

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

Scripture: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

A Notation for this week’s Scripture: Leviticus is a collection of laws related to worship, priests, sacrifices and holiness. It is named after Levi, the tribe of priests. Leviticus reminds us that the people of Israel are called to have a relationship based on justice and love. They are to be holy in their relationship with each other just as God treats his relationship with them as something sacred. This book underscores the holiness of God and the hope for Israel to reflect that holiness in all aspects of life. “Be holy, for I am holy” is the heart of this book. Israelites believed holiness was accomplished by keeping God’s commandments and codes.

Theme: Be Holy, For I am Holy

Before: You will need copies of the scripture with responses (found below), easel paper for brainstorming, paper and art supplies to make posters.

Beginning: Invite the children to think about rules they might have to help them behave fairly and kindly to one another.

Opening Prayer: Gracious God, help me to keep my mind and heart open and listen to hear what you want me to learn this morning. Amen.

The Story: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18 Invite the children to read the scripture phrase by phrase using the script below. You can go around the room, having a child read a phrase, and then everyone will join in saying, “I am the LORD your God.” Then the next person can read the next phrase and so on.

Explore the Story and the Lesson

- I wonder what stood out for you as we read this?
- I wonder what questions you may have?
- I wonder if you think any of these are easy?
- What might we struggle with today?
- Do these instructions from God sound like anything else we have heard? (Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-21); Love God, neighbor, and self (Matthew 22:37-40); the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12); Love your Enemies (Matthew 5:43-44); etc.)
- I wonder how we could make these sound more like they were being spoken today? (Work with the children on translating them into language they would use today.)

Activity:

Holy Chant

Using the children’s translations of the rules, invite them to create a chant or a song that tells about the rules from God and that they are holy as God is holy.

Holy Rules

Using the children's translations, invite them to find positive ways of saying all of the "rules" they have come up with and then create posters that depict these rules today.

Closing Prayer: Loving God, thank you for your helping us to know how to treat one another and how to follow your ways. Help us to be Holy as you are Holy. Amen.

This Week's Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

Reader 1: The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

Reader 2: ⁹ When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of our vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien;

Everyone: I am the LORD your God.

Reader 3: ¹¹ You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. ¹² And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God:

Everyone: I am the LORD your God.

Reader 4: ¹³ You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. ¹⁴ You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God:

Everyone: I am the LORD your God.

Reader 5: ¹⁵ You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶ You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor:

Everyone: I am the LORD your God.

Reader 6: ¹⁷ You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall not reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself:

Everyone: I am the LORD your God.

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