

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 27
Lesson Plans for Younger Children

Scripture: Luke 20:27-38

In the final 6 weeks of this Lectionary Year C, a firm and hopeful tone soars in Jesus' teachings in a rich symphony of themes. The background music of the Hebrew Scriptures holds the notes of the new covenant — a law written in our hearts rather than codified in legal structures — The Spirit poured out, a vision for the appointed time, God with us, a new heaven and a new earth, and a branch from the tree of David — the remnant gathered. We can believe that Jesus heard this cosmic music as he distilled his huge message to the disciples.

A Notation for This Week's Gospel

Jesus refuses to climb into the little boxes people try to create to contain him. Where are we stuck in our little boxes, too afraid to risk the freedom Jesus offers?

Theme: The Right Answer to the Wrong Question

Before: The art activity will require paper towels, large, round, white coffee filters; diluted food coloring or liquid watercolors, and pieces of string, yarn, or even ribbon to tie around the necks of the angels.

Beginning: Ask the children to be thinking about angels. We have seen pictures of angels, or even Christmas ornaments of angels, but most of us have never seen an angel. There are angels in today's story.

Prayer: Loving God, thank you for the gifts you give us, especially for the angels who watch over us. Amen.

Story: Some people were asking Jesus a bunch of questions. Some of the questions seemed very silly. One person had a question about a woman who got married a bunch of times. Jesus told them they were asking the wrong question. Jesus told them that what is important is the resurrection. Resurrection is a big word that means God is right here with us, we are right here with God, and there are angels all around.

Art Activity: Show the children how to make angels by twisting the center of the coffee filter to form a head and then tying a piece of string, yarn, or ribbon around the neck to hold the head in place. Fan out the edges of the filter to make wings. Let the children dip the edges of the filter in the diluted food coloring or liquid watercolors. The filter will "wick" up the color making soft. Put them on paper towels to dry. Be sure to make some angels to put on the cross.

Option: Angel Dance

While the angels you have made are drying on the paper towels, ask the children to pretend they are angels and create movements they would expect an angel to use. They could twirl in circles, glide around the room, or even sit on the ground in a circle.

Getting closure: Put the angels you have created for the cross onto the cross. See if any of the children can remember any of the stories depicted on the cross.

Closing Prayer: Thank you, God, for being right here with us. Thank you for showing us your love as you are here with us and as angels watch over us. Amen.

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Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 27
Lesson Plans for Older Children

Scripture: Luke 20:27-38

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Theme: The Right Answer to the Wrong Question

Beginning: Tell the children that in today's story, we have a question put to Jesus by some Sadducees. The Sadducees did not believe in resurrection and believed when you died, that would be THE END. Tell the children to notice the answer Jesus gives to their question.

Opening Prayer: Loving God, thank you for the answers you give us and for those answers you leave for us to discover on our own. Amen.

Scripture: Luke 20: 27-38 Invite children to read the scripture for today. You can divide it into two parts having one reader for verses 27-33 and another for 34-38. Alternatively, you can use the script below and invite a reader for the Narrator, Sadducees, and Jesus.

Questions:

- I wonder why the Sadducees asked their question? (Since they did not believe in the resurrection, they hoped to create a question that one who did believe in the resurrection would have a hard time answering.)
- What would you say was Jesus' answer to their question? (You are not asking the right questions.)
- What does Jesus say will happen for people in the resurrection? (See verse 36.)
- What examples did Jesus give them? (Verse 37.)
- I wonder what example we have that they did not yet have? (The resurrection appearances of Jesus after the crucifixion.)

Activity: Describing something to someone who has not experienced it.

Invite the children to think of something they can act out, and you pretend not to have ever experienced it. For example, perhaps they decide to act out a baseball game. Ask questions of each thing they offer. For example, if they say the game is played with a baseball and a bat, asked them to describe a baseball, describe a bat. Maybe they will pretend to be taking pictures

with a digital camera, or talking on a cell phone. Whatever they choose ask as many questions as you can think of to help them see how hard it is for people to visualize something they have not experienced.

