

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Third Sunday of Easter
Lesson Plans for Younger Children
Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)

Background

Easter is one big celebration! It is a time for us to remember the Resurrection and that Jesus Christ our Lord is not dead but he is alive! We do it up big on Easter Sunday, but sometimes it is easy for us to forget that the celebration keeps going right up to Pentecost. It is also a time of year when we hope for Spring, if it has not already taken root in our neighborhood. We long for new life of plants and animals. It is a time for us to remember how special the gift of life is.

A Notation for This Week's Story

Today we hear the story of Saint Paul's conversion. Saul, as Saint Paul was known before this time, is traveling to go and hurt Christians. Jesus comes to him on the journey and confronts him and invites him to love instead of hurt. Jesus does this for each of us, inviting us to follow him.

Theme: God Comes to Us

Before Class: You will need play dough and a surface for the children to work on for the activity.

Beginning: Good morning everyone and Happy Easter! It is so good to have you with us this morning. Today we are going to hear a story about how Jesus came to a man named Saul and changed his life. After this experience Saul will get a new name. Can anyone guess what that name will be? *Paul*

Let's think about some of the places that we feel Jesus with us. Allow students to share briefly (*camp, home, church, nature*)

Opening Prayer: Jesus we thank you that you are not far from us and that you come to us in special ways. Help us to know you are with us. Amen.

The Story: Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)

Saul was still wanting to stop the disciples and went to get the okay from the police to arrest them. He set off on his journey and when he got to the outside of the city of Damascus, he suddenly saw a blinking flash of light. He fell to the ground and then heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you out to get me?" Saul asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, the one who you are trying to stop. Go and enter the city and you will be told what to do."

His companions stood there amazed because they could hear the sounds, but could not see anyone. Saul picked himself up off the ground and found that even though his eyes were open, he could not see. His friends took him by the hand and lead him into Damascus. He was blind for three days and he did not eat or drink.

There was a follower of Jesus in Damascus whose name was Ananias. God came to him in a vision and said, “Get up and go to a street called Straight. Go to the house of Judas and ask for Saul.” Ananias answered, “Lord, how can you really want me to do that? He has been mean to the people of Jerusalem and he wants to do the same to the people here.” But God said, “Do not argue. I am going to use Saul as someone who can tell everyone about following God.”

So Ananias went and found Saul and placed his hands on him and said, “Brother Saul, Jesus, whom you saw on the way here, has sent me to you. He sent me so you could see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” As soon as he spoke, Saul could see again and he jumped to his feet, was baptized, and ate a large meal. Saul spent time getting to know the other disciples and went to work preaching about Jesus the Son of God.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder how Saul felt when he saw the light? (afraid, amazed, curious, etc.)
- I wonder how Saul changed over his experience.
- Who did God use to help Saul understand? (Ananias)
- Who helps you to understand things? (mom and dad, teachers, grandparents, friends, sibling, priest, etc.)

Activity:

Those were some really good answers. I wonder if you could make Saul using play dough. Invite students to make a little person of Saul. If time allows you may wish to re-enact the first and last portion of the story. Have each of them move their Saul in the appropriate way as you retell the story.

Getting Closure: Wow, that was really a lot of fun! Do you think that you might encounter Jesus this week? How? (Allow students to share their answers) Jesus loves us and comes to us inviting to be signs of that love!

Closing Prayer: Jesus, thank you for coming to us and helping us to and inviting us to share your love with others. Help us to show your love, even when we disagree with someone. Amen.

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