

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

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-4a

In the early Church the Easter Vigil was the only time that Baptisms were performed. The forty days leading up to Easter was used as a time of reflection, self-examination, and instruction for the catechumens, or new converts, in preparation for the new life they would receive at Baptism. Lent has always been a teaching season. All the lectionary readings during Lent point towards Baptism, either its promises and covenants, or its signs and symbols. Lent is often referred to as a short course in Baptism or a primer of our Christian faith.

Notation for This Week’s Scripture

Abraham is the great patriarch of our religion, known as the prime model of faith. He put his total trust in God when he said yes to leaving his familiar homeland to journey to an unknown land. His example becomes a blessing to all of us. The story’s connection to the Baptismal Rite is the concept of saying yes to God. It is not enough to say no to evil; we must be ready to say yes to Jesus. In the Baptismal Rite we are asked: “Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior? Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love? Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?” [*Book of Common Prayer*, pp. 302-303.]

Theme: Faith in God

Continuing the Journey of Lent

Lenten Waiting Table

A wonderful visual reminder to the children would be to create a “Waiting Table.” A purple cloth covering a table, a box or even a ledge would provide the display space. At the beginning of the season you could plant grass seed in a basket to produce a “living Easter basket.” Other ideas include fast growing seeds or bulbs, and caterpillars. The message we convey is that growth takes time and nurturing, and although we can’t always see it we can trust that it is taking place.

Lenten Roadmap: A visual tool to help the children mark time is recommended. Some possibilities include a large paper cross with forty spaces marked off, a “road map” with forty spaces leading to Easter, and made or purchased Lenten calendars.

Lenten Giving

A jar or other container to collect Lenten offerings is a visual reminder of sacrificial giving.

Before Class: Pre-cut the stars for very young children or have outlines pre-drawn or give out shapes to trace, such as from a cookie cutter. Learn the words to “Father Abraham.” This week you may also need: a picture of a family tree, poster board if there is no bulletin board in the room, and star pattern or template.

Beginning: Announce that it is the Second Sunday in Lent, the season that helps us to be ready for Easter. Show the children where you are at on the Lenten calendar or time telling aid from the week before.

Collect contributions for your mission project.

Hold up a picture of a family tree. Explain how the tree helps us see where we came from, who our ancestors [oldest relatives are]. Ask the children if they know who their grandparents or aunts and uncles are. Say “If we had a super giant tree, we might be able to see how our families go all the way back to a man in the Bible named Abraham, who loved and trusted God.”

Opening Prayer: Dear God help us to say yes like Abraham and to be ready to go where you lead us. We give you all our faith and trust. Amen.

The Story: The Lord was feeling disappointed and sad at the wicked and disobedient ways that people were behaving. But God did not give up on mankind. He never did and He never will. God called on Abraham who was seventy-five years old. God asked Abraham to leave his father’s house, his friends and family and his country. God wanted Abraham to go to a new and unknown country that He would show him. God promised to bless Abraham and all his descendants and to make them into a great nation. On another night God told Abraham to go outside and count the stars in the sky. That’s how many descendants or relatives would come from his family. Abraham and his wife were old, and they did not have any children yet. Although he wondered how this could be possible, Abraham trusted that God would keep his promises. God told Abraham that all the way into the future people would remember his name and remember Abraham as a man of great faith. The good example of Abraham and his family would become a blessing for generations of families to come. Abraham said yes to God without questioning, complaining, or doubting. So Abraham left his home and father, taking with him his wife Sarah and his nephew Lot and began the journey to the land where God led him.

Reflection Questions

- Who has ever gone on a long car trip?
- Who has kept asking:” How much longer? Are we there yet?”
- Who has complained or whined, “I’m hungry, thirsty, tired, bored. I have to go to the bathroom. She took my video game.”
- Can you imagine going on a very, very, very long trip, but you don’t have a car? You have to walk all the way. You have to sleep in a tent. You don’t know how far it is or what you will find when you get there.

That is what happened to Abraham. In spite of how hard it was, Abraham went any way because he loved and trusted God. We call that faith.

Activity: Song

Sing “Father Abraham” with all the hand gestures.

Game: I'm Going On a Journey

Make a circle. Choose a child to be Abraham. Abraham walks around the circle singing to the tune of "Have You Ever Seen a Lassie" I'm going on a journey, a journey, a journey, I'm going on a journey and I'm going to take _____. Child names something he/she would take on his journey. Then he says, "And also _____." He/she names and taps another child on the shoulder. They hold hands and walk around the circle and the second child sings the rhyme and repeats the process until all the children are on the journey. The teacher may now lead them around the room. The teacher can name some dangers and hardships along the way [ex. no water, bandits, sandstorms] as she leads them safely to Canaan.

Blessings

Pretend to sneeze. When the children say "God Bless You" thank them for their good wishes for you. Ask if they remember a priest blessing the people at the end of worship service. We are all allowed to bless one another. When we wish for someone else the best and most important things in life, the kinds of things that God wants for us, we are offering a blessing. We know we cannot accomplish these things without God's help, so we often start a blessing with words like "May God....." asking for God's participation in the blessing.

Let the children take turns pretending to sneeze. The other children respond "God bless you and _____" adding a good wish for the other child. [Ex. God bless you and keep you safe. God bless you and help you to do well in school. God bless you and give patience with your baby brother.] The teacher should add guidance where necessary.

Art: Stars in the Sky

The children will cut out and color, and write their names on a star. They will glue the stars on a blue background or poster board that says "Part of God's Family." If there is time they can make stars for their family and friends.

Closure: Restore the room to order. Have the children stand and stretch their arms up to the ceiling and then bow to the teacher to say thank you, then to one another, as a way of thanking one another for the time together. Remind them to bring in their Lenten offerings next week.

Closing Prayer: Dear Lord, We thank you for this time to learn about you. Help us to always say yes to you. May we become blessings to our families, friends, school, church and the world. Amen.

Lent Lesson Plans for Young Children written by Trudy Ardizzone.

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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