

Bible background

Isaiah 11:1-9; Psalm 72

Aim of lesson

To make being in God's kingdom real to the children.

Preparation required

You will need colouring materials.

Whether you decide to tell the complete Bible narrative first, or to introduce practical activity during the story, you will find it helpful in preparation to rehearse thoroughly in your mind the vocabulary and detail you intend to use to convey the story.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Remind the class that God is going to send his Son, Jesus, back to earth. Ask what Jesus is going to do when he comes. Teach that he is going to raise the dead and decide who can be in God's kingdom. Then he is going to be king over all the world and rule the people fairly and with kindness.
2. Ask the children about things that make the children sad. Talk about what it will be like in God's kingdom, showing how all the things that make God's people sad, including the ones they have mentioned, will not be there.
3. Teach the song 'In God's Kingdom'. You may be able to add extra verses using ideas from the class.
4. Have each of the class choose a wild animal for a pet from those in the activity book. If the children do not take these home you could make a frieze with the heading 'In God's Kingdom' and saying 'John would like a pet tiger' etc, next to each animal.

Alternative activities

1. Make a collage picture of a beautiful world.
2. Using pictures from the worksheet, make cards to play pairs/snap.
3. Make 2 sets of picture symbol cards to represent different aspects of God's Kingdom e.g. no guns/war, plenty of food, no crying/pain, no one ill, fierce and tame animals living together, children playing with dangerous animals, Jesus is king.
4. Talk about what each picture represents. Play pairs and remember what each picture represents.

Relevance to the children's lives

Encourage the class to want to be in God's kingdom, and to express that desire.

Prayer

Have each child say a prayer beginning 'Father, I want your kingdom to come because ...'

Verse

'There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.' Revelation 21:4.

Song

In God's Kingdom (Tune: Kumbaya)



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| v.1 | There'll be happiness in God's kingdom | (three times) |
| | I want to be there then. | |
| v.2 | There'll be food for all in God's kingdom | (three times) |
| | I want to be there then. | |
| v.3 | No more tears or pain in God's kingdom | (three times) |
| | I want to be there then. | |
| v.4 | There'll be peace on earth in God's kingdom | (three times) |
| | I want to be there then. | |

Music: Traditional.