

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 27**  
**Lesson Plans for Older Children**

**Scripture: Luke 20:27-38**

In the final 6 weeks of this Lectionary Year C, a firm and hopeful tone soars in Jesus' teachings in a rich symphony of themes. The background music of the Hebrew Scriptures holds the notes of the new covenant — a law written in our hearts rather than codified in legal structures — The Spirit poured out, a vision for the appointed time, God with us, a new heaven and a new earth, and a branch from the tree of David — the remnant gathered. We can believe that Jesus heard this cosmic music as he distilled his huge message to the disciples.

**A Notation for This Week's Gospel**

Jesus refuses to climb into the little boxes people try to create to contain him. Where are we stuck in our little boxes, too afraid to risk the freedom Jesus offers?

**Theme: The Right Answer to the Wrong Question**

**Beginning:** Tell the children that in today's story, we have a question put to Jesus by some Sadducees. The Sadducees did not believe in resurrection and believed when you died, that would be THE END. Tell the children to notice the answer Jesus gives to their question.

**Opening Prayer:** Loving God, thank you for the answers you give us and for those answers you leave for us to discover on our own. Amen.

**Scripture: Luke 20: 27-38** Invite children to read the scripture for today. You can divide it into two parts having one reader for verses 27-33 and another for 34-38. Alternatively, you can use the script below and invite a reader for the Narrator, Sadducees, and Jesus.

**Questions:**

- I wonder why the Sadducees asked their question? (Since they did not believe in the resurrection, they hoped to create a question that one who did believe in the resurrection would have a hard time answering.)
- What would you say was Jesus' answer to their question? (You are not asking the right questions.)
- What does Jesus say will happen for people in the resurrection? (See verse 36.)
- What examples did Jesus give them? (Verse 37.)
- I wonder what example we have that they did not yet have? (The resurrection appearances of Jesus after the crucifixion.)

**Activity:** Describing something to someone who has not experienced it.

Invite the children to think of something they can act out, and you pretend not to have ever experienced it. For example, perhaps they decide to act out a baseball game. Ask questions of each thing they offer. For example, if they say the game is played with a baseball and a bat, asked them to describe a baseball, describe a bat. Maybe they will pretend to be taking pictures with a digital camera, or talking on a cell phone. Whatever they choose ask as many questions as

you can think of to help them see how hard it is for people to visualize something they have not experienced.

**Getting Closure:** After each child has had a chance to describe what others have not seen, invite them to think about a time when they did not understand something until they saw it. Invite them to share what that was like. I wonder what it feels like when we have the ah-ha moment of discovering something? I wonder if, sometimes, things make more sense to us when we experience them for ourselves, or see them for ourselves? I wonder, then, how you might describe God?

If you have time, invite them to journal or draw how they would describe God or Jesus to others.

**Closing Prayer:** Loving God, we thank you for sending Jesus to us so that we might experience you in a new way. Open our eyes to you and help us find words to describe you so that others may come to know you too. Amen.

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### Luke 20:27-38

**Narrator:** Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus<sup>28</sup> and asked him a question,

**Sadducees:** ‘Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother.<sup>29</sup> Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless;<sup>30</sup> then the second<sup>31</sup> and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless.<sup>32</sup> Finally the woman also died.<sup>33</sup> In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.’

**Narrator:** Jesus said to them,

**Jesus:** ‘Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage;<sup>35</sup> but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage.<sup>36</sup> Indeed they cannot die any more, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection.<sup>37</sup> And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.<sup>38</sup> Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.’

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