

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 10
Lesson Plans for Younger Children

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

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

Often our task as we explore the Word, is to listen to a story we have heard before — maybe even many times before — and listen to it as if for the first time. Today, with a fresh look at the story of the Good Samaritan, we ask: Who are the marginalized people in our community? Who is the one who shows mercy in our community? Where have we felt the wind blowing us to "Go and do likewise?"

Theme: Go and do likewise

Before: The children will be acting out the story of the Good Samaritan so bring whatever you have at hand as a medical kit: could be lengths of white material, could be a tube of hand lotion, could even be facial tissue. Bring play money, or even a handful of coins, and you are set. You might need paper and crayons.

Beginning: Tell the children we have a story about a man who needed some help and invite them to help you tell the story. If there are fewer children than parts for the story, tell them they can take more than one part.

Praying: Jesus, you teach us to love God with everything we have and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Help us as we try to do this. Amen.

The Story. A man asked Jesus, "Just who is our neighbor? Who are the people we are supposed to help?" So Jesus said, "I have a story to tell you. Once upon a time, there was a man. He had to travel far from his home on business. He was coming back one night and some really bad guys hit him, took all his money, and then beat him up. They left him by the side of the road."

Who wants to be the guy who got hurt and is lying by the side of the road? (Once the child who is going to be hurt is lying and moaning by the side of the road, you can continue.)

Jesus continued, "While the man was lying there, hurting so very badly, and moaning, a person came by. This person saw the man, crossed over to the other side and just kept on going."

Who will take that part? (Thank this actor and tell them they can sit down.)

Another person came by and the man lying by the road sat up a bit in hopes this one would stop. (Who is going to be this person for us?) This person ALSO crossed the road and kept right on going. (Thank you, second person.)

The man by the side of the road was just about to give up all hope when along came a person we call The Good Samaritan. (Who is going to be that man for us?) That person, the Good Samaritan, saw the hurting man and stopped. This person bandaged up the man's wounds. Lets see what we have in this box to give to the Good Samaritan. (Provide what you have brought.)

The Good Samaritan helped the man get up, walked gently with him, and took him to a motel. (We need someone to be the motel owner. While the children are deciding who that person should be, hand The Good Samaritan the money you have brought.)

The Good Samaritan told the motel owner to let this man stay there until he was well enough to go on to his home. The Good Samaritan gave the motel owner a bunch of money and told him that if there not enough money, he would pay him some more the next time he came by.

Activity: Tell the children you would like them to tell you this story, acting it out — maybe with different children in the parts. Tell them you will be the audience and watch the play. If they get stuck, you can help them remember what happens next.

Activity: If you still have time, invite the children to either draw a picture of the story, or to make a picture of the ways that we help each other each day. Help them brainstorm: Who are the helpers in our community? Who are the people that help us? Who can we go to for help if we need it? How can we help the people around us?

Invite the children to share their pictures.

Getting Closure: Sit in a circle. Invite the children to tell you their favorite part of the story. Tell the children they can now tell this story to their parents. Invite them to name something they may have learned today.

Closing Prayer: Keep us, O Lord, mindful of who our neighbors are and how we are to treat our neighbors. Help us to reach out to those in need. Amen.

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Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 10
Lesson Plans for Older Children

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

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

Often our task as we explore the Word, is to listen to a story we have heard before — maybe even many times before — and listen to it as if for the first time. Today, with a fresh look at the story of the Good Samaritan, we ask: Who are the marginalized people in our community? Who is the one who shows mercy in our community? Where have we felt the wind blowing us to "Go and do likewise?"

Theme: Go and do likewise

Before Class: Read through the lesson plan and decide what option you want to choose. You will need enough copies of the scripture, paper and pencils, and possibly some costumes or props if you have them on hand.

Beginning: Tell the children to be thinking of this question that a man asked Jesus: "And who is my neighbor?" Tell them we have the story Jesus told that helps us notice who are neighbors to us.

Opening Prayer: Jesus, you teach us to love God with everything we have and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Help us as we try to do this. Amen.

The Story: Luke 10: 25 - 37 Some information that will be helpful, if the children do not know: The road from Jerusalem to Jericho was known to be a very dangerous route, with robbers lurking at all times. Samaritans were outcasts in Jesus time, looked down on, shunned, considered the scum of the earth. Priests, of course, were held in high regard; Levites were very well-respected.

Tell the children that you are going to read the story and ask them to list people, words, or actions that stood out for them as you read the story. (pass out scrap paper for them to make notes)

Questions:

- I wonder, what are some aspects of this story that would have shocked the lawyer? (Perhaps the lawyer would have understood that both the priest and the Levite would not think they

needed to risk stopping on this dangerous road. But a Samaritan cast as the good guy? That would be shocking.)

- Let's list all the things the Samaritan did for the man. (As the children name things list them on the board or easel paper. He stopped; he administered first aid; he put the man on his own donkey, meaning he would have to walk; took him to an inn; took care of him; and even paid for the man's lodging after he would go on, promising to make up any difference with the innkeeper when he came back.)
- If someone had asked you, earlier this morning, for a definition of a neighbor, what might you have said? (The people who live in the house next door? Other kids at school?)
- Who do we think Jesus would say is our neighbor here in our town? (Draw out of the children the more invisible people in our community: the homeless, old people, who else?)

