

Lesson Plans that Work
Year B – Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Lesson Plans for Older Children
Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Background

The Sundays after Epiphany contain stories that show forth the divinity of Jesus and the great power of God. We hear miracles, teachings, and events that make manifest God's saving action in the world. We begin at the beginning: Genesis and the creation of the world. Then we hear stories of the prophets God called to tell the world of God's goodness and mercy and often of the people's need for repentance. We hear stories of healing, of promise, and of hope. We come to know that we are part of a long history of God's love and redemption. We consider how we might share this good news with others.

A Notation for This Week

The relationship between God and the prophets of God is very close. The prophet is the key to the people getting back into right relationship with God. Prophets bring messages of doom and of redemption. They tell of the need to repent and the bring the hope of God's love.

Theme: The Prophet of God

Before Class: Consider putting together a scavenger hunt around the building (or classroom if necessary) to help the class find the words to verse 15. Gather poster size paper or mural paper for Want Ads. Consider locating the storybook "Telephone." Buy Alpha Bits cereal for Edible Messages. Choose and gather the music.

Beginning: Welcome the children and tell them you are going to play a song for them to listen to. Play "God the Sculptor" and then ask them to share which word or phrase stood out for them. Play it through one more time.

Opening Prayer: Lord, we give you thanks for prophets - those brave men and women who have heard your word and shared it with others. We too can listen for your word. Help us to listen. Amen.

The Story: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Invite one of the children to read the passage from the NRSV or the Common English Bible.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder what a prophet is?
- I wonder if we have prophets today?
- I wonder how we tell whether someone is speaking words from God?
- I wonder what message God might send us today?

Art:

Alpha Bits cereal messages - using paper plates, give each child a handful of alphabet shaped cereal. Encourage them to form words that God might want to set in their mouth (as a message). Then they can eat the cereal messages.

Want Ads - use poster sized paper to make Wanted Posters - invite the children to draw a person's head and then decorate, using words at the bottom such as "Wanted: Prophet to Share God's Messages" or use mural paper and have the children trace their bodies (or just their head and shoulders) and then decorate as prophets - do they have large ears for better listening? certain words coming out of their mouths? good shoes for traveling to each town?

Games:

Scavenger Hunt - print the words to verse 15 (or 18) on separate pieces of paper and hide around the building (or classroom). Then give the children cause to find the words. When all have been found, invite the children to put the words in order and read the verse aloud in unison.

Getting Closure: Invite them to share their Want Ads. Hand out slips of paper with the verse (15 or 18) printed for them to take home.

Sing: "What Does the Lord Require" from 1982 Hymnal or My Heart Sings Out

Closing Prayer: Lord, help us to listen for your word and to share it with others. Amen.

*Published by the Formation Office of The Episcopal Church, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.
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