

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 10
Lesson Plans for Younger 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: The children will be acting out the story of the Good Samaritan so bring whatever you have at hand as a medical kit: could be lengths of white material, could be a tube of hand lotion, could even be facial tissue. Bring play money, or even a handful of coins, and you are set. You might need paper and crayons.

Beginning: Tell the children we have a story about a man who needed some help and invite them to help you tell the story. If there are fewer children than parts for the story, tell them they can take more than one part.

Praying: 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. A man asked Jesus, "Just who is our neighbor? Who are the people we are supposed to help?" So Jesus said, "I have a story to tell you. Once upon a time, there was a man. He had to travel far from his home on business. He was coming back one night and some really bad guys hit him, took all his money, and then beat him up. They left him by the side of the road."

Who wants to be the guy who got hurt and is lying by the side of the road? (Once the child who is going to be hurt is lying and moaning by the side of the road, you can continue.)

Jesus continued, "While the man was lying there, hurting so very badly, and moaning, a person came by. This person saw the man, crossed over to the other side and just kept on going."

Who will take that part? (Thank this actor and tell them they can sit down.)

Another person came by and the man lying by the road sat up a bit in hopes this one would stop. (Who is going to be this person for us?) This person ALSO crossed the road and kept right on going. (Thank you, second person.)

The man by the side of the road was just about to give up all hope when along came a person we call The Good Samaritan. (Who is going to be that man for us?) That person, the Good Samaritan, saw the hurting man and stopped. This person bandaged up the man's wounds. Lets see what we have in this box to give to the Good Samaritan. (Provide what you have brought.)

The Good Samaritan helped the man get up, walked gently with him, and took him to a motel. (We need someone to be the motel owner. While the children are deciding who that person should be, hand The Good Samaritan the money you have brought.)

The Good Samaritan told the motel owner to let this man stay there until he was well enough to go on to his home. The Good Samaritan gave the motel owner a bunch of money and told him that if there not enough money, he would pay him some more the next time he came by.

Activity: Tell the children you would like them to tell you this story, acting it out — maybe with different children in the parts. Tell them you will be the audience and watch the play. If they get stuck, you can help them remember what happens next.

Activity: If you still have time, invite the children to either draw a picture of the story, or to make a picture of the ways that we help each other each day. Help them brainstorm: Who are the helpers in our community? Who are the people that help us? Who can we go to for help if we need it? How can we help the people around us?

Invite the children to share their pictures.

Getting Closure: Sit in a circle. Invite the children to tell you their favorite part of the story. Tell the children they can now tell this story to their parents. Invite them to name something they may have learned today.

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.

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