Activity:

You have a couple of options; you will need to decide which you are comfortable using. Both involve acting out the story. Option One is to keep the setting in Jesus' time, dealing with the fact that Samaritans were the outcasts of Jesus' time. Option Two would be to set it in our town, this year, and have the children decide what modern-day take on this story might be. Have paper and pencils there for them to write out a script or ideas. If you have access to costumes or props you may want to have those out as well. If you have a larger group, you could split them into two groups and have them do both options.

Option One: Invite the children to act out this passage as it is written. If there are insufficient children to play all the parts, suggest that some children take more than one part. Offer the children the option of using speaking parts or presenting the play in pantomime.

Option Two: Work with the children to do a modern-day take on this story. Who would play the Samaritan, who would play the man who gets robbed and beaten? Who would be the people that would pass by and why would they pass him by? What reasons would they give for not helping?

When they have created their story (either the Parable of the Good Samaritan or the Modern-Day parable), invite them to perform their story.

Getting Closure: Ask the children to share what they noticed in this play. Be sure they understand that Jesus told this particular story to a man who was pretty sure of himself. Do you think that a story that makes us uncomfortable helps us to be more aware of the needs of others?

Closing Prayer: Keep us, O Lord, mindful of who our neighbors are and how we are to treat our neighbors. Help us to reach out to those in need. Amen.

Luke 10:25-37

25 Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher,’ he said, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’²⁶ He said to him, ‘What is written in the law? What do you read there?’²⁷ He answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.’²⁸ And he said to him, ‘You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.’

29 But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’³⁰ Jesus replied, ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead.’³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.³³ But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity.³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?’³⁷ He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise.’

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Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 10
Gospel Lesson for Adults

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

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

Often our task as we explore the Word, is to listen to a story we have heard before — maybe even many times before — and listen to it as if for the first time. Today, with a fresh look at the story of the Good Samaritan, we ask: Who are the marginalized people in our community? Who is the one who shows mercy in our community? Where have we felt the wind blowing us to "Go and do likewise?"

Theme: Go and do likewise

Before Class: Be thinking about who in your community would be classified as "marginalized." It may be obvious, such as migrant workers. It might be recent immigrants from Russia or Asia, or Latin America. It may be racial; it might be cultural (ranchers vs. farmers, etc.). It could be the elderly or young people. As you consider who these people are, you will be able to lead your group in noticing who is outcast in your community.

You will need two versions of the scripture for today (preferably NRSV and a translations using more modern language such as the Common English Bible or The Message), scrap paper, pens or pencils.

You can look up the passages in the Common English Bible here:

<http://www.commonenglishbible.com/Explore/PassageLookup/tabid/210/Default.aspx>

The Message can be found here: <http://www.biblegateway.com/versions/Message-MSG-Bible/>

Beginning: A lawyer asked Jesus, "Who IS my neighbor?" The story Jesus told in response to the question is a story most of us have heard so many times that we may not really hear it when it is read. Today, we will see if we can find something new in the passage.

Opening Prayer: Gracious God, We ask you to give us fresh hearing of the question: "Who is my neighbor?" Amen.

Option: Give everyone scrap pieces of paper and pens or pencils. Ask the group to spend a few minutes in silence, considering who are the people who are our neighbors. Who would show up

with a casserole if we were sick? Pick up our kids for us at school? Help us with a building project? And then, who are the people it would never occur to us to invite into our homes? Who may seldom show up on our radar screen? Tell them they will not have to offer anything they have thought up — just jot down their thoughts.

The Scripture: Luke 10: 25-37 Invite someone to read the scripture passage. Have a few moments of quiet. Then invite another person to read it from a different translation like The Common English Bible or The Message (both of which use more modern language.)

Questions:

- What things stood out for you in the readings today?
- In the story, I wonder if the lawyer would have been shocked that the priest and the Levite just kept on going? (Probably not. He would not have expected them to risk stopping on such a dangerous road, and a man feigning injury could well be a trap, like a car with apparent engine trouble could be on one of our highways.)
- What was it about the Samaritans that made them outcasts to the people hearing Jesus story? (Samaritans were a different sect of the Jewish faith. Samaritans held the mountain as their holy place; Jewish people went to Jerusalem. At first Jesus did not believe he had been sent to the Samaritans at all, but later saw them as within his call.)

Option: Consider a discussion on these questions:

- The Samaritan is clearly the "good guy" in this story. I wonder who, in our community, might get cast as the "Samaritan," shocking us at that portrayal? (Identify as many types of people as you can.)
- I wonder who is the Christ type in this story? (The Samaritan often gets that understanding.)
- Discuss whether a case could be made that it is the wounded man who is the Christ figure?
- How do we balance attempting to create a safe environment for our community with the call to be neighbor to those we fear?

Option: Invite the group (either as a whole group) or in groups of two or three to create a modern day take on this very familiar parable. Who would the characters be? What would the situation be? Etc. Once everyone is done, gather back together and give your synopsis of the modern day story.

Getting Closure: Where might the wind of the Holy Spirit be blowing new energy into our lives, inviting us to widen the circle of our neighborhood? How can we encourage each other as we stretch to grow?

Closing Prayer: Collect for Proper 10

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Luke 10:25-37

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