

Farewell Friend **(Depart: God Sends Us into the World)**

Purpose: Closing the class time and sending forth each child in God's name.

The way you end a session is as important as the way you begin. Use this time to draw together the loose ends of the experience, in an act of worship and sending forth. The closing prayer should include what was learned. This is the time to transition from the hour gathered together that has been sacred time and holy space and get ready to head back out into the world as changed people of God!!

Each team member will read the Scripture, the lesson, and spend time in prayer prior to arriving to lead the children on Sunday. The person your team has chosen to serve as Team Initiator communicates with all of the adults so that everyone on the team knows the general plan and Scripture theme for the lesson. This way each component of the lesson – ABCD – is in harmony and each adult has a meaningful role to play so that the children can hear how God may be speaking to them.

Your time together in group on Sunday mornings is Worship Time in Holy Space.

The following are Closing Prayer that you may use; any of these ideas can be modified or shortened. You may want to try using the same closing each week for a sustained period of time.

Closing Prayers

We thank you, O God, for this time to pray
For the songs and the stories that teach us your way.
We smile as we leave 'cause all of us know
That you will be with us wherever we go!

We thank you, O God, for this time to pray,
for the songs and the stories that teach us your way.
We know that you call us, and help us to grow,
may we share your love, wherever we go. Amen.

Hebrew Blessing

May God bless you and take care of you;
May God be kind and gracious to you;
May God look on you with favor and give you peace.

May the Lord Jesus Christ, who walks on wounded feet,
Walk with you to the end of the road.

May the Lord Jesus, who serves with wounded hands, help you to serve each other.
May the Lord Jesus, who loves with a wounded heart, be your love forever.
Bless God wherever you go, and may you see the face of Jesus
in everyone you meet. *(Bishop Matthew's blessing)*

Conversational Closing Prayer

-
Farewell Friend: May God go with you as you leave this place.
Child: May God bless you till we meet again.
or
FF: Go in peace and joy.
Child: To share peace and joy.
or
FF: May you feel God's love everywhere you go.
Child: May you show God's love in everything you do.

Group Hug

-
Everyone stands in a circle, holding hands, then with hands still held, lift them overhead, stepping forward. Then lower arms around behind. Everyone will then be standing very close for a MIGHTY hug!

Passing the Peace

The person beginning turns to the person next to them. With hands folded (as if in prayer) they say "PEACE BE WITH YOU." The second person places their hands around the first person's hands and says "AND ALSO WITH YOU."

Passing a Love Message

Hold hands in a circle. Starting on your right, smile and gently squeeze the child's hand you are holding, then relax your grip. That child then turns, smiles, and gently squeezes the hand of the next child to the right, and then relaxes. Continue around the circle until everyone has smiled and squeezed. If it's going well, reverse and go around the opposite direction. End with "AMEN."

Closing Benediction

Dear God,
help us to show we belong to you by making peace with our words,
making peace in our homes, making peace in our hearts, making peace in our world.
Amen.

May the light of God surround us,
the love of God enfold us,
the power of God protect us,
the spirit of God dwell in us,
now and for always. Amen.

God, be with us this we pray.
May your light guide us in work and play.
We thank you for Jesus who teaches your way,
bringing us closer to you every day.
Amen.

Shalom (can be sung or said)

Shalom my friends,

Shalom my friends,
Shalom, Shalom,
**May peace be with you,
God's peace be with you.
Shalom, Shalom.

**or
'til we meet again,
'til we meet again,
Shalom, Shalom.

Compiled from "Whole People of God" resource books

Child of God (sung)

Child of God, go in peace
God is with you always.
Child of God, go in peace,
God will always love you.

Prayers for Benediction Time

The work we do is only our love for Jesus in action.
And that action in our wholehearted and free service – the gift to the poorest of the poor- to Christ in the distressing disguise of the poor.

If we pray the work...
 If we do it to Jesus
 If we do it for Jesus

If we do it with Jesus....
That's what makes us content.

That is why I feel the Missionaries of Charity are real contemplatives in the heart of the world.

I do this because I believe I am doing it for Jesus.

I am very sure that this is his work.

I am very sure.

I am very sure that it is he and not me. *Mother Teresa*

God be in your head, and in your understanding.

God be in your eyes, and in your looking.

God be in your mouth, and in your speaking.

God be in your heart, and in your thinking.

God be at your end, and at your departing. *Sarum Liturgy, England, 13th century*

"Be God's" -- Rich Mullins

Go now to smuggle God into your world, holding tight the hands of those with whom you share the way: children, parents, friends, colleagues, Christ.

May your life show forth God at every turn;

May your heart and your road be ablaze with holy fire. Amen!