

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

Scripture: Exodus 24:12-18

The Book of Exodus – The second book in the Bible continues the story of when the Israelites escaped from Egypt. The Exodus begins with God calling Moses to lead them out of slavery, made a covenant with them and gave them the Commandments. Moses later leads them back to the Promised Land.

A Notation for this Week’s Scripture

In the story of Moses coming to God and receiving the Ten Commandments, we are brought right back to the issue of how we live our lives in Grace with God. There are guidelines that help us identify the boundaries that give us the ability to have a unique relationship not only with God *but* with each other. Here we are witness to the mystery of God speaking to Moses and the promise of an ancient tradition of laws and prophets helping us to feel secure about the fact that God will always be with us showing us the way. The blessing is always that Light which is given to each of us to follow always leading us to the Creator.

Theme: Following God

Before: You will need copies of the Bible or today’s scripture for each child. You will also need art supplies for the Activity time.

Beginning: Invite the children to think about rules that they have at home, school, in sports, etc. I wonder why rules might be important? I wonder what rules we can think of that God has given us?

Opening Prayer: Loving God, may we hear your words today as though we were hearing them for the first time. Help us to know you more by exploring your words and story. Amen.

The Story: Exodus 24:12-18 Invite two children to read. The first will read verses 12-14, the second will read 15-18. Invite the class to pay attention to words or phrases that stick out for them or things that are repeated.

Questions:

- I wonder what you noticed about today’s scripture reading?
- What words or phrases were repeated?
- I wonder why the image of the mountain is so important?
- I wonder what they were trying to communicate to those that heard the story?
- I wonder why the image of the cloud was so important?
- I wonder what you think of when you think of walking in a cloud? (mystery, unknown, silence, awe)
- (wonder with the children about the other patterns they saw in the reading – light, fire, numbers, etc.)

- I wonder why God gave Moses the Ten Commandments?
- I wonder how God might tell us the Ten Commandments today? Would they be any different?

Activity

Today's Commandments

When God gave Moses the 10 Commandments, God didn't just mean for them to be for people back then, but also for today. Let's find ways of making them ours.

- Encourage the children to reword the 10 Commandments.
- Have a group of children create a 10 Commandments rap or song.
- Invite other children to create a 10 Commandments display using magazine pictures, words, images, etc.
- Invite them to create 10 Commandment posters but using words or phrases from today.

The Ten Commandments

I am the Lord, your God.

1. You shall have no other gods but me.
 2. You shall not make for yourself any idol.
 3. Do not take the name of the Lord in vain.
 4. Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.
 5. Honor thy father and thy mother.
 6. Thou shall not kill/murder.
 7. Thou shall not commit adultery.
 8. Thou shall not steal.
 9. Thou shall not bear false witness.
 10. Thou shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.
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Getting Closure: Invite the children to share what they created for "Today's Commandments."

Closing Prayer: God of Love, we thank you for sharing your rules with us so that we can better live in community and better serve you each day. Amen.

This Week's Reading: Exodus 24:12-18

12 The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." 13 So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. 14 To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

15 Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. 16 The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called Moses out of the cloud. 17 Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. 18 Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

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