

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 21
Lesson Plans for Younger Children

Scripture: Luke 16:19-31

Choices: What situation do we find ourselves, right here and now, in which we have a choice? What is preventing us from making it? Are possessions, in fact, possessing us? For some of us the choice might be to rearrange our priorities, even make a career change, or maybe it is to faithfully deal with what is on our plate. For all of us, Jesus invites us to follow him.

A Notation for This Week's Gospel

What do we choose to notice as we race through our daily tasks? Who are the invisible ones in our midst? Who is holding out a hand to us?

Theme: Noticing Who We See

Before: This is yet another story Jesus told to adults who could make the kinds of changes he suggests. Young children have enough fears without adding to them. So the focus on this story (of Lazarus the poor, hungry man and the unnamed rich man who ignored him) is on helping the poor man.

You will need an unbreakable cup with a handle, a pitcher of water, small paper cups (enough for each of the children and for you), and a large plastic bag to cover the surface to protect it from spills.

If you are doing the progressive activity of adding to the cross each week, you will need materials to make a cup for the cross. The children might fashion a cup out of aluminum foil, or draw a cup with crayons and paper. Then you would also need scissors, white glue to fix the cup on the cross, and a piece of the foam core to use to position the cup on the cross.

Beginning: Show the children the cup you brought. Ask them, if you were thirsty and they had this cup, would they get you some water to drink? If they were thirsty, do they think you would get them a cup of water to drink? Tell them, this is a story about a man who did not understand about this.

Praying: Thank you, God, for showing us how we can help each other. Amen.

The Story: Jesus told this story about a man with a whole lot of money and a man who did not have anything. The rich man lived in a beautiful house and wore beautiful clothes. When he left his beautiful house, he never looked to the right and he never looked to the left. He just looked straight ahead as he rushed off to his next important appointment. A poor man sat, every day, outside the rich man's house. The rich man never even saw the poor man. The poor man had absolutely nothing. No beautiful clothes. No house at all. And his body had sores all over it. He was thirsty and wanted someone to give him something to drink. One day he died and later the

rich man died. Then the rich man saw the poor man for the very first time. And he was sorry he had not seen him before and had not treated him better.

Activity: Rich Man, Poor Man (If weather permits, you might do this activity outside.)

Ask for a volunteer to pretend to be the poor man and a volunteer to pretend to be the rich man. A third volunteer can be one of the children who brings a cup of water to the poor man. The poor man is thirsty and squatting down outside the rich man's house. The rich man just goes on his way. Then, the child can pour some water into the cup and carefully carry the cup over to the child who is being the poor man. The children can take turns playing different roles, if you have a way to wash the cup between each scene. Or just use paper cups.

Activity: Create a cup to go on the cross. You could fashion a cup out of aluminum foil, or draw a cup and cut it out. The children can also make cups to go home with them. Glue one cup to the cross.

Getting Closure: Gather the children together in a circle. Take turns pouring a cup of water and giving it to each other until each of you have received a cup of water. Invite the children to talk about what it was like to be served water, and what it was like to give someone else water. Invite them to think about times when they may have helped someone else or when someone has helped them.

Closing Prayer: Thank you, God, that you give us friends who share and friends that help us. Help us to remember to help those in need. Amen.

Printed by the Office for Formation and Vocation Ministries of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.

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