Getting Closure: After each child has had a chance to describe what others have not seen, invite them to think about a time when they did not understand something until they saw it. Invite them to share what that was like. I wonder what it feels like when we have the ah-ha moment of discovering something? I wonder if, sometimes, things make more sense to us when we experience them for ourselves, or see them for ourselves? I wonder, then, how you might describe God?

If you have time, invite them to journal or draw how they would describe God or Jesus to others.

Closing Prayer: Loving God, we thank you for sending Jesus to us so that we might experience you in a new way. Open our eyes to you and help us find words to describe you so that others may come to know you too. Amen.

Luke 20:27-38

Narrator: Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus²⁸ and asked him a question,

Sadducees: ‘Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother.²⁹ Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless;³⁰ then the second³¹ and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless.³² Finally the woman also died.³³ In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.’

Narrator: Jesus said to them,

Jesus: ‘Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage;³⁵ but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage.³⁶ Indeed they cannot die any more, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection.³⁷ And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.³⁸ Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.’

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Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 27
Lesson Plans for Adults

Scripture: Luke 20:27-38

In the final 6 weeks of this Lectionary Year C, a firm and hopeful tone soars in Jesus' teachings in a rich symphony of themes. The background music of the Hebrew Scriptures holds the notes of the new covenant — a law written in our hearts rather than codified in legal structures — The Spirit poured out, a vision for the appointed time, God with us, a new heaven and a new earth, and a branch from the tree of David — the remnant gathered. We can believe that Jesus heard this cosmic music as he distilled his huge message to the disciples.

A Notation for This Week's Gospel

Jesus refuses to climb into the little boxes people try to create to contain him. Where are we stuck in our little boxes, too afraid to risk the freedom Jesus offers?

Theme: The Right Answer to the Wrong Question

Before: You will need Bibles or copies of the scripture for today and copies of *The Book of Common Prayer*.

Beginning: Ask the group to be thinking of a time they asked a question and later noticed that the answer they received was to a different question than they thought they had asked.

Opening Prayer: Gracious God, thank you for the answers you give to us, and for leaving questions unanswered so that we may discover and explore. Amen.

Scripture: Luke 20: 27-38 Invite one person to read verses 27-33, and another to read verses 34-38.

Questions:

- I wonder what stood out for you about our reading today? What challenged you?
- What was the main stumbling block to Jesus' teachings for the Sadducees? (They found the concept of resurrection beyond their ability to believe.)
- If the real point of the Sadducees question was not the exact fate of the wife of seven men, what were they trying to get at? (They hoped to trap Jesus by creating a situation that resurrection could not solve.)
- How does Jesus deal with their question? (He ignores the question and addresses the important point: resurrection.)
- What was the debate over resurrection as Jesus was teaching? (The Pharisees thought it might be possible for people to experience life after death. The Sadducees did not.)

Option: In our *Book of Common Prayer*, find what our church teaches about resurrection. See the third question on page 850. Discuss what "overcame death" means to us. What do we mean when we say Jesus "opened for us the way of eternal life?"

On page 862, looking at the fifth question, what do we mean when we say that God "will raise us from death in the fullness of our being?"

While we may not be able to describe to our satisfaction what resurrection looks like, we may find it easier to name things it does NOT look like. For example: things will NOT be solved with violence, little children will not die of starvation. See what other descriptions the group finds.

Getting Closure. The Hebrew Scripture appointed for today (in the Track 1 readings) is Haggai. Read Chapter 2: verses 4b – 5. Consider how this ancient promise of God's abiding with God's people encourages us today.

Closing Prayer: Thank you, God, that you provide the answers we need, especially when they do not seem to match the questions we ask. Amen.

Luke 20:27-38

27 Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus²⁸ and asked him a question, 'Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother.²⁹ Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless;³⁰ then the second³¹ and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless.³² Finally the woman also died.³³ In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.'

34 Jesus said to them, 'Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage;³⁵ but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage.³⁶ Indeed they cannot die any more, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection.³⁷ And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.³⁸ Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.'

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