

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year B – Season after Pentecost, Proper 10**  
**Lesson Plans for Younger Children**

**Scripture:** Mark 6:14-29

**Background:** During this “Ordinary Time” our lives may well include exceptionally un-ordinary events, such as births and deaths. As we take this journey, nourished by the scriptures appointed for the season and empowered by our baptisms, we are invited to be on the lookout for all the blessings found in the ordinary – to see God at work here and now. And we are compelled to share our blessings with others.

**A Notation for This Week’s Gospel**

A birthday party, a fancy banquet -- Herod is having a grand time. A beautiful woman dances. Herod flamboyantly promises her whatever she wants in gratitude for her dance. She wants what? Herod is stuck with his promise; his decision has consequences. John the Baptist's death casts a shadow across the hearts of the disciples of Jesus.

**Theme: Blessed**

**Before Class:** Our focus today is a departure from the lectionary gospel, since the story of the beheading of John the Baptist is not appropriate for young children. Therefore, if you are combining young and older children, we would suggest you use this lesson plan for younger children.

You will need the paper bag with samples of craft items the children may have made during the past 6 weeks to provide you with the props for an instant review. If you have the supplies needed to make more, assemble them and have them with you. In addition, it would be good to have sidewalk chalk if you have older children with you and can go outside. If you will be outside, bring along a picnic blanket to sit on. Also, tissue paper and chenille stems will be needed.

**Beginning:** Invite the children to sit in a circle. Ask them if they did anything fun over the last week.

**Praying:** Thank you, Jesus, for the time we are having together this summer, for the friends you send us to share with and for the stories about you that we have explored. Amen.

**The Story:** If your group did not meet on the Sunday of any of the stories below, either skip it or briefly tell the story using the lesson plan or your own storytelling method.

**(Pentecost) A Bubble Wand and a Bottle of Bubble Liquid:** When we blew on the wands, we made wind to make bubbles. Can anyone remember what that "wind" reminded us about? Can anyone remember what the word “Pentecost” means? Remember that the friends of Jesus were so excited they thought they could see fire over each other's head. Take some time to play with the bubbles, especially if the older children had not had the chance. Go outside, if you can!

**(Trinity Sunday) Three Chenille Rings Intertwined:** Ask the children who the three circles remind us of. Tell them one is God the Father, and ask who another one is. If they guess Jesus, see if you can get them to remember that the third part of the Trinity is the Holy Spirit. If you have sufficient chenille stems, the younger children can show the older ones how to make these symbols. Then have one child clasp his or her hands out in front as if hugging a tree, then the next child links his or her arms through that child's arms and then clasps his hands. A third child completes the symbol. Keep going until each child has had a chance to participate.

**(Proper 7) The Felt Pillow:** Ask the children who was asleep in a boat while the other men in the boat were scared because their little boat was tossing in the storm. Who was the one who slept through it all? Ask the children to act out the story for you. If you can go outside, take a picnic blanket with you to serve as a boat.

**(Proper 8) Flowers:** Ask the children if they remember who was sick and then got well when they were touched by Jesus. This happened to two people: a woman, and a little girl. Ask for volunteers to act out the story of the woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment and the little girl who got up and had a snack after being so sick her Daddy thought she was going to die. If you have time, the children can make flowers out of tissue paper and chenille stems. They can give the flowers to someone or keep them to remember to pray for someone who is sick.

**(Proper 9) A Friendship Bracelet:** Ask the children if they can remember the story about Jesus that went with the friendship bracelet. Give them the hint of "two-by-two." Ask if they can remember what Jesus told his friends to take with them when they went out to tell the story. Two children can act out the part of two friends and come to tell us the story. The rest of the group can first tell them to go away, shut the door, and choose not to listen. Ask if they remember what Jesus told them to do with their sandals if no one would listen. Then ask the two children to come again, and this time have the other children welcome them. You could also make more friendship bracelets using chenille stems and beads.

**Getting Closure:** Snacks would be good for closure, or the children could take the sidewalk chalk and draw pictures of stories they had explored.

**Closing Prayer:** Thank you, God, for this time we have had together. Thank you for (name each child present). Amen.

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