

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 5
Lesson Plans for Younger 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: Young children can usually deal with the fact that some people die, and some people get better and do not die, and they deal with it with less stress than older children – or adults. Be open to whatever the children offer, especially if any have recently experienced death personally, whether it be a grandparent, someone much younger, or even a pet.

You will need paper and art supplies for the response time.

Beginning: Tell the children we have a story today about a man that Jesus kept from dying.

Praying: Thank you, God, that you love each and every one of us. Amen.

The Story: Jesus and his friends are walking into a town. A whole lot of people are in the street. The people are there because a man has just died. The man's mother and all his friends are crying. This made Jesus very sad. Jesus could see that the man's mother needed help. So Jesus decided to make the man come back to life. Jesus said to the man: "Young man, I tell you: get up!" And he did. Now the man's mother was not crying. She was hugging her son, smiling, and telling others about Jesus' healing of her son.

Activity: Act out the Story

Let the children take turns playing the parts of the man who had died and comes back to life, his mother who goes from very sad to very happy, and Jesus who tells the man to get up. The rest of the children can be the crowd that goes from being very sad to very happy.

Activity: Wondering

I wonder if any of you have ever been sick? What did it feel like when you got better?
I wonder how the man felt when he was healed?

I wonder how the mother told others about what Jesus had done?

I wonder how you might tell others about being healed or being made better by Jesus' love?

Activity: Draw the story

Give the children paper and art supplies and invite them to respond to the story by creating a picture about the story, Jesus, love, or healing.

Getting Closure: Invite the children to share the picture they have made.

Closing Prayer: Thank you, God, for your healing and love. Amen.

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