

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 10
Lesson Plans for Older Children

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

We remain Easter people, now with the wind of the Holy Spirit in our sails. Our task for the months ahead in this season of Ordinary Time, which extends to the end of November, is to look at what Jesus so tenaciously taught his disciples and see what is in these teachings for us as we carry out the work we have been given to do. Jesus promised his disciples a helper, an Advocate, who would stand with them making the work possible. This same helper, the Holy Spirit, hovers over us still eager to quench the fire of fear and replace it with the powerful energy of love.

A Notation for this Week's Gospel

Often our task as we explore the Word, is to listen to a story we have heard before — maybe even many times before — and listen to it as if for the first time. Today, with a fresh look at the story of the Good Samaritan, we ask: Who are the marginalized people in our community? Who is the one who shows mercy in our community? Where have we felt the wind blowing us to "Go and do likewise?"

Theme: Go and do likewise

Before Class: Read through the lesson plan and decide what option you want to choose. You will need enough copies of the scripture, paper and pencils, and possibly some costumes or props if you have them on hand.

Beginning: Tell the children to be thinking of this question that a man asked Jesus: "And who is my neighbor?" Tell them we have the story Jesus told that helps us notice who are neighbors to us.

Opening Prayer: Jesus, you teach us to love God with everything we have and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Help us as we try to do this. Amen.

The Story: Luke 10: 25 - 37 Some information that will be helpful, if the children do not know: The road from Jerusalem to Jericho was known to be a very dangerous route, with robbers lurking at all times. Samaritans were outcasts in Jesus time, looked down on, shunned, considered the scum of the earth. Priests, of course, were held in high regard; Levites were very well-respected.

Tell the children that you are going to read the story and ask them to list people, words, or actions that stood out for them as you read the story. (pass out scrap paper for them to make notes)

Questions:

- I wonder, what are some aspects of this story that would have shocked the lawyer? (Perhaps the lawyer would have understood that both the priest and the Levite would not think they

needed to risk stopping on this dangerous road. But a Samaritan cast as the good guy? That would be shocking.)

- Let's list all the things the Samaritan did for the man. (As the children name things list them on the board or easel paper. He stopped; he administered first aid; he put the man on his own donkey, meaning he would have to walk; took him to an inn; took care of him; and even paid for the man's lodging after he would go on, promising to make up any difference with the innkeeper when he came back.)
- If someone had asked you, earlier this morning, for a definition of a neighbor, what might you have said? (The people who live in the house next door? Other kids at school?)
- Who do we think Jesus would say is our neighbor here in our town? (Draw out of the children the more invisible people in our community: the homeless, old people, who else?)

Activity:

You have a couple of options; you will need to decide which you are comfortable using. Both involve acting out the story. Option One is to keep the setting in Jesus' time, dealing with the fact that Samaritans were the outcasts of Jesus' time. Option Two would be to set it in our town, this year, and have the children decide what modern-day take on this story might be. Have paper and pencils there for them to write out a script or ideas. If you have access to costumes or props you may want to have those out as well. If you have a larger group, you could split them into two groups and have them do both options.

Option One: Invite the children to act out this passage as it is written. If there are insufficient children to play all the parts, suggest that some children take more than one part. Offer the children the option of using speaking parts or presenting the play in pantomime.

Option Two: Work with the children to do a modern-day take on this story. Who would play the Samaritan, who would play the man who gets robbed and beaten? Who would be the people that would pass by and why would they pass him by? What reasons would they give for not helping?

When they have created their story (either the Parable of the Good Samaritan or the Modern-Day parable), invite them to perform their story.

Getting Closure: Ask the children to share what they noticed in this play. Be sure they understand that Jesus told this particular story to a man who was pretty sure of himself. Do you think that a story that makes us uncomfortable helps us to be more aware of the needs of others?

Closing Prayer: Keep us, O Lord, mindful of who our neighbors are and how we are to treat our neighbors. Help us to reach out to those in need. Amen.

Luke 10:25-37

25 Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher,’ he said, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’²⁶ He said to him, ‘What is written in the law? What do you read there?’²⁷ He answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.’²⁸ And he said to him, ‘You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.’

29 But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’³⁰ Jesus replied, ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead.³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.³³ But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity.³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, “Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.”³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?’³⁷ He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise.’

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