

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 28**  
**Lesson Plans for Adults**

**Scripture: Luke 21:5-19**

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**

It's not about stuff, Jesus is telling us. It is about a new thing God is doing. It is not about buildings, even our churches. Buildings will not last. It is our commitment to God that is the source of our endurance.

**Theme: Faithful to God Who is Faithful To Us**

**Before:** Consider adding to your study today the Hebrew Scripture appointed for this day: Isaiah 65:17- 25. You will need copies of the Bible for your group.

**Beginning:** If your group contains parents of children, tell them that the lesson plan for young children focuses on "God's favorite things" — that temples are nice but God probably prefers all the wonders of our world that the young child often brings to our attention (the way some words taste good on our tongues or sound funny to our ears, the tiny blade of grass growing in the crack of the sidewalk, the tiny bug on a leaf, etc.) Older children are invited to draw the disasters Jesus describes while also deciding how to portray Jesus with the disciples as they endure.

**Opening Prayer:** Gracious God, thank you for guiding us through our days. Be with us as we explore your lesson for today. Amen.

**The Scripture: Luke 21: 5-19** Invite one person to read the whole scripture, or invite six people to read the scripture broken up in this way: verses 5-6, verses 7-8, verses 9-11, verses 12-13, verses 14-16, and verses 17-19.

**Questions:**

- I wonder what stood out for you in this passage?
- I wonder if Jesus thought it was wrong for people to delight in their temple? Why? Why not? (It was probably more a matter of priorities.)
- I wonder what might be replacing the temple? (The new thing Jesus has been teaching the disciples that God is calling them to notice.)
- The disciples ask, again, for a sign; what has Jesus repeatedly responded to their request for signs? (He has been trying to tell them not to expect the "signs" they are looking for.)
- What is he warning them about in verse 8? (False prophets.)
- Do you think the answer Jesus gives in vs 8 answers the question the disciples asked in vs 7?

- Why? Why not? (Jesus is, providing a better answer than the question. They are focusing on "end times." Jesus is focusing on strategies to use with those attempting to lead them astray.)
- Do you think the disciples realized that their lives, also, would be taken from them soon? (Probably not, or they would not have been focusing on "end times," which Jesus is assuring them is off in the future.)
- What assurances does Jesus give them for the time they will face death? (Vs. 15, 18, and 19.)

**Option:** Since the Gospel according to Luke was probably not put to paper until about 60 years after the crucifixion, many of the disasters in this passage were happening and all but one of the disciples had also been killed. How might this passage have been a comfort to people reading it? How might it be a comfort to us as we survey our world?

**Getting Closure:** Invite conversation about what this passage may say to us today? What might this passage say if it were written for today's culture and society?

**Closing Prayer:** Help us, please, God, to be alert for the new thing you are doing in our lives. Amen.

## Luke 21:5-19

5 When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, <sup>6</sup>‘As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.’

7 They asked him, ‘Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?’ <sup>8</sup>And he said, ‘Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, “I am he!” and, “The time is near!” Do not go after them.

9 ‘When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.’<sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, ‘Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; <sup>11</sup>there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

12 ‘But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. <sup>13</sup>This will give you an opportunity to testify.

<sup>14</sup>So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; <sup>15</sup>for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict.

<sup>16</sup>You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. <sup>17</sup>You will be hated by all because of my name. <sup>18</sup>But not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup>By your endurance you will gain your souls.

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