

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 28**  
**Lesson Plans for Younger Children**

**Scripture: Luke 21:5-19**

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**

It's not about stuff, Jesus is telling us. It is about a new thing God is doing. It is not about buildings, even our churches. Buildings will not last. It is our commitment to God that is the source of our endurance.

**Theme: Faithful to God Who is Faithful To Us**

**Before:** This passage was clearly addressed to adults. One of the responsibilities of adults is to ensure for children an environment in which they can be who they are and begin to grow into who they will become. One of the gifts the child has for the adult is the ability to see new things that adults may either miss or have become too jaded to notice. Two options are suggested: one can be done inside, the other outside, if weather and your situation permit. You will need lots of sheets of white paper, a pencil, and crayons.

**Beginning:** Today we have a story about some of God's favorite things. Together we can look for some of God's favorite things.

**Opening Prayer:** Thank you, God, for all of your favorite things that make our world so beautiful. Amen.

**The Story:** Jesus and his friends were standing outside the Temple. The Temple was their great big, huge, beautiful place to worship, like our churches. People had worked for years to build this huge place to worship, and everyone thought it was wonderful. Then Jesus said something they thought was very strange. Jesus said, yes this is a beautiful temple, but one day it will fall down. Temples are okay things, but they are not God's favorite things. God's favorite things are people who love God. God's favorite things are all the beautiful things in our world. God's favorite things are words, the things we say. In the story today Jesus tells us that God gives us words.

**Option:** Tell the children we are going to think about words we like to say: words that taste good on our tongues, words that sound funny on our ears, and words we can draw pictures about. Offer the children a word that tastes good to you (pick your own examples of a word like cinnamon or alleluia) or a word that sounds funny on your ears (again, you pick a word like asparagus or hippopotamus). Write the words the children offer, each word on a separate sheet of

paper. You might ask them what they think of words like amen, wind, water, bread, wine, grace or any other words they might hear in our liturgy. When you have a stack of pages, ask the children which word they want and ask them to draw what that word looks like to them. Be sure to put one of the words on the cross.

**Option:** If weather and your situation permit, take the children on a walk to notice some of God's favorite things. Take a notebook to jot down what they notice. Trees, flowers, if any are blooming, and the place that is holding the seed for next year's flowers, bugs if you see any, or can remember any. The air we breathe, the clouds overhead. When you get back inside, read back to the children what you wrote down and invite them to draw what they saw, adding other favorite things if they want. You will also want a drawing to put on your cross.

**Getting Closure:** Invite each child who wants to do so to tell about his or her drawing.

**Closing Prayer:** Thank you, God, for your favorite things that make our world so beautiful. Amen.

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