

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

**Scripture: Luke 4:14-21**

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**

Jesus, energized by the retreat he has just completed and filled with the Holy Spirit, comes to the synagogue in his own hometown on the Sabbath. Taking the scroll of the Prophet Isaiah, he reads: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me." When he finishes reading the passage, he rolls up the scroll and sits down. What did those in attendance hear? What do we hear?

**Theme: Called to trust**

**Before Class:** Purchase a roll of butcher paper from a craft store. If you cannot get it, legal-sized paper or even regular paper will do. Bring crayons. You might download and/or print a sample of Hebrew writing from the Internet so the children can see what the words Jesus was reading might look like. Here is one option: <http://www.mechonmamre.org/p/pt/pt0.htm>. Also see below for the Isaiah text in Hebrew and English.

**Beginning:** If you have a sample of Hebrew writing, show it to the children. If you do not, simply roll up a sheet of paper and then unroll it, explaining that at the time of this story people did not have books. Instead what they had were scrolls with the words carefully hand written. Show them to read Hebrew you go from the back to the front and from the right to the left.

**Praying:** Dear God, thank you that we have books to read about Jesus and the things he wants us to know. Amen.

**The Story.** Jesus is back from the wedding party he went to last week. And he has been traveling to some towns near his hometown. Today he is back in his hometown, Nazareth. So he goes to the synagogue, which is what they called their church, on the Sabbath, the day they all went to church. When it comes time to read from the scroll, Jesus is given the great big scroll and opens it to the part that was to be read that day. He reads and people hear him say: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. I need to be telling people that God loves them. All of them. When he finishes, he rolls up the scroll and puts it back in its special place, and sits down. He tells them "Today, what you have heard written in the Scripture is happening right here."

**Activity:** Help the children make "scrolls" from lengths of the butcher paper (or whatever other paper you were able to acquire). If these children enjoying writing, you could show them the word Shalom and tell them that it means peace — not just no war, but people living and working together. Invite them to illustrate their scrolls (for example, showing Jesus reading from a scroll, or drawing scrolls, or people listening to Jesus), which will go home with them.

You could also print out enough copies of the Isaiah passage in Hebrew (see below) and have them glue it to their scrolls.

**Option:** When they have finished illustrating their scrolls, teach the children the phrase: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me." Invite them to take turns standing up, unrolling their scroll, "reading" the words: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me," describing what is on their scroll, and then rolling it up and sitting down. Keep going until each child who wants gets to do this.

**Getting Closure:** Gather the children in a circle. Tell them Jesus knew what he was supposed to do and he got busy doing it. Each of us has things we can do to help in our houses. Invite them to tell the group what their responsibility is. (Make their bed? Set the table? Feed the dog? Take out the trash? And if the children do not appear to have assigned tasks, can they think of things they can do to help? (Offer to help fold laundry? Play with a younger sibling?))

**Closing Prayer:** Thank you, God, for showing Jesus his work. Thank you for reminding us that we have a place in this work too. Amen.

### Isaiah Chapter 61 יְשַׁעְיָהוּ

א רוח אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה, עָלַי יָעַן מָשַׁח יְהוָה אֹתִי לְבַשֵּׁר  
עֲנָוִים, שְׁלַחֲנִי לְחַבֵּשׁ לְנַשְׁבְּרֵי לֵב, לְקַרְא לְשָׁבוּיִם  
דְּרוּר, וְלְאֲסוּרִים פָּקַח קוֹחַ.

1 The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to bring good tidings unto the humble; He hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the eyes to them that are bound;

ב לְקַרְא שָׁנַת רְצוֹן לַיהוָה, וַיּוֹם נָקָם לְאֱלֹהֵינוּ, לְנַחֵם,  
כָּל אֲבֵלִים.

2 To proclaim the year of the LORD'S good pleasure, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

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