

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 5**  
**Lesson Plans for Older Children**

**Scripture: Luke 7:11-17**

We remain Easter people, now with the wind of the Holy Spirit in our sails. Our task for the months ahead in this season of Ordinary Time, which extends to the end of November, is to look at what Jesus so tenaciously taught his disciples and see what is in these teachings for us as we carry out the work we have been given to do. Jesus promised his disciples a helper, an Advocate, who would stand with them making the work possible. This same helper, the Holy Spirit, hovers over us still eager to quench the fire of fear and replace it with the powerful energy of love.

**A Notation for This Week’s Gospel**

Luke focuses on the powerful gentleness of Jesus. A young man is about to be buried. Jesus knows the devastation this man’s death will bring to the man’s widowed mother. A stunned crowd watches as Jesus gives the now obviously alive son back to his mother.

**Theme: Unexpected healing**

**Before Class:** Be thinking of examples in your community of healings that have happened: perhaps a story that was in the news, an example from your own church, or a story from your life you are comfortable sharing. You could also invite the children to think of times that they have been healed from an illness.

You will need Bibles or copies of the scripture for the children. You will also need paper, markers, and any other art supplies you may want for the “Healing Happens” activity.

**Beginning:** Tell the children that we have lots of stories in the Bible of Jesus healing people, but today’s is different.

**Opening Prayer:** Thank you, God, for your great compassion and for the miracle of healing. Be with us as we explore your word and call to us. Amen.

**The Story: Luke 7: 11 – 17** You can invite one child to read the whole story, or invite children to read the different voices of the crowd, narrator, and Jesus. There is a script below.

**Questions:**

The death of a person we love is always sad but what made the death of this young man such a particular hardship for his mother? (In that time in history, widows were particularly poor and vulnerable. Once the son was gone, not only was she alone and sad, her only source of food and housing was gone. She was alone.)

Does anyone know why she could not just go out and get a job? (Women were considered property of men. No one would have given her a “job.”)

In verse 13 we read “Jesus had compassion for her.” How would we define “compassion?” (The definition would include being able to really understand how the person feels and what that person needs.)

What did Jesus do? (Verse 14b)

What was the reaction of the crowd? (Verse 16)

**Activity:** Ask the children to share times they know of healings: a family member who was sick or injured and got well; a story of a rescue that was in the news. Allow time for all those who have a story to be able to tell it.

**Option: Healing Happens**

Provide the art supplies you have brought and invite the children to either:

- 1) work together creating a banner; or
- 2) work individually where each child makes their own bumper sticker type slogan on the theme of “Healing Happens.” The children can choose how to illustrate the slogan.

**Getting Closure:** Gather the children in a circle. Ask if anyone had an idea while they were working on the slogan that they want to share. Then tell the children to sit quietly for a moment to be grateful for the healings we have noticed.

**Closing Prayer:** Thank you, God, for showing us your compassion, healing, and love. As we go in to the world, may we continue to see your healing presence among us. Amen.

## **Luke 7: 11 – 17**

**Narrator:** Soon afterwards Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. <sup>12</sup>As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. <sup>13</sup>When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her,

**Jesus:** 'Do not weep.'

**Narrator:** <sup>14</sup>Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said,

**Jesus:** 'Young man, I say to you, rise!'

**Narrator:** <sup>15</sup>The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. <sup>16</sup>Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying,

**Crowd:** 'A great prophet has risen among us!' 'God has looked favorably on his people!'

**Narrator:** <sup>17</sup>This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

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