

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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