

**Episcopal Migration Ministries**  
**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C – Third Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**Gospel Lesson for Younger Children**

**Scripture: Luke 4:14-21**

**Background:** This is the third in a four-part series focusing on refugee resettlement through Episcopal Migration Ministries. Today’s lesson focuses on our baptismal ministry to proclaim the Good News of God in Christ, to seek and serve Christ in all persons, and to respect the dignity of every human being.

**Theme: The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me**

**Before Class:** Two Sundays ago, children created artwork to describe what makes them special and what they are good at doing. This week, gather similar materials that were used two weeks ago: paper, markers, newsprint to hang onto the wall and any art supplies you may want to use. Children will express, through art, what kind and caring things they can do for their newest neighbors, including refugee students who may go to their schools.

**Beginning:** In today’s Gospel, Jesus reads from a book in the Bible called the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. After he reads, he says, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” Today, we’ll explore what that means and how we can share God’s love with our newest neighbors.

You may want to take a moment to remind children about your discussion of refugees two weeks ago, including the idea of human migration and why some people might move. Some people move in search of jobs and a better life for their families. Some people are forced to move for their own safety. Refugees are people who are forced to move for their safety; if they stayed in their homeland, they may be hurt very badly by people who do not want them there. Some refugees are able to return to their homes after some time, but many are never able to return home. A small number of those refugees are able to resettle in the United States. The Episcopal Church helps refugees to resettle in the United States through Episcopal Migration Ministries. Episcopal Migration Ministries resettles over 5,000 refugees annually from places like Nepal, Burma, Afghanistan, Iraq, Congo, and many other countries that are not safe for them.

If you would like to teach the children a little bit more about particular groups of people The Episcopal Church and other resettlement agencies resettle, you can find up to date statistics on the status of refugees in the world using this link: <http://www.unrefugees.org/>. Finally, if you have time, research the status of refugees in your community. Use the EMM network affiliate map to identify a resource in your area: <http://bit.ly/1swkPif>.

**Opening Prayer:** Dear God, Help us learn how we can share your love with our newest neighbors. Amen.

**The Scripture: Luke 4:14-21** Retell the story of the Gospel reading. Explain to the children that, in Nazareth, Jesus went to the synagogue, which is a house of prayer for the Jewish people, to read the Bible and to pray. He stood up in the synagogue and read from a book called the Book of Isaiah that is written by the prophet Isaiah and is in the Bible. Jesus read, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” Later, he said, “This scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

**Reflection Questions:**

- Help the children understand the meaning of the words that Jesus read from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. Ask them questions and help them imagine what Jesus meant by bringing good news to the poor, release to the captives, sight to the blind, and to let the oppressed go free. Ask questions and engage them in conversation to understand who are the poor, the captives, the blind, and the oppressed.
- I wonder what Jesus meant, when he said, “Today, this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing”?
- How are we called to be like Jesus to our neighbors?
- How can we share God’s love with other kids at our schools?

**Activity:** Give the children the material scraps, paper, crayons, markers, glue and any other art supplies you have. Remind them about your discussion, two weeks ago, about refugees and how some refugees must be resettled to the United States so they can be safe and free.

Ask them to think of things that they need to be happy, healthy, and safe. Encourage them to think about things their parents and grown-ups provide for them. What do they need to be warm and safe in the wintertime? What helps them feel better when they’re sad, afraid, or feel lonely?

After the art activity, ask each child to share what he/she drew, and then display the artwork on the newsprint. Next week, children will use their art from January 10 and from today for an activity.

**Closing Prayer:** Thank you, God, for you for our parents, our brothers and sisters, and everyone who cares for us and loves us. Help us to discover how we can care for and love others. Amen.

### **Episcopal Migration Ministries**

Episcopal Migration Ministries welcomes thousands of refugees each year from conflict zones across the globe. Working in partnership with offices and groups within the church as well as with governments, nongovernment organizations, and a network of 30 affiliate offices in 26 dioceses, EMM provides vital services for thousands of refugee families upon their arrival in the United States. More information at [www.episcopalchurch.org/emm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/emm).

### **The Episcopal Public Policy Network**

The Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN) is a grassroots network of Episcopalians across the country dedicated to carrying out the Baptismal Covenant call to "strive for justice and peace" through the active ministry of public policy advocacy. EPPN is part of The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations located in Washington, D.C. The actions, programs, and ministry of the Office of Government Relations are based entirely on policies approved by the church meeting in General Convention or by the Executive Council. More at <http://advocacy.episcopalchurch.org>.

*If you have questions, contact Allison Duvall, EMM's manager for Church Relations and Engagement, at (212) 716-6027 or [aduvall@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:aduvall@episcopalchurch.org). She will be happy to assist you in enriching your lesson plan with information about Episcopal Migration Ministries and refugee resettlement.*

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