

Lesson Plans that Work
Year A – Second Sunday After the Epiphany
Lesson Plans for Older Children
Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: Isaiah 49:1-7

Most of the lessons are from Isaiah. Isaiah was an educated man, as was Micah. Isaiah, a member of the nobility, preached justice and love in obedience to God's call. It should be explained to the children that someone who was a “have” thought it was essential that he listen and obey the call of God... to represent his relationship with God through his relationship with others less fortunate. He was to represent God's Light to the world and preach about that Light coming into the world.

A Notation for This Week's Scripture

Today we hear the second Servant Song from Isaiah. From this Servant Song we learn more about the prophet who was chosen to bring the awareness of God's power, justice and love to the people of God. The people have been separated from God. The servant, the prophet, will suffer so that the people can have their relationship with God put back in place, restored. *Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.*

God continues to keep the Covenant with Isaiah. God will be present with Isaiah in the time of great difficulty. This is a promise God makes to us.

Theme: The Light of Christ

Before: It is important to read the lesson before you come into the class. You will find the experience of knowing what the text says will help you to be present and focused. You will need a Bible or copies of the lesson for each child.

Opening Prayer: Oh God, creator of the universe, we invite you to be present with us today. We ask for your Light to shine on us this morning as we learn more about your love for us. Amen.

The Story: Invite one child to read verses 1 and 2, another to read 3 and 4, another to read 5 and 6, and finally one to read verse 7.

Explore the Story and the Lesson

- Invite the children to tell the story in their own words. What did they hear?
- What does it mean to be despised? Look up the word *abhorred*.
- I wonder how we would define prophet? (*a person who speaks as a messenger of God*)
- Are there people in our society, in our community we don't like?
- Why do we not like those people? Is it the way they look? Is it the way they dress?
- What does this reading of scripture tell us about power and justice and love?
- I wonder how we can help people to feel safe in our community?

Activity

Option 1: Explore a Map of Israel as it was in Ancient Times. Which countries have different names today. Find maps in your church library on the Internet or with your Rector or Christian Formation Director. You can find maps in Bibles. You can cut up the map and have children put together individually or in groups. Make it a challenge to see who can do it faster. Be sure *everyone* receives praise for completing the puzzle.

Be sure to give the older children more double puzzle pieces to make it a genuine challenge.

Option 2: Explore the lifestyle in ancient times such as housing, clothing, diets. What is significantly different? Encourage them to make connections. An excellent resource for this activity is *The Children's Illustrated Bible* (by Selina Hastings with illustrations by Eric Thomas; New York, NY: DK Publishing, Inc., 2005).

Option 3: In the interest of power, justice and love, do you know what happens in a soup kitchen or food pantry? Who runs the soup kitchen or pantry? What are the needs? Make a list. Ask the older children to make a plan to help a soup kitchen or food pantry. Who do they talk with about implementing the plan?

Closing Prayer: O God, through your power of love and justice, our wrongs are forgiven every day. Thank you for forgiving us. Amen.

Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The LORD called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
² He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.

³ And he said to me, 'You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'
⁴ But I said, 'I have labored in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD,
and my reward with my God.'

⁵ And now the LORD says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength—
⁶ he says,
'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

⁷ Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
'Kings shall see and stand up,
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

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