

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 9
Lesson Plans for Younger Children

Scripture: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

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

Trial run. The disciples have received their basic training, and now it is time to do a test case. Two by two Jesus sends them where he intends to follow — no lone rangers here. Some will receive the pairs, and some will not. Sent out as raw recruits, the disciples return seasoned disciples. They discover they can do the work Jesus has given them to do. Will we choose to do the work Jesus has given us to do?

Theme: Sent where Jesus intends to go

Before: The focus of this session for young children is the concept that Jesus sends his disciples out with a partner and not alone. The movement activity helps the children imagine things they do with a partner. You might want to bring a few props to get them started: A large empty laundry basket or a cardboard box, a sheet or beach towel, for example. This activity would be good outside, if the weather and your situation permit. If you plan on doing the additional activity, you will need paper and crayons.

Beginning: Tell the children we have a story about partners, people who do things together two by two. Invite them to share briefly if they have ever worked with a partner. Decide how to divide the group up into pairs. (If the number is uneven, you will be a partner to one of the children.) Let's sit with our partner while we pray and listen to our story.

Praying: Thank you, Jesus, for sending us with friends to help us do our work. Amen.

The Story: Jesus said to his friends, “You are ready! You have listened to me and learned from me, and now it is time for you to go do the work I have for you to do. Now, I don’t want you to take any extra stuff to take with you: no extra shoes, no money, not even a snack, because I do not want you to be loaded down. But, I am not sending you out alone: each one of you will have a partner to go with you. Work is better when you have someone to work with you.”

Activity: Two by Two is Better!

Tell the children to pretend the basket (or box) you have brought is VERY heavy. Invite the partners to have just one person try to lift it. Then, share the work with a partner on each end. (Let each set of children try this.)

Then, show them the sheet or towel and ask one child to fold it up alone. Then show the partners how to hold opposite ends of the cloth, walk toward each other, and one grab both ends, repeating until the cloth is folded.

Ask the children to imagine with you things that are easier to do together. You need two to be a bridge for the game London Bridges, you need two to climb a ladder (one to hold the ladder steady). Other things to pantomime: holding a heavy door so the other can go through, holding a bag while the other puts toys in it, holding the leash on a dog so the other one can pat the dog.

Activity: If time permits, give the children paper and crayons and invite them to draw a picture, together, of themselves working as a team of two. If you are partnering with a child, you draw also.

Getting Closure: Invite the children to sit on the floor facing their partner, so they can see each other. Tell them that for our closing prayer, we will thank Jesus for each other. One child can say: "Thank you, Jesus for my partner, (naming the partner)." Then the partner repeats the prayer naming the other partner. When each child has thanked Jesus for their partner, close with a final prayer.

Closing Prayer: Thank you, Jesus, for the partners we discovered today. Help us see new ways to work with others so that we may better serve you. Amen.

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Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 9
Lesson Plans for Older Children

Scripture: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

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

Trial run. The disciples have received their basic training, and now it is time to do a test case. Two by two Jesus sends them where he intends to follow — no lone rangers here. Some will receive the pairs, and some will not. Sent out as raw recruits, the disciples return seasoned disciples. They discover they can do the work Jesus has given them to do. Will we choose to do the work Jesus has given us to do?

Theme: Sent where Jesus intends to go

Before Class: Note: For today, we will be using only the first part of the reading. You may choose to read the whole lesson.

A search and find type activity is suggested, so you will need to think through what will work in your facility. You will need to do some scouting and some arrangements for the search and find. You will need paper and pencils and to have the locations for the teams written onto pieces of paper to give to them.

If you choose not to do the search and find activity, you will need butcher paper (enough pieces for all of your teams) and watercolors or markers.

Beginning: Tell the children that Jesus said that for most work two is better than one. Invite them to share times that they have worked with someone else and it worked out well.

Opening Prayer: Thank you, Jesus, that you don't ask us to do things we cannot do and for sending others with us to do your work in the world. Amen.

The Story: Luke 10: 1-11. Invite a child to read the scripture for today.

Questions:

I wonder why Jesus is sending his disciples out? (He has gotten them sufficiently trained to do the work of getting people ready to hear from Jesus himself.)

I wonder why Jesus sent them out in pairs? (Two could take care of each other and help each other.)

I wonder what Jesus meant by "lambs in the midst of wolves?" (Many people will not be ready to hear their message and, in fact, may even be angry about the message, but the disciples are not to argue with anyone.)

What does Jesus tell them about traveling light? (Verse 4)

What are the disciples to do if they are welcomed? (Verses 7- 9)

What are they to do if they are not welcomed? (Verses 10-11)

Activity: Going out in pairs (Search and find)

The concept is to send children out in pairs to notice, record, and then report what they saw. Depending on how many children you expect, come up with assignments. Example: if the worship service is going on, stand outside the doors and silently notice what is on the altar and behind it. Or, go out the front door of the church and describe all you can see as you approach the door. Or, peek into the clergy person's office and describe all you can see there. Other options: Our own classroom, or what does one wall of the classroom look like?

