

Lesson Plans that Work
Year A – Second Sunday of Advent
Lesson Plans for Younger Children
Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10

Advent begins with darkness. In the days of the prophets, the Israelites looked to God for hope and promise. The prophets began to speak of the hope and light that would be coming to the people of God. Today we continue to share the stories of the prophets to remind us that we have been given this hope and light through the birth of Jesus Christ. During this time in the calendar year our days are getting shorter, and we wait for the light of Christ to shatter this darkness. In Advent we are encouraged to stop and listen and hear what the prophets are saying.

Theme: Peaceable Kingdom

Supplies Needed: Cloth for prayer space, advent wreath, Anglican prayer beads (if made by the older group during week 1), matches for the candles or batteries if candles are electric. Pictures (can be downloaded from Google images of the following animals – wolf, lamb, leopard, goat, calf, lion, a child, cow, bear and ox. For option 1 – construction paper, magazine pictures of animals and glue sticks. You may want to cut out the pictures prior to class to avoid frustration of little fingers and scissors. For option 2 – a cd player or mp3 player.

Prepare: Prepare your space with a small table, or space with a piece of cloth, it could be burlap, purple or sarum blue depending on your traditions. On this cloth put a small Advent wreath. The wreath can be something you have prepared together as a group or 4 small votive candles with greenery.

Welcoming the children: Gather the children together at the prayer table and ask some wondering questions:

- I wonder who remembers what season we are celebrating in Church?
- Have any of you seen any animals this morning?

We are now in the season of waiting and listening, the season of Advent.

- What is one thing that you have to wait for?

Opening Prayer: Light the first and second candle on your Advent wreath. Have the children each pick a strand of prayer beads. Explain that the beads were made by the older children. They will stay in our prayer space for us to use each week during Advent.

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- At the cross – say, “Let us pray.”
- For the Invitational beads – say, “Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”
- For the first Cruciform bead – have the children say out loud or in their hearts something they have to wait for.
- For the first seven beads – repeat the line “Help us to wait, Lord.”

- When you reach the second Cruciform bead – have the children say out loud or in their hearts something they want help for.
- For the second seven beads – repeat the line “Guide us, Lord.”
- When you reach the third Cruciform bead – have the children say out loud or in their hearts something they want to pray for.
- For the third seven beads – repeat the line “Be with us, Lord.”
- When you reach the fourth Cruciform bead – have the children say out loud or in their hearts something they have to wait for.
- For the fourth seven beads – repeat the line “Help us to wait, Lord.”
- When you reach the first Cruciform bead again – have the children say the Lord’s Prayer together, ending with Amen.

After the gathering/opening prayer time, you can move to another space in the room for storytelling. It allows the children to move and stretch and renew their focus on the story.

Gather together for your story.

The Story: Gather the pictures of the animals. Place them in front of you for the children to see as you name each animal within the passage.

In the Bible we hear stories from special people called prophets, they said things to many people for God. One of the prophets was Isaiah, he wanted people to know more about God, and begin to tell people about what would happen.

You should use a translation of the bible that is used within your own parish.

Isaiah 11:1-3,6-10 (New Revised Standard Version)

Here is one of the stories Isaiah told the people –

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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Questions:

- I wonder if all of these animals live in the same places?
- I wonder if all of these animals always get along?
- Why would God want them all to get along?

Activities

These options can be done within your same space or a separate craft area. Encourage movement after the storytelling.

Option 1: Have the children create their own peaceable kingdoms. Create a collage using magazine pictures of animals, have the children construct a kingdom where all of the animals live together and get along with one another.

Option 2: Play "I am an animal".

Using a cd or mp3 player, when the children hear the music they can move around the room. When the music stops you state an animal (ex. Cow) and the children immediately pretend to be cows (mooring, walking on all fours, etc.) Begin the music and repeat other animals. Play continues as long as the leader would like.

Gather/Ending: Gather the children together in a circle. If you would like sing, use the song 'He's got the whole world in his hands'. You can use the various animals from the Bible passage ex. 'He's got the wolf and the lamb in his hands' for the verses.

If time allows, the children can share their pictures. Place the lighted wreath in the middle of your circle. Turn off the lights of the room. Ask the children if there is anything or any prayer they would like to say to the light.

Closing Prayer: God of Love, as we wait for you coming, help us to live in the light. Amen.

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