

Bible background

Isaiah 11:1-9; Psalm 72.

Aim of lesson

To encourage the class to want to be in God's kingdom.

Preparation required

Make one paper crown from your activity sheet for each child to put on in turn while saying what he or she would do if they were king. You will need colouring materials and perhaps foil paper, glue and sellotape.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Ask the children if they would like to be a king or queen and what they would do if they were. These answers will probably be rather selfish like 'riding in a good coach' or 'eating lots of food'. Ask what happens to the rest of the people when they have a selfish king. They become his servants and they do not have such a good life.
2. Talk about Jesus coming as king, a kind king who will help all his people to have a happy life. He is the king that God wants to rule the world he has made. Tell how he will raise the dead. You may like to remind them of some of the people they have learnt about during the year, who are now dead but who will be raised when Jesus comes again, e.g. Moses and Ruth or Jonah and Daniel as well as Jesus' friends Peter and John and people who die today. Talk to the class about the sort of king Jesus will be. Use some of the ideas from Psalm 72 to show that when he rules there will be peace all over the world and the poor people will be helped. The children will probably be able to suggest changes Jesus will make; getting rid of cruelty, crime, sickness and death.
3. Teach the song 'When Jesus Is The King'. This song is a good one to march around to, improvised drums and clapping make a good addition. After singing it once, ask for one reason why the class will be glad that Jesus is the king. If they do not suggest anything, ask what Jesus will do about people who are hungry or homeless, crippled or blind. After each point, sing the song again, marching round. You could ask each of your class in turn in this way.
4. Ask the children to make their own crown from the activity sheet. Use sweet wrappers or foil to make the jewels.

Alternative activities

1. Circle game. based on the idea of 'I went to the shop and I bought...' It will probably be best if you begin - for example:
'When Jesus is the king there will be no more fighting.'
'When Jesus is the king there will be no more fighting and everyone will be happy.'
2. Make picture cards to represent different aspects of the Kingdom e.g. food for everyone, people healed, no wars, friendly animals, everyone praising God etc. Talk about what each picture represents. If you prepare two sets of these pictures you can use them to play pairs
3. Make a collage picture of a beautiful world, happy people, wolf and lamb together etc using ideas from Isaiah 11.

Relevance to the children's lives

Ask the children to remember to pray each day this week for God's kingdom to come.

Prayer

Have each child say a one line prayer beginning 'Dear Father, I want to be in your kingdom because....'

Verse

'The LORD will be king over the whole earth.' Zechariah 14:9.

Song

When Jesus is The King (Tune: The Army Of The Lord)

Musical notation for the song 'When Jesus is The King' (Tune: The Army Of The Lord). The notation is in G major, 2/4 time, and consists of four staves. The first staff has chords G, C, G, and D. The second staff has chords C7, G, and B7. The third staff has chords Em, Am, D, Am, D, and Am. The fourth staff has chords D, C, and G.

Jesus will come and he will be king
Jesus will come and he will be king
A pow'rful king
A loving king
When Jesus is the king
When Jesus is the king
When Jesus is the king I will be glad

Flex muscles
Wrap arms around self
Clap, clap
Clap, clap

Music: Traditional.