

Children's Worship 3/29/2020

<p>Welcome 1 min</p>	<p>Display Power Point Slide 1 – The ArC Logo</p> <p>Welcome children to Children's Worship. Explain that we are here to worship God by singing, reading the Bible, learning about God, praying and giving offering. Introduce yourself by name every week.</p>
<p>Review Series – Lent 5 min</p>	<p>The past few months we have been learning about Jesus life on Earth. We learned about many of the people He included in His ministry and how He taught and helped everyone.</p> <p>But Jesus didn't live on Earth forever. He actually only lived to be 33 years old. At the age of 33, Jesus died, but three days later He came back to life! On Easter, we celebrate Jesus coming back to life. One way to prepare for Easter is to learn how Jesus died and came back to life.</p> <p>The church also has a time to prepare for Easter. It is called Lent.</p> <p>Display PowerPoint Slide 2 – Lent Series Logo</p> <p>During Lent, we prepare to celebrate Jesus coming back to life on Easter. One way to prepare is to learn about Easter and the events that led to Easter. We are learning how Jesus died and came back to life.</p> <p>While many people loved Jesus while He was on Earth, some people did not. Remember we said Jesus was very popular. Sometimes when a person is popular other people can become jealous of that. There were people during Jesus' time who did not like Him. They were jealous of His popularity and they were afraid He would take away their power. These people plotted to have Jesus arrested and put to death. This month we are going to learn about these events and focus on how Jesus and the people around Him responded.</p> <p>First we learned how Jesus gave the disciples, and us, a great way to remember Him. It's called Communion and Jesus started</p>

	<p>it at the Last Supper. It was the Last Supper because it was the last time Jesus would eat with his friends before He died. Last week we learned about two people who God asked to do hard things – Jesus and Judas. We learned how Judas chose to turn away from God and betray Jesus, but how Jesus chose to follow God’s will, even when it was hard. When Jesus was faced with a hard challenge He prayed to God for help.</p> <p>Today we are going to learn what happened after Jesus was arrested. We will meet two more people – Peter and Pilate – and find out what choices they made.</p>
<p>Read & Discuss Today’s Scripture Lesson – Peer Pressure: Peter & Pilate 10 min</p>	<p>Today we are going to talk about peer pressure. Let’s start with the word peer. What does peer mean? (<i>Someone who is about your age</i>) Who would be some of your peers? (<i>Classmates, teammates, friends, siblings, neighborhood kids, Sunday school classmates</i>)</p> <p>And what does it mean to pressure someone? (<i>To try persuade or force someone to do something</i>)</p> <p>So peer pressure is when your peers (your friends, classmates, teammates) try to pressure you into doing something. Peer pressure CAN be good if your peers are trying to get you to do something good, but often times peer pressure is not positive. Peer pressure can happen when a friend tries to get you to make a choice you know is wrong. Or when a group of classmates makes you feel left out if you don’t go along with what they are doing – even though you know it’s wrong. Peer pressure can get you into a pickle. You can end up doing something you NEVER thought you would because you were too scared to stand up to your peers and tell them no. Giving in to peer pressure usually means making a bad choice.</p> <p>The two people I mentioned earlier – Peter and Pilate – both faced peer pressure. We are going to read their stories and see if they stood up to the peer pressure or if they gave in and made bad choices. First, Peter.</p> <p>Peter was Jesus’ disciple and very good friend. At the Last Supper, Jesus told Peter that Peter would eventually deny Jesus</p>

– that he would eventually say he wasn't friends with Jesus. Peter said he would NEVER deny Jesus – he would ALWAYS say he was Jesus' friend! But now Jesus had been arrested. And the crowd hated Jesus. The crowd, Peter's peers, thought everyone should hate Jesus. Let's see how Peter responds.

Read Matthew 26:69-75

Let's watch a quick video of this scripture.

