

# OUR FRIEND JESUS

## VISUAL AIDS

- > Picture or statue of Jesus.

## WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

*Say/sing together:*

**Alleluia, alleluia!  
Lord, increase our faith.  
Alleluia!**

A reading from the Good News given to us by Mark.  
**Glory to you, Lord.**

One sabbath day Jesus and his friends were visiting Nazareth, which is the town where Jesus had grown up. Everyone knew him and his family.

Since it was the sabbath they all went to the synagogue, where Jesus spoke to the people. They were

## DISCUSSION

Ask the children how they feel about today's story.

If they had known Jesus ever since he had been a little boy, would they have been surprised when he started to work miracles?

Do you think the people of Nazareth were fair to Jesus?

Sometimes we can be unfair to people by having a fixed idea in our

heads of what they are like.

They might not be like that. If they were once, they might have changed.

Each week when we gather together to listen to the Good News of the Gospel, we begin with a special response. First of all we welcome the Gospel with the Alleluia (which means 'Praise the Lord'); then we hear the reader say 'A reading from the Good News . . .' to which we all

## SHARING

Who is Jesus?

Encourage the children to share what they know about Jesus.

How might they find out more about him?

How do they become his friend?

Jesus is the best friend we could ever have, given to us by God our Father.

To thank God for the gift of Jesus' friendship say/sing a Gloria together.

In today's Gospel we will hear about people who thought they knew Jesus very well. Listen carefully, and see if you think they were friendly to him.

astonished by what Jesus said 'Where did he get all this knowledge and learning from? How can he work so many miracles? We've known him since he was a boy. We know his mother Mary and the rest of his family.'

They refused to believe in him and would not accept him. Jesus was amazed at their lack of faith, and could not work any miracles there.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

respond 'Glory to you, Lord'. While we say this we should cross our forehead, lips and heart.

This is to show that we do want to listen to Jesus.

That we do believe him.

That we want his words to fill our minds, our hearts, and be on our lips.

Practise the actions and prayers with the children.

## ACTIVITIES

- > On a blank piece of paper, have the children write or draw: how they will be a friend of Jesus; how they will keep Jesus in their minds and hearts, and on their lips.