

## Sunday Stories for Sunday June 1, 2014

**Today's Theme:** The We All May Be ONE

### I. Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Let us pray

Dear God, as we keep celebrating Easter, we thank you that you raised Jesus from the dead and gave us new life, too. Help us to live in the way Jesus showed us, to love and serve all people. **Amen.**

*Note: You may want to take time now to go around the room and let everyone say his/her name. Some children will come every week, but often there are long gaps between visits – sharing names helps everyone feel welcome.*

### II. Lesson for the day            **John 17:1-11**

*Note for the teacher: "That we all may be one." It is easy to be cynical about this text. It seems so unlikely that we will be gathered into one agreed-upon building or even one way of worship. However, the gift is that we are all one as God's love flows out over ALL of us. We are all one as each of us sees the face of Jesus in each person we encounter. Love is who God is, and therefore, what God does. Each of us is part of this one.*

Tell the children Jesus knows it is time for him to go back to be with God. Here's what Jesus says to God: "I have done the work you gave me to do. So, God, I know it is time for me to come back to you. I have told these people all about you. They know a lot more about you now. Here's what I am asking you now. Help these people understand that it is like we are all holding hands all the people of the world in a big circle with God in the middle of them."

### III. Activity or discussion of story

This is a reverse Musical Chairs. The object is to get all the children, one by one, into the circle. Ask the children to make a circle. All together, sing this song to the tune of Mary Had a Little Lamb:

Jesus made a great big circle, great big circle, great big circle.

Jesus made a great big circle and he wants YOU in it too!

Ask one child to stand in the middle of the circle and at the conclusion of the first verse, point to one other child to join him/her in the center. Keep going until everyone is in the center. If the children are enjoying this game, play it again with another child in the middle of the circle beckoning the others to come in.

#### IV. Children's Creed

*The leader reads each line and asks the children to repeat after him/her.*

I believe in God above  
**I believe in God above**  
I believe in Jesus' love  
**I believe in Jesus' love**  
I believe in the Spirit too  
**I believe in the Spirit too**  
Who comes to tell us what to do.  
**Who comes to tell us what to do.**  
I believe that I can be  
**I believe that I can be**  
Good and true dear Lord like thee.  
**Good and true dear Lord like thee**  
**Amen.**

#### V. Prayers of the People

*The leader reads the prayers, the children respond "Lord, hear our prayer."*

With our whole heart and mind we pray to God saying "Lord, hear our prayer."

For peace and happiness all over the world, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer**

For our president, our governor, and our mayor, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer**

For anyone who is sick, tired, or lonely today, for their healing and happiness, let us pray to the Lord

**Lord, hear our prayer**

For those who have died, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer**

For anything on our hearts and minds today that we would like to share.

*(Allow children to share their prayers, have everyone respond "Lord, hear our prayer" to each petition.)*

As one people, united by God's love for us and for the whole world, let us lift our prayers to God with a big Amen. **AMEN!**

#### VI. Final Prayer

*The leader reads each line and asks the children to repeat after him/her.*

Be present, be present, dear Jesus,  
**Be present, be present, dear Jesus,**  
in our hearts and in our minds,  
**in our hearts and in our minds,**  
be known to us in the breaking of bread  
**be known to us in the breaking of bread**  
And in the ways our life is led.  
**And in the ways our life is led.**  
**Amen.**

*The leader escorts the children back to church. Please be sure each child finds his/her family. Thank you for helping our children know God more deeply today!*