

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 28
Lesson Plans for Older Children

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: This is a heavy passage, even for us who watch disasters — real and manufactured by filmmakers — on our TV each week. Many of the children in this group may enjoy drawing pictures of disasters, so here is their chance. You will need a large sheet of paper the children can work on together and crayons. You will also need copies of the Bible or the scripture passage below.

Beginning: Tell the children that if today's passage were a movie, it would probably be rated at least PG! Tell them the trick will be to find amid all the violence the promise Jesus is making to his disciples.

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

Scripture: Luke 21: 5-19 Invite children to read each section: Verses 5-6, verses 7-8, verses 9-11, verses 12-13, verses 14-15, and verses 16-19.

Questions:

- What do we know about "The Temple?" (It was huge, beautiful, and the pride of the people. It had taken years to build and cost a ton of money to build.)
- What does Jesus say will happen to this huge, well-built temple? (It will be a pile of stones.)
- What do the disciples ask Jesus in verse 7? (They are still looking for signs.)
- What does Jesus answer? (Beware! Many will say they have the truth. Stick with Jesus.)
- What are some of the awful things Jesus says will happen? (Wars, earthquakes, famine and plagues, even signs from heaven.)
- What else does Jesus say will happen to the disciples? (They will be dragged into court and betrayed.)
- What comfort does Jesus offer? (Verse 15: don't worry about figuring out in advance what

you will say, Jesus will give them the words they need.)

- What do you think Jesus meant in verse 18? (They may be killed, but Jesus has overcome death.)
- How might we put into words what Jesus says in verse 19? (Some hints to help the children come up with their own wording: Endurance means hanging in there; gaining your souls means choosing God's way.)

Activity: Invite the children to pretend they are Jesus teaching his disciples. Ask them work together to draw all the disasters that will happen to these disciples. Ask them to decide how to portray that Jesus will be there with the disciples in all they have to endure and that they will be with Jesus forever during and after their ordeals.

Getting Closure: Invite the children to share thoughts they had while they were working on the drawing. I wonder what you will take away from our time today?

Closing Prayer: Thank you, God, that you are with us especially when things are awful. Help us to remember this and help us be there for each other. 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, ⁶‘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?’ ⁸And 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.’ ¹⁰Then he said to them, ‘Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹there 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. ¹³This will give you an opportunity to testify.

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

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

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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