

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 16
Lesson Plans for Older Children

Scripture: Luke 13:10-17

Even on a sultry summer day, the wind of the Spirit hovers — almost imperceptibly. Our lives rarely accommodate a slower pace for the summer. Yet, we are invited to notice, again, the priorities that drive us. We are invited to stop, however briefly, the manic activity and consider options Jesus offers us.

A Notation for This Week's Gospel

For 18 years the woman had been unable to stand upright, lift a child, or gaze at the stars. Bent over, she saw only what was on the ground. "You are free," she heard Jesus say. Jesus touched her and suddenly she could raise her arms high in the air, look at the world, and praise God. All the uptight leaders could do was grumble because Jesus had done this healing on the Sabbath.

Theme: Set free from bondage on the Sabbath day

Before Class: You will need copies of the scripture script for each child (found below.) If you do the newspaper option, you will also need paper, markers, pens, and pencils.

Note: If school is beginning in your community, you might have a child new to this class and you will want to take the time to fully incorporate that child into the class.

Beginning: Invite the children to brainstorm what makes a good news story? Action? Something being solved? An interesting argument? Well, today we have it all!

Opening Prayer: Thank you, God, for stories we have of Jesus that help us figure out what is the right thing to do. Amen.

The Story: Luke 13:10-17 Ask for volunteers to read: Jesus, the Leader, Narrator 1 and 2.

Questions:

- What is wrong with the woman? (She has been bent over, unable to stand up straight, for 18 years.)
- What does Jesus do about it? (He calls her to him, tells her she is free from the ailment, and lays his hands on her.)
- What happens to the woman next? (She stands up straight and begins to thank God.)
- What is the problem with this for the leader of the synagogue? (The Hebrew people understood that God had given Moses many rules to be followed. One of those rules was that no work of any kind was to be done on the Sabbath. (Leviticus 23:3))
- What is Jesus' response to this concern? (Surely you would do the "work" of getting water for your animals on the Sabbath, so why shouldn't he do the work of setting this woman free on the Sabbath?)
- What was the crowd's response? (They liked what Jesus said.)
- I wonder what you think the leader's response would be?

Activity:

As a way to help the children get into this story, we suggest that after they have read it and discussed it, they develop a TV interview of the woman and of the leader of the synagogue and then "do" the TV show.

Invite the children to figure out how to make a TV newscast out of this story. Suggest they identify the reporter, the woman, and the leader of the synagogue. They can decide whether the reporter would have been able to catch up with Jesus to interview him. When they have figured out how to present this newscast, watch it as if it were on television.

Invite them to "perform" the newscast once they have put it together.

Option: If you have a larger group, you can divide them into two groups. Have one work on a TV Newscast and another on a Newspaper/Blog Post about the event.

Getting Closure: Invite the children to share what they noticed about the story as they presented it. I wonder what stood out for you?

Closing Prayer: Thank you, God for healing us. Help us to be mindful of those in our lives that need healing. Amen.

Luke 13:10-17

Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman

Narrator 1: Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹²When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said,

Jesus: ‘Woman, you are set free from your ailment.’

Narrator 2: ¹³When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd,

Leader: ‘There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the Sabbath day.’

Narrator 1: ¹⁵But the Lord answered him and said,

Jesus: ‘You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? ¹⁶And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?’

Narrator 2: ¹⁷When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

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