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8iD5luFO7-U>

When people asked Peter if he knew Jesus, what did he say?
(No)

Why do you think Peter said no? (*He was scared; It was easier to follow the crowd and not be friends with Jesus*)

Peter was SURE he would never deny being Jesus' friend. But Peter gave into peer pressure and denied even knowing Jesus. He was afraid of what the crowd would think of him if he admitted he was Jesus' friend. Peter knew he made a wrong choice and he felt terrible.

Let's see if Pilate fared any better. After Jesus was arrested, He was brought to Pontius Pilate, the governor, to be sentenced. Pilate was like the judge who would decide Jesus' punishment. The crowd wanted Jesus to be put to death. Let's see what Pilate decides to do.

Read Luke 23:1-4, 13-24

Did Pilate think Jesus was guilty of a crime? (No)

Did Pilate punish Jesus? (Yes)

If Pilate didn't think Jesus was guilty, why did he punish Jesus?
(*Because that is what the crowd wanted; he gave into the crowd*)

Pilate did not want to punish Jesus. He thought Jesus should be set free, but Pilate did not stand up to the crowd. Pilate gave into peer pressure and went along with the crowd. Pilate did something he KNEW was wrong because that is what the crowd wanted. Pilate made a bad choice because of peer pressure.

We all face peer pressure in our lives, just like Peter and Pilate did. Our friends, classmates, teammates try to pressure us into making bad choices. It can be hard to resist peer pressure. I'd like to do an experiment to see how hard it is to resist peer pressure. I need a volunteer.

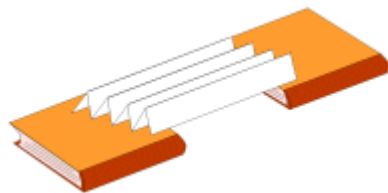
Place two Bibles (or other thick books) on a table about 6 inches apart. Place a piece of paper across the books. Have a paper cup of water on hand.

Let's pretend these books are life and this piece of paper is you. You're going about your life, trying to keep things in balance. Trying to make good decisions that keep you upright and balanced. **(Place paper across books)** And along comes peer pressure **(raise the cup)**. To volunteer: Do you think this paper, you, can hold up this cup of peer pressure? Try.

The cup will push the paper right down. Be careful that the water doesn't spill.

So what can we do? How can we resist this big, heavy cup of peer pressure?

Pick up paper and start folding it with each thing that you mention. Create an accordion. This is what it will look like at the end:



Well, we could pray and ask God to help us resist.

We could talk to a parent or teacher or pastor and ask for help

	<p>making the right choice.</p> <p>We could remember Jesus' example and follow what He would do.</p> <p>We could find friends who love God like we do and stick with them.</p> <p>We could read the Bible and find the right choices to make.</p> <p>Basically, we can get God to help us. God makes us stronger. Strong enough to resist peer pressure. Let's see if this paper, you, is strong enough now to resist this cup of peer pressure.</p> <p>Place folded paper across books. Ask volunteer to place cup on top. Paper should hold.</p> <p>Look! When we relied on God, we got stronger! (Play this up)</p> <p>When you go back to your classrooms today you will explore ways to resist peer pressure using God and Jesus as your example.</p>
<p>Offering, Song & Closing Prayer 3 min</p>	<p>Encourage children to bring offering to altar. Offering can be treasure (money), time or talent (cards completed in classroom).</p> <p>Play I Want to Be Like Jesus from Weird Animals VBS https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AGfoXDDtJvk</p>
<p>Joys and Concerns and Closing Prayer 3 min</p>	<p>Joys and Concerns were written on cards in the classrooms. Classroom teachers will have provided the cards to you when they arrived at Children's Worship.</p> <p>Share some of the Joys and Concerns with the group. Incorporate them into the beginning of the closing prayer before reading the responsive portion below.</p> <p>Read the prayer responsively. You read one line at a time and the kids repeat after you.</p>

	<p>Dear God, We want to follow Jesus' example. Help us resist peer pressure. Help us make good choices. Amen</p>
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