

James and John

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
Mark 10:35-45

Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Pentecost 20

Lesson Focus
Jesus cares about me.



Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Center Time Kids put bandages on pretend hurts, decorate links on a class chain, and color Bible story pictures.	Coloring Pages 	Bandages, stuffed animals, baby dolls, paper strips, scissors, markers, stapler, blank paper, crayons
Circle Time Kids are welcomed with a bell, hear about the church season, and use the class-created chain to experience that no one is first—we are all equal.	Leaflets	Bell or chime, chain from the Gather activity
Prayer Time Kids rock a “baby” as they sing “Jesus Loves Me.”	None	None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)


	Spark Resources	Supplies
James and John Storytelling Leader reads aloud from the Spark Story Bible.	Spark Story Bible	None
Fill the Chair Kids act out James and John’s request to sit next to Jesus.	None	Chair
Jesus Cares Kids locate James and John with Jesus by pointing to pictures on the leaflet.	Leaflets, Lessons Stickers	None

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Jesus Is Near Kids put Jesus stickers next to pictures that show sad or scary times.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	None
Hug Time Kids hold hands and wind themselves up into a group hug.	Leaflets	Markers or crayons
Let's Talk Kids talk about the rock altar.	None	Rock altar built over the preceding weeks

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids add stones to the class altar.	Leaflets	Ziplock bags, quarter-sized polished rocks, dish, note to send home
Prayer Time Kids repeat the phrase "Jesus cares about me" as part of a class prayer.	Family Pages 	Bell or chime

 Visit www.sparksondayschool.org for more Spark content! Watch a short Lesson Prep video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find four downloadable resources for this lesson: a Coloring Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

Gather (10 minutes)

Center Time

You may choose to set up all or some of these learning centers for kids to play in as they arrive in your classroom. Have helpers in each center to help kids with the activities. Kids can stay in one center or travel to more than one.

When all kids have arrived and have time to participate in at least one center, use a small bell three times to announce the transition time.

Listen to my bell. When I ring it once (ring), it means it's time to clean up. When I ring it twice (ring twice), you should get ready to move. When I ring it three times (ring three times), come and meet your friends in the story circle.

Bandage Care

Take bandages out of their wrappers but do not remove the protective liner. Put a bandage on one of the dolls to show kids what is expected. Wear one yourself. Let each kid have one bandage. Remind them that caring for others is like caring for Jesus.

Class Chain

As you talk with the kids, cut 1-inch strips from the short side of pieces of construction paper. Give one strip to each kid to decorate. Staple the strips into a chain to use in the Circle Time activity. Have kids create extra green strips for the lectionary connection.

Coloring Center

Have coloring supplies and copies of the Spark Coloring Page available at a table for the kids to color. Be sure to help them put their names on their papers.

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Bandages
Stuffed animals
Baby dolls
Paper strips
Scissors
Markers
Stapler
Blank paper
Crayons

Circle Time

Welcome to Sunday school! Let's see who's here today. Ring the bell and say your name. Pass the bell around. Let kids ring the bell and say their name. Encourage the class to say, "**Welcome, _____ (name)!**" after each kid's turn.

Hold the leaflet for the kids to see. Point to the seasonal icon, the leafing tree.

It's green time! Pentecost! If kids created extra green strips for the Class Chain activity, add them to the class chain. Point out the Pentecost links.

Hold up the chain. **Kids, look at our class chain. Can everyone see their link? Each of us helped to put this chain together. Who made the first link? Who made the last link?**

Put the two ends together to create a circle. **Now can you tell who is first? Who is last?**

In our story today two of Jesus' friends wanted to be his best friends. They wanted to be first. Jesus told them (hold up chain), "**Let's all be friends.**"

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Bell or chime

Chain from Gather activity

Prayer Time

Wait until bodies are quiet.

Jesus—

You care about (list names of all kids present). **Thank you for caring for us. Amen.**

Have kids rock a pretend baby and sing "Jesus Loves Me" after the prayer. Singing is a way to pray, too!

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

James and John Storytelling

Is everyone ready for the story? Listen today for the names of Jesus' friends. Their names were James and John. James and John had a question for Jesus. See if you can hear it.

Take out your Spark Story Bible and open to James and John on page 336. Read the story out loud and point to the corresponding pictures. Look for Squiggles the caterpillar in each picture. Ask kids what they think Squiggles is feeling or doing. Encourage them to make a face like Squiggles.

