

As an alternative to individual level openings found in the Leader Guides, these Planning Pages include resources for large-group openings. Resources include the following:

- ▶ a reproducible outline for opening worship
- ▶ opening object lessons

After the large-group opening, students move to their level groups and continue with the rest of the lesson.

The opening leader begins each week's adventure. This leader needs the energy and confidence to work with a large group of children. The opening leader should have the ability to get kids excited about learning. The large-group leader sets the tone for the day; choose this leader—or leadership team—carefully. Because of the variety of ages involved, it is important to select a leader who communicates well with students.

ORDER OF OPENING WORSHIP

Leader and students may make the sign of the cross + in remembrance of their Baptism.

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: O Lord, in the morning You hear my voice;

C: In the morning I prepare a sacrifice for You and watch. **(PSALM 5:3)**

L: My mouth is filled with Your praise,

C: And with Your glory all the day. **(PSALM 71:8)**

L: O Lord, open my lips,

C: And my mouth will declare Your praise.
(PSALM 51:15)

L: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

C: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

BIBLE READING

CATECHISM READING

OPENING TALK

THE APOSTLES' CREED (OPTIONAL)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (SUNG OR SPOKEN)

GENERAL PRAYERS

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen. (Luther's Small Catechism)

LESSON 14 OPENING

THE PROOF ROOM—JESUS APPEARS TO THOMAS

Today, I have a picture that I would like you to tell me about. *Keep the picture hidden.* What can you tell me about it? Can you tell me what the picture has in it? *Let children answer.* It is very difficult for you to tell me about the details of my picture, isn't it? You cannot see if the picture is of a person, a building, an animal, or something else. All I have told you is that it is a picture, but I have not given you any information to describe it. For you to describe it now would likely result in a number of answers that are not quite accurate, although many of you may guess correctly that it is a picture of Jesus. *Show picture.*

If I asked you to describe my picture now that you have seen it, you would be able to do so. You could tell me about what colors are in the picture. You could tell me that it is a picture of Jesus. You could do so because the details have been shared with you, and you have seen the picture yourself.

In today's Bible lesson, we are going to learn about a man who was told about something that he did not see for himself. Listen carefully to the lesson to see what this man missed seeing. We will learn about how he reacted to not seeing and what it meant for him. As you listen to the lesson, you might consider what it was like to not know what the picture I had looked like. Ask yourself if you would have been sure of what it was if you had never seen it for yourself. This lesson will help us learn something very important about our own faith in Jesus.

The disciples knew who Jesus was because He had told them. Through His Word in the Bible, Jesus also shows Himself to us. He tells us who He is and what He has done for us. He prepares a picture through the Bible, which describes Him to us as our Lord and Savior. By faith, we are able to see Him and believe in Him as the disciples did. With Peter, we are able to confess that Jesus is the Christ.

Pray: Lord Jesus Christ, thank You for showing Yourself to us as our Savior. Amen.

LESSON TEXT

John 20:19–31

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus died and rose from the dead for us.

FAITH FOCUS

The Second Article (Part 3)

LAW & GOSPEL

I sin when I rely on human reason instead of God's Word.

The Holy Spirit gives me eyes of faith to believe that Jesus died and rose for my salvation.

BIBLE VERSE

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. John 20:29

VISUAL HELPS

Picture of Jesus