The purpose will be for a pair of children to go, look, record what each sees, then combine what both saw. They will probably each see something slightly different and the combined report will be more inclusive. Each child will need a piece of paper and a pencil with a good eraser.

If you normally teach alone, it would be very good to recruit a friend to join you today. (Two is usually better than one!) The friend could either be the other half of a pair, if you have an uneven number of children, and could help you gather the children when they have finished their task.

You may also want to alert the ushers and the clergy about the plan, so they are not concerned at children out of a class space.

Tell them you are giving them assignments to go out two by two (just like the disciples). They are to go in pairs quietly, especially if other classes or worship are going on. Their task is to notice as many details of the site they have been assigned to, making notes or sketching what they see. Each person of the pair will do their own sketch or notes. Then the pair will compare notes and combine what they have seen into one report to bring back. Then give each pair an assignment (church, church office, classrooms, chapel, courtyard, etc.) Tell them how long they have to do the task and when to be back in class.

When you are all gathered back in the room, give each pair time to report what they saw, which things one of them noticed, and which things the other noticed.

Option: Telling the Story in Pairs

Divide the children up into pairs of two or three and give each group a piece of butcher paper and watercolors (or markers.) Invite each pair to think of a story about Jesus that they would like to illustrate. Once they have a story to illustrate, they have to work together as a team to create a

picture, representation, or painting about that story. Let them be creative, but tell them they must work in pairs.

Once they have had time to work together, invite everyone to share what story they worked on and then what it was like to work as a team.

Getting Closure: Ask the pairs to think about something they noticed that was encouraging and if there was anything that was bothersome. (There may be something you think merits sharing with the church leadership. Use your discretion on how you may honor your class' observations in a helpful way.)

Invite them to share what they have learned or what their experience was working in pairs. Wonder with them how your experience may have been or not been similar to the disciple's experience of being sent out in pairs.

Closing Prayer: Thank you, God, for those you send to be with us as we work out our commissions from you. Be with us as we go two by two into the world to serve you. Amen.

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.' "Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

[Optional]

The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

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Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 9
Gospel Lesson for Adults

Scripture: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

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

Trial run. The disciples have received their basic training, and now it is time to do a test case. Two by two Jesus sends them where he intends to follow — no lone rangers here. Some will receive the pairs, and some will not. Sent out as raw recruits, the disciples return seasoned disciples. They discover they can do the work Jesus has given them to do. Will we choose to do the work Jesus has given us to do?

Theme: Sent where Jesus intends to go

Before Class: You will need copies of the Bible or of the scripture for today which can be found below.

Beginning: Ask the group to be thinking of a time they had a difficult assignment and had a partner to help with the task.

Opening Prayer: Loving God, You have promised us that whenever two or three are gathered in your name, you are right there with us. Thank you, God, for your presence with us today. Help us to be mindful of your presence in our lives as we do your work in the world. Amen.

The Scripture. Read the "before" portion and discuss it, then the "after" portion and discuss it.

Luke 10: 1-11, 16 "Before." Ask for a volunteer to read this passage.

Questions:

Clearly, Jesus has done some serious training of the disciples. How do you suppose they were feeling at hearing this commission? (Excited? Terrified? Anxious? Hopeful? Curious? Something else?)

What was Jesus' strategy? (Send the disciples out to assess which towns would be most receptive for Jesus intended to follow them.)

I wonder why Jesus told them they were like "lambs in the midst of wolves?" (Perhaps so they would stay alert and keep on focus.)

What do you think of the "equipment" they were not allowed to take? (Verse 4)
How were they to respond to acceptance? (Verses 7- 9) And to rejection? (Verses 10-11)

To what extent do you think Jesus' marching orders (verse 16) energized the disciples? (We don't know what they felt like when they left, but we do know how they felt when they returned.)

"After" Luke 10: 17-20. Ask for a volunteer to read what the disciples said (verse 17 and then Jesus' response (verses 18-20).

Questions:

Now, how are the disciples feeling? (Obviously pretty energized.)

Without getting caught up in possibly slight hyperbolic responses, what about this venture is encouraging to the disciples? (They can do the work they have been given to do — even when it seems scary — and especially when they share the load, not going as lone rangers.)

I wonder what is the important point of this mission to Jesus? (His disciples now know they can do this work; they know they can be there to help Jesus.)

Getting Closure: Engage in a discussion:

- Where in our ministries are we working in pairs?
- How could we enhance our lone ministries by finding ways to do things with one other person?
- Share experiences of how you have made this happen for you. (Does anyone have an e-mail prayer partner? A Telephone partner for prayer or sharing ideas? Occasional breakfast meetings? Two families getting together so kids can play and adults encourage each other?)

Closing Prayer: Thank you, God, for those you send to be with us as we work out our commissions from you. Be with us as we go two by two into the world to serve you. Amen.

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

“Before”

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.' "Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

“After”

The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

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