

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Easter Sunday
Lesson Plans for Older Children

Scripture: Luke 24:1-12

"Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again." An astounding discovery! The Easter news was spread to all who would listen. The disciples told people, who in turn, told people, and to this day, we hear the message — a message of weeping and then of joy that comes with the morning of a new day. We too like the disciples weep **AND** then delight in the joy bursting forth in us. We too are called to bring this message with our lives, and, if necessary, with words, to those who have not yet heard it.

A Notation for This Week's Gospel

With the Passover completed, the women now come to the tomb to humbly do their work: the broken body of Jesus for burial. They bring the appropriate ointments and spices and their aching hearts. The stone they had worried about trying to move has been rolled away. But where is the body? Jesus, no longer confined to his body, is now fully free.

Theme: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Before Class: Since your church is offering Sunday school for children on Easter, you may wish to consider combining classes with the younger children. If so, invite the young children to make their pictures while the older children plan their presentation. Then, the older children can present their pantomime to the younger ones, and the younger ones talk about their pictures.

Gather an assortment of props that will enable the children to pantomime the events of Easter. A small sheet, a couple of headscarves, some jars with perfume or vanilla, and whatever else your imagination evokes. Plain paper and felt markers would be helpful. You will also need copies of the Bible or copies of the scripture for today (found below) and *The Book of Common Prayer*. If this group will be together for an extended time (the service expected to take longer than usual), you might bring some nourishing snacks like cheese and crackers or fresh fruit to offset overdoses on what the Easter Bunny may have already provided.

During the Easter season we suggest that each Sunday the children consider a word in the text that would benefit from a more current expression. We suggest they create an icon using graphics or words to express the word, display in class what they have created, and then each make a copy on a bookmark to take home. Gather what art supplies you have to enable the children to express their ideas.

Beginning: If you have visitors to your class, be sure they get introduced and that each of the regular children gets a chance to connect with the visitor. You may want to use nametags if you don't already do that. If you have visitors, make sure to break the ice

with conversation with all the children. Asking what they did this morning, their favorite thing about Easter, or what they are doing this afternoon.

Then, ask the class to tell you what today is for our Church and as much about the day as they would like to tell you. You could ask if any of the children had been in church during the week for any of the services and what their impressions of those services were.

Opening Prayer: Thank you, God, for the gift of Easter. Thank you for Jesus who was willing to die as he shows us how to live. Alleluia, Christ is Risen! Amen.

The Story. Luke 24: 1-12

Ask for volunteers to read this passage. One volunteer to read verses 1-5a, another to read 5b-7, one to read verses 8-11, and one to read verse 12. See the divisions in the scripture lesson below.

Questions:

Who is referred to as "they" in Verse 1?" (See verse 10)

Who are the "two men in dazzling clothes?" (Messengers — sometimes referred to as "angels.")

What was the message they had for the women? (Jesus is to be found among the living — remember he told you that he would be crucified and rise on the third day.)

Who did the women go tell? (the 11 disciples and "all the rest.")

Who might "all the rest" be? (We do not know for sure. Probably many women and men whose lives had been touched by Jesus.)

What was the response of those who heard the women's account of what had happened? (They simply could not believe them.)

Who did risk finding out if they were right? (Peter.)

What did Peter find? (The cloths neatly folded in the tomb, and Jesus' body nowhere to be found.)

Option: Tell the children to pretend they are living 2000 years ago. There are no video cameras, no cameras, no tape recorders, let alone CDs. And, no one in this crowd speaks any English. Your task is to prepare a pantomime (be sure they know what the word means: actions, no words) to describe this scene to people who know nothing about what has happened. Tell them to work together, that you will help if they get stuck, but you want to be the audience when they present their pantomime.

Suggest that they begin with taking Jesus' body down from the cross, carrying it to the tomb, covering it with cloth. They don't need a "body" they can pretend to be carrying the

body wrapped in the sheeting you provide. Head scarves will indicate which of the children are "the women."

When they are ready, observe their pantomime and be sure to provide positive comment.

If you have combined classes, have the children present their pantomime to the younger children and be ready to hear the younger children talk about their pictures.

Option: If you have brought snacks, this would be a good time to serve them.

Option: If time permits, tell the children that during Easter we will be looking for Easter words in the scripture readings we will have. Easter words are usually words we do not use every day. We will be looking for ways to express the Easter words in ways that would be easier for our friends to understand.

An icon on computers expresses a concept in a visual way. Invite the children to be thinking of ways to create icons for the words we will encounter. For example, the word Easter is both a Day and a Season when we celebrate the joy of new life that God offers us. Invite the children to create an icon for Easter on the pieces of paper and decorate it in whatever fashion they want. Ask them what symbols they think would be appropriate for Easter.

Getting Closure: Especially if you had visitors, or children that do not come on a regular basis, cordially invite them to come again. Encourage them that even if they cannot come every time, they are welcome whenever they come.

Closing Prayer: Thank you, God, for the gift of Jesus to show us the way you want us to live. Alleluia, Christ is Risen! Amen.

Luke 24:1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ^{5a}The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground,

5b but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.’

⁸Then they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

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