

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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