

Sunday between September 25 and Oct. 1 – year B

Preparation

Read the Gospel [Mark 8:27-38](#) 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/properb21.htm>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/pent5mles.htm>

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/pass-the-salt.html>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/b/26-b/F-26-b.html>

Gathering

Materials needed

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

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 how they know someone is a friend of Jesus (*wait for their responses*). Ask the children how they treat people who are members of the church (*wait for their responses*). Now ask them how they treat people who are not members of the church (*wait for their responses*). Explain to the children that in today's story they are going to hear Jesus' friends ask question about who is in and who is in out with them and with God.

Story Time

Materials needed

- Question mark poster made with previous lesson
- Cup and jug image at end of lesson
- Scissors, glue stick
- Jug of water and some cups

Instructions

Copy the cup and jug image and cut them out. Put it near the poster along with a glue stick. Place the question mark poster where the children can see it through the lesson. Place the jug of water and cups in a safe place for later in the story.

Jesus and his friends had been in Capernaum for a while. John, one of Jesus' close friends, said, "Jesus, we noticed some people who were healing the sick and casting out bad spirits. They were doing all this in your name! We tried to stop them as they were not your followers. What do you think of that?"

Jesus said, "Who do you think is with us? Anyone who is doing God's work is with us. So do not try to stop those who do these things. You need to know that whoever gives one of my friends a cup of water because you have my name will be given much by God."

Bring out the jug of water and cups. Give each child a cup of water and say, "Have a cup of water, friend of Jesus".

Jesus was holding a little child on his lap. Looking at the child he told his friends, "If anyone causes one of God's little ones to stumble away from God then it will be very bad for them. In order to enter God's kingdom, you need to help these little ones to come closer to God, not to send them away.

Jesus then told his friends, "You all know that salt is good. It is good for food, helping it to taste better. What happens when salt loses its saltiness? It is not good for anything. You need to be salt for the world. Have salt in you and be at peace with each other."

Jesus gave the little child a hug before putting them on the ground. Then Jesus and his friends left that place and went on to another part of the country.

Question Mark Poster

Direct the children's attention to the question mark in the middle of the poster. Ask someone why they put up a cross and the welcome sign from the previous weeks. With the children think about all the questions that were asked in today's story – who is with us? – how does salt show its saltiness? – what are the stumbling blocks? Ask them what the answers to the questions were – to give others a welcoming cup of water and to be salt for the world. Show them the cup and jug image. Have one of the children glue it into the third space. Explain that for the next several weeks they will adding something to the poster to help them remember each week's story.

Response

Project Idea 1: Salt Art

Materials needed

- newspaper
- white glue
- construction paper
- paint brushes
- plastic containers
- water, salt and food colouring
- plastic zipper bags
- pencils

Instructions

Put ½ cup salt into a plastic bag and add food colouring, seal the bag (making sure most of the air has been removed) and knead the bag to fully colour all of the salt. Do this for each colour that you want to make. Set the bags to one side. Mix together water and white glue in equal parts in the plastic container. Lay out newspaper in the work area. Give each child a piece of construction paper. Using the cup and jug image, have the children draw a cup and jug onto the construction paper with a pencil. Have the children draw it as large as possible to fit into the page. When they are done get them to paint some of the watered down glue onto picture and then sprinkle the coloured salt onto the glue. Continue to paint glue and sprinkle the coloured salt until the whole picture has been filled in. Once they are done have them shake off the excess coloured salt into a garbage can. Encourage the children to share today's story with their families when they show them the pictures.

Project Idea 2: Salt Painting

If your parish is a place that receives visitors with children then this response will be a good way for the children to reinforce the idea of welcoming others with the whole church community.

Materials needed

- large piece of white or art paper
- cup and jug image from end of lesson
- water colour paint, water in small containers and paint brushes
- newspapers
- pencils and marker
- salt in shakers (you will need at least 2 shakers for every 4 children)

Instructions

Cover the work with the newspapers and put out a piece of drawing paper for each child along with a pencil. For younger children you will want to sketch out the jug & cup image from the end of the lesson on the drawing paper. Have the older children draw the image themselves. When they are ready have them use the water colours provided to paint their images. As they are painting talk with the children about how we welcome people in Jesus' name by reaching out to them with simple gifts. After they have finished painting in their images, have them sprinkle salt over their water colours. Notice with the children what it does to their images. If the children want have them title their paintings with the following: **"Welcome in Jesus' Name"**. Invite the children to share today's story with their families when they show them their pictures.

Project Idea 3: Salt Bookmark

Materials needed

- salt
- cup and jug image from end of lesson
- card stock
- glue stick
- markers
- contact paper
- hole punch
- yarn
- scissors

Instructions

Copy the cup and jug image and cut it out for each child. Cut the card stock so that it is wide enough to glue on the image. Give each child the image and piece of card stock. Have them glue the image on the card stock and then print with a marker “**Welcome in Jesus’ name**” on the bookmark. Let them colour in the image with the markers. When they are done get them to outline it with the glue stick and then sprinkle salt on to the glue. At this point cut pieces of contact paper big enough to cover both the front and back of the bookmark and help the children to cover them. Then punch a hole in the top of the bookmark and string a 20 cm (8 in) piece of yarn through it and tie it off. With the children place the bookmarks into prayer books or pew Bibles at church for other members of the congregation to use and feel welcomed.

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.**

Cup and Jug Image

