

JESUS, TOUCH MY HEART WITH LOVE

VISUAL AIDS

- > Pictures of happy people.
- > A selection of flowers, some in tight bud, some open.
- > Flower shape cut-outs.

WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Say/sing together:

**Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus saves us
and we are full of joy.
Alleluia!**

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

One day a leper came to Jesus, knelt at his feet and begged for help. Jesus felt sorry for the leper, stretched out his hand and touched him. At once the man was cured. Jesus said to him 'Don't tell anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest.'

DISCUSSION

Do the children know what leprosy is?

- a terrible skin disease. Because there was no cure for it in Jesus' time, people were very afraid of anyone with leprosy.

To prevent the disease spreading, lepers had to live outside the town. They were outcasts.

What did Jesus do for the leper?
What did Jesus ask him to do?
- not to tell anyone, to keep it a secret.
What did the leper do?
- because he was so happy, he couldn't keep it a secret!
So what was the result?
What happened to Jesus?

SHARING

Invite the children to look at the flowers. Help the children notice that some are closed, some are open. Sometimes the buds never open.

People can be like the flowers:
some are bright, cheery, and friendly;
others are mean, selfish and tightly closed on themselves.

Encourage the children to give examples of 'open' and 'closed' people.

Jesus' love in our hearts helps us to open up, to grow into being friendly people, who share what we have with others, making the world a happy place.

But the man went off and told everyone what had happened to him, spreading the news far and wide. This meant Jesus could no longer go into the towns, but had to stay outside. Even so, people came to him from all around.

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

ACTIVITIES

- > Give out the flower shape cut-outs.
- > In the centre of the shapes, have the children write 'FILL MY HEART WITH LOVE'; on the petals have them write or draw the ways in which they want Jesus to change their lives.

