

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C – Second Sunday in Lent**  
**Gospel Lesson for Adults**

**Scripture: Luke 13:31-35**

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: Come, let us adore him. (Antiphon for Lent, Book of Common Prayer, page 81.) And what if, during this season of Lent, we sought a deeper understanding of this amazing gospel of grace? Will that image of grace energize us to do the spiritual housekeeping we need to be ready for the "new thing" God is doing in Easter?

**A notation for this week's Gospel**

Lights! Camera! Action! The drama is about to begin. The powers that be collaborate to extinguish the ministry of Jesus. Jesus, keenly aware that time is running out, continues his work. In this poignantly feminine image, Jesus muses that he had longed to gather these children as a hen gathers her chicks. The hollowness of power confronts the powerfulness of the gentle.

**Theme: The Power of Gentleness**

**Before Class:** You will need Bibles or copies of the scripture for today (which can be found below) and copies of *The Book of Common Prayer*.

**Beginning:** Last week we began to look at the difference between want and need as we considered the temptations Jesus surmounted and which still lie in wait for us. Today we have a slightly different focus as we look at the enigma of power.

**Opening Prayer:** God of Power and Gentleness, in the Psalms we hear, "The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom then shall I fear?" Help us to remember that you are our light and salvation. Amen. (Psalm 27 verse 1)

**The Scripture: Luke 13: 31 - 35.** Invite two readers to read the scripture today.

**Questions:**

Why do we think the Pharisees came to warn Jesus? (They are clearly aware that Jesus is in great danger from Herod.)

I wonder why Herod thinks Jesus is a threat to him? (Possibly because he has heard there is another king on his turf?)

How does Jesus define his role in response to Herod? (verse 32b)

What assures Jesus that he will be killed and in Jerusalem? (verses 33b and 34)

If you had been asked to make a list of images of Jesus before today, how far up your list would you have placed "a hen and her chicks?"

I wonder how this might have gone over with on those listening to him?

What about with those in positions of power? Those trying to keep the religion pure?  
Women and little girls?

I wonder what this says to us today?

**Getting Closure:** Ask if anyone in the group has anything they would like to share about their Lenten journey so far. Has anyone had an insight they would like to share?

**Closing Prayer:** Almighty and most merciful God, kindle within us the fire of love, that by its cleansing flame we may be purged of all our sins and made worthy to worship you in spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (From the Order of Worship for the Evening, Collect for Lent, *The Book of Common Prayer*, page 111.)

**Luke 13:31-35**

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, ‘Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.’ He said to them, ‘Go and tell that fox for me, “Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem.” Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.”’

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