

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 18
Lesson Plans for Younger Children

Scripture: Luke 14:25-33

Choices: What situation do we find ourselves, right here and now, in which we have a choice? What is preventing us from making it? Are possessions, in fact, possessing us? For some of us the choice might be to rearrange our priorities, even make a career change, or maybe it is to faithfully deal with what is on our plate. For all of us, Jesus invites us to follow him.

A Notation for This Week’s Gospel

What is the cross we are called to carry as a disciple of Jesus? What are we being called to take on? Jesus invites us to carefully consider the cost before choosing to carry this cross. We might begin by considering how our possessions get in the way.

Theme: Considering the cost of the cross

Before: The focus of this Early Fall Session is on what is involved in responding to Jesus' love. To help children see the cross as the container for what Jesus did and taught, the suggestion is that you create a cross large enough for children to carry (the cross cut from a sheet of foam core or even poster board) and decorated with the children's drawings each week. Today you can put the words "Jesus Loves All of Us" on the cross. You can cut letters from construction paper and let the children decorate the letters and then glue them onto the cross. You could position the word Jesus vertically on the top part of the cross, "Loves" positioned horizontally on the cross piece, and "All of Us," vertically on the bottom part of the cross. (If you have a Christ the King celebration on November 21, the cross could be a part of the celebration.) You will also need glue sticks or white glue.

In addition, if this is the first time you meet with the children be sure to have a get acquainted game ready. For ideas on getting acquainted, look at the Resources page for the “Get to Know You” activities (<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/lessons/resources/>) of Lesson Plans that Work. You may also choose to make name tags for the children, unless they all know each other and you know them.

Beginning: Play the get acquainted game you have chosen. Tell the children that you are going to make a cross, together, and decorate it each week.

Praying: Thank you, Jesus, that you love us and teach us how to do our work. Amen.

The Story: Jesus was walking along and a great big crowd of people came along with him. They wanted to hear what he was saying. Jesus was telling them: Out of all the things in your life one thing is the most important. And that is following Jesus. You have to find out what Jesus wants you to do and then follow Jesus. He said: you have to carry your cross and follow me. You have to put Jesus first.

Activity: In today's story, Jesus reminds us how important it is to follow in the ways he has given us. Jesus tells us to carry the cross, which is a reminder to live how Jesus taught us to live and remain faithful to God's teachings. Today, we are going to make a cross and each week we can put something about the story we hear on the cross. The cross we make will help us remember the stories we hear.

Invite the children to decorate the letters spelling "Jesus Loves All of Us" that you have previously cut out.

Option: If you have time, you can invite the children to make their own crosses to take home. Invite them to decorate it with things that remind them about God and Jesus. There is a template below.

Getting Closure: Remind the children that they will be decorating this cross for the weeks to come. Sing all together: "Jesus Loves Me." Work with the children to glue the letters on the cross.

Closing Prayer: Thank you, Jesus, for loving us and for showing us what we can do for you. Amen.

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