

Lesson Plans that Work
Year A – Fifth Sunday of Easter
Lesson Plans for Younger Children

Scripture: John 14:1-14

“I have seen the Lord!” exclaimed Mary Magdalene. At first she does not recognize who is standing beside her. When she realizes it is the risen Jesus she wants to grasp him. He holds her off and tells her to go and share what has happened: He has walked through death and has created a path for us to follow, now and on through our own death.

In these 50 days of Easter, celebrating what Jesus has done for us, we are invited to recognize Jesus standing beside us, as he did with Mary. What is he calling us to do? Perhaps we can train our eyes to look in the direction that this Jesus, standing beside us is looking. What might he be looking at? Do we dare follow where he is leading? Can we notice and honor the various ways Jesus “appears” to people?

A Notation for This Week’s Gospel

A house with many dwelling places, promises Jesus. Could it be that the way, the truth, and the light is in the richness of many dwelling places and not in conformity? How do we find the way to this place? Jesus tells us. He is the way.

Theme: The Way, the Truth, and the Light

Before: You will need light green construction paper cut in the shape of triangles, crayons, and straight pins.

Beginning: Working with the children, set up the worship space. Light the candle. Remember to blow it out after the story.

Praying: Thank you, God, that Jesus shows us the way to you. Amen.

The Story: Jesus was walking along with some of his friends. His friends had a bunch of questions to ask Jesus. “What is God like?” they asked Jesus. “God and I are a lot alike,” Jesus said. “God wants people to love each other. God tells us not to worry about things.” Jesus will be helping us do the things we have to do. Jesus tells us that he is right here beside us, helping us do hard things and helping us enjoy good things.

Activity: Tell the children that Jesus is right here in our room, right beside us, even though we cannot see him. So let’s put a chair in the middle of our circle and ask Jesus to please sit down in the chair. Now let’s tell him some of our favorite things. (You could start by saying: I am glad we help each other or I am glad we have ice cream, or I am glad that there are puppies in our world, or I am glad that I have friends.) Invite the children to say things they are glad about.

Then ask the children to think of hard things to do that they can now do: tie their own shoes, write their own names, etc. Invite the children to tell Jesus about some of the things they can do now.

Together, you can thank Jesus for being here with us.

Activity: Give the children the construction paper triangles and crayons and invite them to draw themselves doing something that was once hard but now they can do. If they want to, they can draw Jesus right there beside them as they do this new thing.

Activity: Going outside, if weather and your situation permit, take a walk with the children. If you cannot go outside, take the walk either around the inside of your church or in your room. Take turns thinking up things we have learned from Jesus. When someone has an idea, they become our leader and we walk along behind them. When someone else remembers something, they say it, and we follow them. Give each child who wants to have a turn the opportunity to be the leader.

Getting Closure: Help the children pin their pictures to the cloth on the worship space.

Closing Prayer: Thank you, God, that Jesus is right here with us. Amen.

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