

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Last Sunday After the Epiphany
Lesson Plans for Younger Children

Scripture: Luke 9:28-36 (optional 37-43a)

Epiphany: Shimmering glimpses of the abundance of the Kingdom of God. Perhaps we, too, noticed a star and followed it. Or maybe someone led us to the gift of faith. Now we take the Light – the Good News – out into the world. Will others see the light shimmering in us? Will they risk taking a journey into faith with us?

A notation for this week's Gospel

The Season of Epiphany that began with a hint of the Trinity closes with yet another glimpse. Jesus takes three of his disciples with him to the mountain to pray. They hear a voice again! This time it is not a dove descending, but a cloud. And even Jesus' clothes become dazzling white. What must have been going on in the minds of the three disciples, as they kept silent about all that they had seen?

Theme: Who IS this Jesus?

Before Class: Bring to class the length of material you purchased earlier along with a pair of good scissors. If you believe a candle will be safe in your class, bring a small candle and a glass container to contain the candle. You could also purchase a small battery-operated candle. Or even a flashlight would work. The material is for the suggested activity in which the young children can "play" the part of God. This can be done without it being at all sacrilegious. But you, the teacher, choose whether to do it or not.

Beginning: Gather the children in a circle with the candle, if you are using one, in the center of your circle. If possible, darken your room a bit. Light the candle. Ask the children if they have ever tried to stay awake late at night and kept falling asleep — no matter how hard they tried to stay awake they just couldn't. Tell them that Jesus' friends in this story were having that trouble.

Praying: Thank you God for sending Jesus to us to show us what you want us to do. Amen.

The Story: (Keep the candle in the center as you tell the story. Have the length of cloth handy, but, safely away from the candle!)

It was nighttime and Jesus and his friends had gone up onto a mountain to pray. Jesus' friends were very tired and it was getting darker and darker. (Blow out the candle.) They kept yawning and rubbing their eyes. Jesus kept on praying. The friends were rubbing their eyes; and Jesus praying. After awhile, as the friends looked at Jesus, his clothes looked shiny and white. Even his face was shining. The friends could see that Jesus was talking with two men, and they recognized them: Moses and Elijah who lived a long time

ago. Wow! Peter thought they ought to build something to mark this important place. But just then, a cloud came and covered all of them. Maybe it was a bit like this: (And gently cover all of you with the cloth.) While they were all under the cloud they heard a voice. What they heard was "This is my Son, I love him. Listen to what he has to say." And then none of the friends said anything.

Option: Let the children take turns. One child can gently cover the other children with the "cloud" telling them that God loves them and covers them with that love. Then that child can be with the others, and another child can do the covering.

Activity: Since this is the last week you will be using the material, feel free to cut off large enough pieces so each child can have a significant piece with which to fashion a "cloud." Then, give each child a piece of dark blue construction paper and light colored crayons as well as the piece of the material. Invite them to illustrate this story. Feel free to create a picture yourself, working along with the children.

Getting Closure: Bring the children back into a circle. If it is appropriate, light the candle and place it in the center. Invite the children to share what they have created.

Closing Prayer: Thank you, God, for sending us Jesus to show us you love us. Amen.

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