

BE HAPPY! JESUS IS COMING

VISUAL AIDS

- > Advent wreath, or four candles.
- > Some beautiful objects, or pictures of some.
- > Pleasant music.

WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Light three Advent candles.

Say/sing together:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let us be ready to welcome the Lord, for he comes.

Alleluia!

In today's Gospel there will be moments when you have to say what you think comes next. Be ready!

A reading from the Good News given to us by Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord.

Because of the way John the Baptist was asking everyone, even the King himself, to change their lives, the King had him put in prison. But that did not stop John from hearing about the many wonderful things that Jesus was doing. He heard how Jesus was . . .

DISCUSSION

In prison, what gift could John still use?

- hearing, he still heard about Jesus. And what was seen and heard about Jesus?
 - that he made the blind see, etc.
- What gifts did Jesus bring?
- sight, hearing, life, etc.

How did the people feel about having these gifts?

- happy! To them this was Good News.

What gift do we receive?

- God the Father makes us a present of Jesus, so we should be happy, too. At Christmas we try to show our happiness by giving thanks to God for Jesus, and by giving presents to others to make them happy.

SHARING

Show the children the beautiful things; have them listen to the music.

Encourage them to share what it is they enjoy seeing, hearing.

All of these things are gifts from God: sight to see the beauty of the world, the gift of hearing.

What other things, activities do they like? Again, these are possible only

because God has given us the gift of bodies, arms and legs so that we can run, jump, swim, play.

Can they use these gifts if they are alone? Some they can.

Today's Gospel tells us about someone alone, because he is locked up in prison.

Have the children guess who it is.

(What do the children think John had heard?)

So John sent some of his friends to ask Jesus a question . . .

(What do the children think the question was?)

John wanted to know 'Who are you?'

Jesus replied . . .

(How do the children think Jesus replied?)

Jesus replied,

'Go back and tell John all you have

seen: that blind people see again; deaf people hear; lame people walk; lepers are healed; the dead live; the Good News is proclaimed to the poor. Anyone who believes in me is happy.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

ACTIVITIES

- > On blank paper, have the children make up thank you cards to God the Father for the present he gives us, Jesus.
- > Have the children draw pictures of the gifts that Jesus gave.
- > Have the children mime the Gospel, including miming the various healing scenes.

- > Recite this prayer together, the children repeating it phrase by phrase:

Jesus has no body now on earth, but my body.

With my feet he walks;

with my eyes he looks with love;

with my hands he blesses;

with my tongue he speaks words of comfort.