

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

Scripture: 2 Kings 2:1-12

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

This is a story of the passing of leadership - from the great prophet Elijah to his disciple, Elisha. It has all the drama a prophet of God story needs, plus a heart-warming friendship. These men of God have become friends as well as teacher and disciple. Elijah is to be carried up to God and Elisha is to continue the work. Elisha asks for a double portion of the Spirit - something felt he needed to continue the ministry. The story, both the fiery drama of a chosen one, and the tender friendship of two faithful servants of God, can inspire our own relationships and ministry.

Theme: Elijah and Elisha

Before Class: Find or make a map that marks the indicated cities of Gilgal, Bethel, Jericho, and the River Jordan. Gather paper dolls or clothespins or other items that can represent Elijah and Elisha (and maybe also the company of prophets). Choose and learn or locate the music you will use.

Music: Sing or play "Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit" from LEVAS II

Opening Prayer: Lord, you call forth people to share your word with others. We thank you for the prophets Elijah and Elisha, and for their friendship. May we be good friends and teachers to others also. Amen.

The Story: 2 Kings 2:1-12

This story has a lot of repetition. Consider moving some figures around a map or large space on the floor to represent the prophets' travels.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder what Elijah was thinking on this journey? How about Elisha?
- I wonder what it would have been like to be one of those company of prophets in one of the towns.
- I wonder if you have a friend that you would follow anywhere?

Art:

The scene where Elijah is taken up into heaven lends itself to illustration. Provide markers or finger paints and encourage the children to draw the whirlwind or the chariot and horses of fire.

Games:

I'm Going on a Trip: Play a variation of "I'm going on a trip." This time each person adds something they would ask for if their friend was going on a trip. Each new item is added after you recite everything else that has been listed so far. The second person lists the first thing, then adds his own. The third person lists the first 2 things, then adds her own, etc.

Choosing Elisha: Play a variation of Duck, Duck, Goose. Sit in a circle. "Elijah" walks around the outside and chooses his "Elisha" by placing a piece of cloth on their shoulders. When that happens, that person runs around the circle to take Elijah before he makes it around to sit in the vacated spot.

Getting Closure: Gather everyone together. Allow them to share their artwork if they choose. Sing "Spirit of the Living God" or "Sweet Chariot" from LEVAS II.

Closing Prayer: Lord, we thank you for the friends that we would follow anywhere. We thank you for teachers who guide us. We thank you for your Holy Spirit that helps us to follow you. Amen.

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