“Today we are going to talk about a big word – abundance. Does anyone know what the word abundance means? “

Allow for a few comments. If you get a good “definition,” affirm and move on to the illustration. Otherwise, say something like: “I think you already understand the idea behind the word – let’s see if I’m right, ok?”

Have prepared at least three sets of “opposites” – one to demonstrate abundance, the other lack of abundance. For example, fill a jar with jelly beans or M & M’s. Put only one or two pieces of candy in the other jar. Other options include: spare change, cotton balls, beans, small stones – anything that easily demonstrates “lots” vs. “little.”

Show first set of opposites, and then ask which jar the kids would rather have. Ask why. When they give a satisfying answer (we want the one with more!), affirm them and move on to the next set of “abundance opposites,” repeating the process twice more.

“You all are very smart! You definitely understand what the word abundance means. Does anyone know why we are talking about abundance today?”

“In our Bible story, we learn that when we know and love Jesus, we can have abundant life with him.”

Have prepared a poster board with two empty jars drawn on it. Label them “life without Jesus,” and “life with Jesus.” Also have a variety of markers available for you to write words/symbols in different colors as the kids name them.

“Here we have two jars, one that is “life without Jesus,” and the other is “life with Jesus.” What kinds of things might be in our life with Jesus jar? What kinds of things might be part of living abundantly with Jesus?”

Hopefully the kids will name things like: love, peace, kindness, hope, sharing, respect, etc. You may have to encourage their line of thought a bit if they don’t understand.

Closing prayer: “Giving God, thank you for sending us Jesus. Help us remember to love Jesus, be friends with him, and try to make choices that Jesus would also make. We want to live abundantly with Jesus! Amen.”