Ask the following questions, allowing time for kids to answer.

What question did James and John ask Jesus? (*They wanted to sit next to Jesus in heaven.*) **Did Jesus say yes or no?** (*He said no. No one in heaven has a place that is more special than anyone else.*)

How can we make Jesus happy? Accept all answers. **Let's think of three ways we can help people like Jesus wants us to.**

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bible

Supplies
None

Fill the Chair

Stand next to a chair. **In our story today, James and John wanted to sit in a chair next to Jesus. Do you see my chair? It's a special chair, and it's right next to me. What if I chose only one of you to sit in this special chair?** Hold up one finger. **How would the rest of you feel?** Gesture to the whole class. **You might feel left out. You might think that I like one of you more than the others.**

Since you are all special, let's see if all of you can get on this chair. You may end up having them touch the chair with a foot and both hands, etc.

Spark Resources
None

Supplies
Chair

Jesus Cares

Invite everyone to gather around a table. Give each kid a leaflet. Point to the picture on the front of the leaflet.

Let's see what is on our leaflet today. Do you see Jesus? Point your finger on the picture of Jesus. Do you see James and John? They were following right behind Jesus. Put two fingers on the pictures of James and John. Do you see any other people? Use your finger to follow the dotted line and connect all the people into one big circle. Jesus cares about all these people, not just a few. James and John asked to be Jesus' best friends. But Jesus said, "Everyone is my friend." Since Jesus cares for everyone in the picture, let's put a big heart in the middle of everyone.

Distribute the heart stickers and help kids place them. Jesus' love is for everybody!

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

None

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Jesus Is Near

Ask kids to turn over the leaflet. **Let's look at some pictures on our leaflet. What's happening here . . . and here . . . and here?** Take time to identify and discuss the pictures. **How do we feel when . . . ?** Recap pictures. **These are all sad and scary times, but Jesus cares for us in all of these times. Let's put Jesus in the picture so that things aren't so sad or scary. Put a Jesus sticker next to the pictures that make you feel sad or scared.** Kids can put Jesus stickers next to each of the scenarios.

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

None

Hug Time

Kids, in our story today, we learned that Jesus cares for all of us. We are all Jesus' special friends.

We're going to make the world's biggest hug! Move kids into an open space. **Grab hands. I'm going to stand still. You start walking and wrap yourselves around me in a big circle Try not to let go of hands until our hug is over!**

When the hugging is done, kids can return to their leaflets and color themselves into the hug.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Markers or crayons

Let's Talk

Take the altar bowl full of rocks and dump them onto the table. **Do you remember putting the rocks into this dish? This rock pile is our class altar. It is a holy place in our classroom. That means it is special to God. Every time you come to Sunday school, you are kind to your friends here. These rocks remind me that you are kind and care for one another.**

Count the rocks out loud. **That's a lot of caring! That's a lot of love!**

How do we care for one another while we're at Sunday school? Take time for all answers.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Rock altar built over the preceding weeks

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

Place one rock and a note for parents in ziplock bags. Here is sample text for the note to send home:

ALTAR BUILDING

"Parents: In our class we have a bowl of rocks. We use the rocks to build a class altar. Today we used the bowl of rocks to remind us that Jesus cares for us. We can also care for each other. Use the rock your child brings home today to start your own "home altar." Add rocks to it every time someone in your family does something kind for another person. Leave the rocks on your kitchen table in a bowl. If someone shares a story of kindness, a rock gets added to the bowl. Old Testament believers used to leave a pile of rocks if they had a "holy" moment."

Kids, you can make an altar at home. Today we're sending home a rock for you to start your own altar. Make sure you give your rock and note to a grown-up at your home to read!

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Ziplock bags
Quarter-sized polished rocks
Dish
Note for home

Prayer Time

Teach kids the phrase “Jesus cares about me” before you begin the prayer. Explain that they are to say that phrase when they hear the bell. Practice as a class before you begin.

Jesus—

When I am at the doctor’s office (*bell*), **Jesus cares about me.**

When I am sick (*bell*), **Jesus cares about me.**

When I’m lonely and need a friend (*bell*), **Jesus cares about me.**

Thank you, Jesus, for caring about me.

Amen.

Be sure to send the leaflets and Family Pages home with kids, dismissing them as appropriate.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

Bell or chime