

## Jesus and The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

### FOR THE TEACHER:

This lesson helps kids understand the purpose of the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament) and the way of worship that Jesus gave to Israel. Both were designed to point to the coming of the Son of God in the flesh as the man Jesus Christ and to give us images to help us understand who Jesus is and what he does.

**FIRST ACTIVITY: The High Priest.** For this activity you will need a make-shift tent, robe, stuffed animal and a necklace with large beads or pearls. Before class set up a tent by using a blanket and draping it across chairs or if possible, connecting it to the wall. Explain to the kids that in the Old Testament (Lev 16) once a year on Atonement, the High Priest would go into the Holy of Holies on behalf of all of Israel and offer a sacrifice. Let the kids act out this story. Have each one take turns pretending to be the High Priest by wearing the robe and necklace and going into the tent (Holy of Holies) and placing the stuffed animal in the tent.

**Activity Lesson:** In the Old Testament, the High Priest went into the Holy of Holies to offer a sacrifice on behalf of Israel. This was a picture of what Jesus would do when he took humanity into the holy life of the Trinity.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON:** Ask for a helper to pass out a bible to each child. Have them all turn to I Timothy 2:5-6. For older kids, have them take turns reading.

*<sup>5</sup>For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time.*

**PRIMARY LESSON:** Jesus is really God (the Son) and really human, therefore he is able to bring humanity into the life God.

**SECOND ACTIVITY: Trinity Necklace.** Before class cut 4" - 6" strips of construction paper in different colors. You will need about 30 strips for each child. Have the kids each pick out 3 strips of one color and 27 strips of another color. Explain they are going to make necklaces to represent Jesus connecting us all together into the life of the Trinity. Have the kids start by gathering the three strips of the same color. These represent the Trinity (Father, Spirit, Son). One by one, link the strips together with glue. This will be the "pendant" of the necklace. Next, have the kids gather the strips of paper in the second color they picked. These links represent all of humanity. Take one strip and link it to the Jesus part

of the pendant to start creating one side of the necklace and then take a second strip and link it to the Jesus' link on the other side of the necklace. Keep adding links to each side of the necklace until it fits all the way around the child's head. Be sure and make the necklace long enough to be able to freely get it on and off their head.

Activity Lesson: Jesus connected us all together with him in the Trinity.

PRAYER: For older kids, have one of them pray this prayer (or come up with their own). For younger kids, have them repeat after you as you read the prayer.

Father in heaven, thank you for sending Jesus to bring us into the life he shares with you and the Holy Spirit. Thank you, Jesus, for bringing us into heaven with you. Holy Spirit, please help us to believe that we are the Father's children. In Jesus' name, Amen.