

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

**Scripture: Luke 4:21-30**

**Background:** This is the fourth in a four-part series focusing on refugee resettlement through Episcopal Migration Ministries. Today’s lesson focuses on what it means to be a prophet.

**Theme: The Path of the Prophet**

**Before Class:** Over the course of the Episcopal Migration Ministries lesson plans, the children created artwork to describe what makes them special, and artwork to show the kind and caring things they can do for their newest neighbors. Today, the children will play a matching game, matching the things that make them special with the kind and caring things they can do for their refugee neighbors. Then, the children will learn and discuss what it means to be a prophet.

**Opening Prayer:** Dear God, Be with us. Please teach us how we can all be prophets of your love. Amen.

**The Scripture: Luke 4:21-30** Read the Gospel lesson to the children, and then retell the story to help them understanding it.

“In today’s Gospel lesson, Jesus is preaching in the synagogue. (Does anyone remember what synagogue means?) A synagogue is a house of prayer for the Jewish people. Jesus was Jewish, and he is preaching to his brothers and sisters who are Jewish. He says some important things about sharing God’s love with those who might be different from us. Maybe they’re from another country, or maybe they practice another religion.

He gives an example of how two Jewish prophets in the Old Testament share God’s love with those who are different from them.

Elijah was sent by God to a Gentile widow, who provided him food and drink. Later, Elijah prayed for the woman’s son, who had died, and he was brought back to life.

Elisha healed a Gentile man named Naaman, a Syrian, from leprosy. He shared God’s healing and love with Naaman.”

**Reflection Questions:**

- What is Jesus trying to teach us, in this Gospel lesson?
- How can we be prophets, today? What can we do to help those who might be different from us?

**Activity:** Bring the children near their artwork. Ask them to find their artwork that shows what makes them special. Go around in a circle until each child has had a chance to share their artwork.

Next, ask the children to find their artwork that displays what they can do to be kind and care for their newest neighbors. Ask each child to describe their artwork out loud.

Then, facilitate the matching game. Help the children use colorful yarn or ribbon, with tape or sticky putty, connect the thing that makes the special to the kind and caring things they can do for their refugee neighbors.

After the matching is finished, you may wish to share with the children this wonderful story that comes out of Lexington, Kentucky. A young first grader there learned about the plight of refugees, and rallied her entire school to help: <http://bit.ly/SharingLight>.

You may wish to share the children some of the current events that have surrounded refugees in recent months, and how some in America do not want to welcome refugees. Reflecting on the story of the school in Lexington, ask the children,

How was Anneliese (the girl in the Lexington story) a prophet?

How can each of us be prophets?

How can we welcome refugees to our community, like Anneliese did?

**Closing Prayer:** Thank you, God, for teaching us what it means to be a prophet. Give us courage to be prophets and share your love with our friends at school, and everyone we meet. 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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