

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Seventh Sunday of Easter
Lesson Plans for Younger Children

Scripture: John 17:20-26

"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

One. Not diluted to a monotonous sameness. One. The abundance of diversity and people choosing to be together. One. Each of us, all of us, with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. The Trinity, sufficiently huge, invites each one of us in.

Theme: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Before: This is the last session in the Easter unit. If this is the last time you will be with the children, you might choose to have a party (bringing refreshments that seem appropriate) or something of a review of what you have done during this unit.

A collage is the suggested art project, so bring an assortment of colors of construction paper, pieces of gift wrap, cloth scraps, glue sticks, scissors, and crayons. Option: you could bring a washable-ink stamp pad (available at most art supply places or from Discount School Supplies through their catalog or online) to let the children make prints of their thumbs to see that each one is different. Something to wash up would be most helpful: wipes in a container — or paper towels and a source of water.

Option: You could bring a camera to class and photograph the collage the children make with the children in a circle around the collage. Then, you could mail a copy of the photograph to each child.

Beginning: Invite the children to look for things that are the same about us and things that are different. For example, are we all wearing some kind of shoes? Then find something else that is different, for example: do we all have the same haircut? Find same color eyes and different colors of eyes, people whose family has a white car, those who have a little sister, etc. If you have the stamp pad, let the children see what their thumbprints look like.

Prayer: Gather by your altar and light the candle if you have one.
Thank you, God, that you make each one of us different and that you love each one of us. Amen.

The Story: Jesus is praying to God before he goes back to be with God. Jesus prays for all the people he got to talk to while he was here on Earth. And he prays for all the people who will

learn about God from these people. Jesus is asking God to help him make all these people see that God loves them. Jesus wants the people to be one and to act together like God and Jesus do. Jesus wants the people to know that God loves them just as much as God loves Jesus.

Activity: Tell the children we are going to make a big collage, which is a picture made up of lots of pieces. Show the children the materials you have brought and let each child select a color or a piece of cloth or gift wrap from what you have brought. Then tell them they can cut their piece into any shape they want to represent themselves, and we will gather the pieces into a circle on a big piece of paper. When the collage is completed to everyone's satisfaction, invite the children to make a copy of their shape to take home.

If you have brought a camera, take the photo of the children with their collage.

Getting Closure: Gather the altar art your group has made during the Easter season. Ask the children to tell you about each of the pieces they have made.

If you brought refreshments, serve them.

Closing Prayer: Thank you, God, for the stories we have had for Easter. Thank you for making us unique and a part of each other. As we go into the world, help us to see, feel, and experience where you are among us. Amen.

Printed by the Office for Formation and Vocation Ministries of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.

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