: **"God's Family Is..."**. Put a piece of newsprint up on the wall. With the children list all the things they can think of that make up God's family. Some suggestions: love, caring, looking after others. When they have completed their list, have them each choose one word that they want to share with others. Help them to figure out a place on the poster that they want print their word. Then have them go through the magazines looking for a picture that shows off their word or they could use a piece of white paper and the markers to illustrate it themselves. Have the children write their word up describing God's family and then put up their picture illustrating it. If they want let them decorate their word or picture with the glitter. With the children find a place to put the poster up to share it with other.

Project Idea 2: God's Family Bracelet

Being part of God's family is important for all of us who are part of the church. This response will be a way for the children to share their learning with others.

Materials needed

- as many different colours of yarn as there are children in the group
- scissors
- strong tape
- coloured beads that can be threaded on to the yarn
(if you don't have these they can be left out)

Instructions

Cut the yarn into 60 cm (24 in) lengths. Make a set of yarn lengths for each child. Help the children to tape the yarn lengths together to one side of the table. Have the children braid the yarn together. If you are using the beads then have the children add a bead to a piece of yarn from time to time as they braid the yarn. As they are working take some time and talk about how each of us are part of God's family and each piece of yarn in their bracelet will remind them of this whenever they wear it. When the children are done braiding help them to tie the two ends together and then have them wear them as bracelets. Remind the children that we are all members of God's family of love.

Project Idea 3: God’s Family Bookmark

This response will work well with younger children and give them a concrete item to take home and share the good news of being part of God’s family with their own families.

Materials needed

- card stock
- scissors
- hole punch
- yarn
- clear contact paper
- fine line markers
- glitter
- tissue paper
- glue sticks
- stickers

Instructions

Cut the card stock into 5 cm (2 in) wide strips. Punch a hole in one end. For younger children print on the bookmark “**God’s Family is Love**”, older children will be able to do this themselves. Give each child a prepared bookmark. Ask them to decorate it using the markers, glitter, and tissue paper. Suggest that they may want to tear up the tissue paper into small bits, glue them on and then put glitter on that. When they are finished decorating help them to cover them with the clear contact paper. Cut a piece of yarn into a length long enough to form a loop with and tie it through the hole. Suggest to the children that they share their bookmarks with their family and talk about how we are all part of God’s family of love.

Closing

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candles. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

**Loving God surround us with your care,
Friend Jesus be with us each day,
Holy Spirit move us to show your love,
Amen.**