

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Seventh Sunday in Easter
Gospel Lesson for Adults

Scripture: John 17:20-26

"Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again." An astounding discovery! The Easter news was spread to all who would listen. The disciples told people, who in turn, told people, and to this day, we hear the message — a message of weeping and then of joy that comes with the morning of a new day. We too like the disciples weep **AND** then delight in the joy bursting forth in us. We too are called to bring this message with our lives, and, if necessary, with words, to those who have not yet heard it.

A Notation for This Week's Gospel

One. Not diluted to a monotonous sameness. One. The abundance of diversity and people choosing to be together. One. Each of us, all of us, with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. The Trinity, sufficiently huge, invites each one of us in.

Theme: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Before Class: You will be inviting the group to do an art response as one last way to unpack the Scriptures, so you will need to gather supplies for a collage. Look around your house and the church for scraps of bright material, small pieces of gift-wrap, magazines, tissue paper, construction paper, copy paper in assorted colors, ribbon or string, or other art supplies you might have on hand. You will also need glue, glue sticks, scissors, and plain paper on which to glue all the pieces and you are ready. If you have it, cardstock or poster paper will make a sturdier base.

Beginning: Tell the group that we have been responding to the Gospel primarily in words — and today we are going to try another response as we are each invited to respond in images. You may feel a bit hesitant to create images, or engage in art, however, this is your response and so we invite you to create in whatever way you are being called. We will be making a collage — bits of cloth or paper glued to create the concept of diverse people all at one. We will read the scripture and look for images. If the collage idea is not speaking to you, maybe you could write or journal your response.

Opening Prayer: God, we thank you for creating us and calling us to be wildly diverse as a people of God. Help us to see our diversity and our unity as a gift from you. Amen.

The Scripture: John 17: 20-26. Invite one volunteer to read the entire passage. Then allow a few minutes of silence before asking another person to read the entire passage. The second time through, you may want to read it from a more contemporary version like the Message that will make the abstract language a bit more clear.

The Process: Create a Collage

Our Gospel reading today invites us to think about how we are at one with each other, and at the same time, we are the individuals God created us to be. Invite the group to look through the materials that you brought and see which pieces or materials interest them. Invite them to create a collage that speaks to our unity, diversity, and uniqueness. How will we show where God is? Where Jesus is? Where the Holy Spirit is moving and empowering us? How can we show yourself, the church community, the wider community, the wider church, the world?

As you work, you can discuss what you hear in this passage or you can turn on some quiet music and let people work.

Getting Closure: As your time comes to a close, invite people to briefly share what they have created, what they heard, or how reflecting on the Gospel in this way worked or didn't work for them.

Closing Prayer: Gracious God, we thank you for the gift each of us, for our uniqueness, for our unity, and for your movement among us. As we go into the world, help us to see, feel, and experience where you are moving among us. Amen.

John 17:20-26

20 'I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word,²¹ that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.²² The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one,²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.²⁴ Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

25 'Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me.²⁶ I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.'

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