

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Proper 9
Lesson Plans for Younger Children
Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: 2 Kings 5:1-14

Background

As we continue to walk through “Ordinary Time” it is hard to imagine the lessons from our Old Testament scriptures as “ordinary” days. We hear fantastical accounts of kings, prophets, and courts and they sound so far away. But we are called to remember these stories of times past and to consider how ordinary days of ancestors relate to the ordinary days we face here and now.

A Notation for This Week’s Scripture

There is a lot going on in this story, but it is enough for children for it to be a story of healing, brought about by a messenger of God. As we continue to hear stories of prophets, it is good to remember they did much more than simply go around announcing doom or hope. They were agents of God’s healing mercies, as indicated in this story. And God’s healing extends beyond the boundaries we usually put up between people. Another lesson of the story is in Naaman’s response to his instructions. We also often want grand gestures and big obvious signs. Sometimes healing comes from the simplest of acts.

Theme: Healing and Wholeness

Before Class:

You will need to gather props for acting out the story and any craft supplies you may need for the activities.

Beginning: When the children have arrived and settled in, ask them if there has been a time when someone helped them get better when they were not well. How did the person help them?

Opening Prayer: Gracious and loving God, we thank you for healing us and for walking with us when we do not feel well. Help us to remember to reach out for help when we need it. Amen.

The Story: 2 Kings 5:1-14

See the script at the end of the lesson.

If your older children’s classroom is doing the same lesson, it might be fun to join them for the acting out of the story. If they are not, you can use the summarized story below.

There once was a man named Naaman. He was a general of an army in Syria. He was a very important man even though he was very sick with a skin disease called leprosy. In those days, anyone who had leprosy could not go places other people could go. He was sad that he had this disease. One day, one of his wife’s servants told them that if he went to Israel, there was a prophet (or someone that could do God’s) will there who could heal him. So, Naaman went to the King

of Syria and asked to me sent there to be healed. He brought with him lots of money and expensive clothes.

When Naaman arrived in Israel, the king did not want to help him. But Elisha, who was a man of God, sent a message to the king asking him to send him on so Elisha could meet him. So Naaman went and found Elisha's house. When Naaman arrived, Elisha's servant greeted him and told him, "Go to the River Jordan and immerse or dunk yourself seven times into the river. Your skin will be healed and you will be made new."

At first, Naaman was mad that Elisha hadn't come out to talk to him. He didn't want to do what the servant had told him. But one of Naaman's servants said to him, "If the prophet had told you to do something heroic wouldn't you go do it? This is simple, so why not try. Go down to the water, wash and be clean."

So Naaman went and immersed himself in the Jordan seven times, following the orders of the Holy Man. His skin was healed and he was good as new.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder what it was like for Naaman to be powerful and yet have a disease that held him back?
- I wonder what it was like to finally wash himself in a river and be cured.

Activity:

Watercolor: Invite the children to create watercolor pictures of the river that washes away sickness and brings healing. Wonder with them what they would want the river to wash away.

Healing River Streamers: Invite the children decorate a dowel or stick. Then, have them glue or tape streamers and ribbon on to that stick. Once they have created these streamers, have them wave them in the air as other children walk underneath to symbolize being washed in the river as Naaman was.

Getting Closure: Invite the children to share what they have created.

Closing Prayer: Gracious God, we thank you for your messengers and healers that help us to listen to you and know you better. Be with us as we go from this place and help us to see you in those we meet. Amen.

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