

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C—Advent 4
Lesson Plans for Younger Children
RCL Old Testament Readings—Track One

Scripture: Micah 5: 2-5a

Background: This is the fourth Sunday of Advent, the four weeks that prepare us for Christmas. Advent means “coming” and the One who is coming is the messiah, Jesus. We remember and celebrate Jesus’ birth and we make ourselves ready for the time that Jesus will come again, when God will make all things new. The stories we hear in this season are from the prophets, who bring us messages of great hope and deep joy as we wait and watch and wonder.

A Notation for This Week’s Reading: God’s Chosen One will be from the House of David.

Theme: The Good, Peaceful Leader Comes

Before Class: Collect materials to build a small town with: cardboard boxes, toilet paper rolls, and cartons, craft glue, tempera paint, a base of cardboard or foam core. You could also use a large cardboard carton as a base to draw on with markers and build your town with wooden blocks.

Beginning: Prepare your gathering/prayer space with a blue or purple cloth, whichever color your church uses in Advent. For the four weeks of Advent and two weeks of Christmas, you will need an Advent wreath and a white Christ Candle, or four votive candles and a pillar candle, matches and a candel snuffer. A chime is helpful to mark transitions but not necessary.

Opening Prayer: In this season of Advent, we light candles to remind us that Jesus, the light of the world, is coming. Holy God, help us get ready. Let our love of Jesus shine brightly in all that we do. Amen.

The Story: **Micah 5: 2-5a**

A reading from the prophet Micah:

It’s you, Bethlehem! You’re the tiny town from which the leader of Israel will come. He comes from a distinguished and ancient family. His people have been wandering for a while, but they will come home soon. And they will be well fed and cared for when their strong, good leader is with them. Then, they’ll live in a safe place, because their leader will be honored all over the world as a peacemaker.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder how it feels to wait for a strong, good leader?
- I wonder what it means to be a peacemaker?
- I wonder how we can be peacemakers at home? At school? In the world?

Activity: Invite the children to build a town—a good, safe place— together. Could it be Bethlehem? What do they need in their town? Who will live there? Where will people learn together, worship, play, work? Are there homes for everyone? Where will people go who are sick or need help?

Getting Closure: Working together, solving problems, creating something like this town we have built, we are peacemakers. We are following the Prince of Peace, Jesus.

Closing Prayer: Ask the children to repeat after you:

Dear God, (Dear God,)
We thank you for the prophets (we thank you for the prophets)
Who give us words (who give us words)
Of hope and joy (of hope and joy)
As we wait (as we wait)
For the coming of Jesus. (for the coming of Jesus.)
Amen. (Amen.)

*Scripture from “God’s Word, My Voice: A Lectionary for Children” by Lyn Zill Briggs.
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*Published by the Office for Formation and Vocation Ministries of the Domestic and Foreign
Missionary Society, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.*

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