

Sixth Sunday of Easter – year B

Preparation

Read over these: [Acts 10:44-48](#) and [John 15:9-17](#). 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/easterb6.htm>

http://www.sermons4kids.com/as_i_have_loved_you.htm

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/east6kles.htm>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/b/6Easter-b/A-6Easter-b.html>

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-bwss.htm#e6>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle and candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- White cloth
- Newsprint and markers

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.

Pray the following prayer together:

Thank you God for this new day! Alleluia!

Thank you Jesus for bringing new life! Alleluia!

Thank you Holy Spirit for coming to us! Alleluia!

Blow out the candle. Print the word FRIENDS up on the newsprint. Ask one of the readers to read it out loud to the rest of the children. Ask the children what that word makes them feel. (*Wait for their responses.*)

Then ask the children what that word makes them think about. (*Wait for their responses.*)

Explain that in today's story they will hear Jesus stretching how we think and feel about friends.

Story Time

Materials needed

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

Peter and some of his friends had left Jerusalem and gone to a place called Caesarea on the coast of the great Mediterranean Sea. They were sharing the message of Jesus and the wonderful work God did by raising him from the dead with everyone that they met. Many people came to believe and be baptized as Jesus had been.

Now some of the believers were questioning if those who were not Jews (the people of God who Jesus belonged to) could be baptized and be believers like they were.

As Peter was listening to their conversation, he started remembering something that Jesus had taught them just before his death.

Jesus taught them by saying this, “As God has loved me, so I love you. I used to call you servants but now I call you friends. If you are in my life then you are in God’s life. I have a new commandment for you. You are to love one another as I have loved you and as God has loved me. Remember that the greatest gift a person can give their friend is to lay their life down for them. So love one another and remember that as long as you abide in my love you will be in God’s love. I am telling you all of this so that you may love one another always.”

The group of people who were listening to Peter speak included Jews and those from other countries. As they were all listening the Holy Spirit came upon all the people who heard the word of God come from Peter.

Peter looked at everyone and then said, “Now can any of you say that we should not baptize these people who have already received the Holy Spirit? We need to baptize them as Jesus has commanded us. They have become our friends in Jesus and we need to love them as Jesus commanded us to love one another.”

All of the people who were there were baptized in the name of Jesus. The new followers asked Peter and his friends to stay with them for several days to continuing teaching them about Jesus and the way to follow God.

They became new friends with one another and remembered Jesus commandment to love one another as God loves Jesus and as Jesus loves his friends.

Response

Project Idea 1: Friendship Bracelet

Materials needed

- three different colours of yarn
- coloured beads with large openings
- scissors
- strong tape

Instructions

Cut the yarn into 60 cm (24 in) lengths. Give each child three different colours. Have each child pick out a bead for each of the friends who are there that day. Help them to tape the three pieces of yarn onto the table. Show the children, if they don't know how, how to braid the yarn. When they have gone a short way encourage them to string a bead onto one of the colours. Tell them that as they add each bead they could say a pray of thanks to God for their friend. Make sure that they add all their beads before they are done. Once they are done, making sure they have enough to form the note, remove the tape and help the children to make a note and then put their bracelets on. Encourage the children to remember each other in prayer as they wear their bracelets.

Project Idea 2: Prayer Cards

Prayer in a concrete form is good for all of us. These cards will help the children to pray with a special friend for each other.

Materials needed

- card stock
- friends image from end of the lesson
- fine line markers
- glue
- scissors
- glitter

Instructions

Cut the card stock into half along the short side. Make copies of the friends image so that each child has two copies. Have the children cut out the images. Have them glue the image either at the top or bottom of the short side of the card stock. Invite the children to print the following prayer on the card:

**Lord Jesus, hear our prayer
Be with our friends everyday
Help us to love each other as you love us.
Amen.**

Once they have the prayer printed on the card, get them to colour the image in with the markers. When they are finished colouring the image, get them to draw a heart with the glue sticks around the image and then to sprinkle some glitter on the heart shape. Have them shake the excess off into the trash or another container so that it can be reused. When they are done suggest that they give one of the prayer card to a special friend and pledge with their friend to pray for each other.

Project Idea 3: Easter Egg Poster – Friends

This is a continuation of a project started in the previous weeks and will be ongoing until the end of the Easter season.

Materials needed

- posters that the children started in previous weeks
- friends image at end of lesson
- scissors
- glue sticks
- markers
- glitter

Instructions

Make enough copies of the friends image at the end of the lesson so that each child has one. Give each child their own poster. Have them cut out the friends image. Have the children colour in the picture of the friends with their markers and then glue them on to the upper right of the poster. Once they have glued them on help the children to draw a heart around the image with the glue and then sprinkle on the glitter. Make sure that they shake off the excess. Remind the children that Jesus has commanded us all to love one another as friends, especially as friends of Jesus.

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:

Alleluia! Thank you God for loving us.
Alleluia! Thank you Jesus for saving us.
Alleluia! Thank you Holy Spirit for being with us.
Amen.

Easter Egg Poster – Friends



For Project idea 2, use large image

**For Project idea 3 on a large sheet of paper,
use large image**

**For Project idea 3 on 8.5" × 11" or A4 paper,
use small image**



Egg Poster – Guideline

