

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

Scripture: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

In the early church Easter was the day for Baptisms. The festival season of Easter marks the fifty days between Easter and Pentecost. It is a time for reflecting on the meaning of our Baptism and the other sacraments. The church calls this process of studying the mysteries of the church mystagogia. We explore what it means to be the Body of Christ and members of His church and how we are to live this out in the world today. During the Easter season the Old Testament readings are replaced with selections from the Book of Acts. We hear about the sacrifice and resurrection of our Lord so that we too may know how to proclaim the good news of Jesus with similar joy and conviction

A Notation for this week's Scripture

The apostles had been hiding out in the upper room where the last supper with Jesus had occurred. Since the crucifixion they were fearful that the Romans might also arrest and kill them for being followers of Jesus. Jesus had told them to remain in the city of Jerusalem until they received the power of His Holy Spirit. Fifty days after Easter was the day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit entered the room and filled each apostle with power and boldness. In this passage Peter has gone out into the streets of Jerusalem to preach the message of the Resurrection. Peter compares Jesus to David, but states that David was only a prophet. Jesus, being God could not be contained by death. Peter testifies that he and all the apostles are witnesses to this.

Theme: Knowing Christ through Faith

Although we were not eyewitnesses to the Resurrection of Jesus, we can trust in the reliable testimony of the apostles. Today we can believe in the power of the risen Lord when we see all the faithful gathered together in worship and when we see people doing good things in the world in the name of Jesus. When we are part of the worship and the good works we can feel his power and love working inside us.

Before Class

Print out Pinwheel pattern on white or colored papers. You will need: Markers or crayons to decorate the pinwheel before putting them together, pencils with an erasers, colored construction paper, a plastic straw, scissors and a paper fastener for each child.

Assemble objects for Memory Game in a box or basket. For Memory Game you will need objects to display. This could be things from around the room or Easter symbols such as a cross, lily, bunny, butterfly, egg, and a cloth to hide them.

Beginning

Review the Easter greeting.

Teacher: *Alleluia! The Lord is risen.*

Children: *The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

Opening Prayer

Dear Jesus, help us to know and trust you through our Bible stories, our parents, teachers and priests and our Sunday worship. Amen

The Story*:

When Jesus first met Peter, Peter was working as a fisherman. Peter did not know how to teach or talk to crowds of people. In fact, Peter didn't always get what Jesus was trying to teach him. But Peter trusted Jesus and had faith in Him. Jesus had faith that Peter could learn and grow. Jesus gave Peter a very important job to do. Jesus told Peter to spread the story of God's love for the people and to start a church where people who believed in Jesus could worship together. After Jesus was arrested and killed, Peter and the other apostles were afraid that they might get arrested too. So they stayed in an upper room where they had shared their last supper with Jesus. They were waiting for Jesus to keep His promise that He would send His Holy spirit to guide them and show them what to do. Fifty days after Jesus rose from the dead, His

Holy spirit came into the room where the apostles were. The Holy Spirit entered in to the heart and mind of each apostle and made them brave and strong and smart about God's plan for how to spread the teachings of Jesus. After this happened Peter went outside with the other apostles and gave a speech to a huge crowd of people that was gathered in the streets of Jerusalem. With great confidence, in a big voice, Peter told the people all about Jesus and all Jesus had done for the people. Peter wanted to make sure the people knew that Jesus was from God and was a part of God. He told them how Jesus rose from the dead. Peter said that even if they had not seen this themselves, that he and all the other apostles were witnesses to this and the people could trust and believe that Peter and the other apostles were giving a true testimony.

*Adapted from: Pearson, Sharon Ely and Robyn Szoke, editors. *The Prayer Book Guide to Christian Education*. New York: Morehouse Publishers, 2009

Reflection

- I wonder how Peter felt talking to all those people.
- I wonder how many people believed Peter.
- I wonder if you have ever been asked or told to believe a story that you didn't see happen.

Sometimes our parents or grandparents or aunts and uncles tell us stories about our families from a long time ago. They may have happened before you were born. Since you weren't there you didn't see the story happen but you believe it's true because you trust your family. When your Sunday School teacher tells you a Bible story, even though you weren't there you believe it because you trust the Bible as God's word and you trust your teacher. Peter and the other apostles were the first teachers about Jesus.

Memory Game

Pick one child to face the back of the room. Assemble some handy objects on a table, perhaps the Easter symbols from last week. Tell the children to observe the objects. After a few moments, cover the objects with a cloth. Pick one child to come up along with the child who was facing the back. Ask each child to say what is under the cloth. Ask the class which child they will believe?

Teaching, we can trust those who give testimony of what they have seen. Have the class tell what is under the cloth. Even though they can't see now, they can remember. Remove the cloth. Now take the objects away. Ask the class what used to be on the table. Even though the objects are gone, they can have faith in their memories of what used to be. When someone we love goes away, even though we cannot see them any more we can remember them and have faith in their love for us.

Believing is Not Always Seeing: Making Pinwheels

Ask: "What kinds of things do we believe are true or real even though we cannot see them?"

Listen and respond to answers. Prompts: Flick the lights on and off to help them think of electricity, ask what they need to fly a kite, etc. Older children might respond, *love or God*.

Reinforce that having faith is believing in the things we can't see. When we live in faith we have to behave as if those things we believe in are real and true. If we build a pin wheel we have to act in faith that wind is real. The pinwheel will not spin unless we put it near wind.

Creating the Pinwheel

Children should decorate pinwheels now, before assembly begins.

Demonstrating each step as you go:

- Have each child cut the pinwheel pattern along the exterior solid lines.
- Have the children cut the diagonal dotted lines up to the edge of the circle. Avoid cutting into the circle.
- Use a sharpened pencil to poke a small hole in each corner of the square pattern.
- Use the pencil point to poke a hole in a plastic drinking straw about 1/2-inch from the top.
- Pull in the corners of the pinwheel so the four tiny holes meet at the center circle.
- Push the paper fastener through the four holes on the pinwheel and through the center circle.
- Finally, hold the straw against the back of your pinwheel and push the paper fastener through the hole you created in the straw. The paper fastener will stay in place if you push the ends flat in opposite directions.

If there is time after the class finishes decorating and creating their pinwheels, take the children [outside](#) and allow them to experiment with their pinwheels. Demonstrate how the pinwheels start to work with the power of the wind.

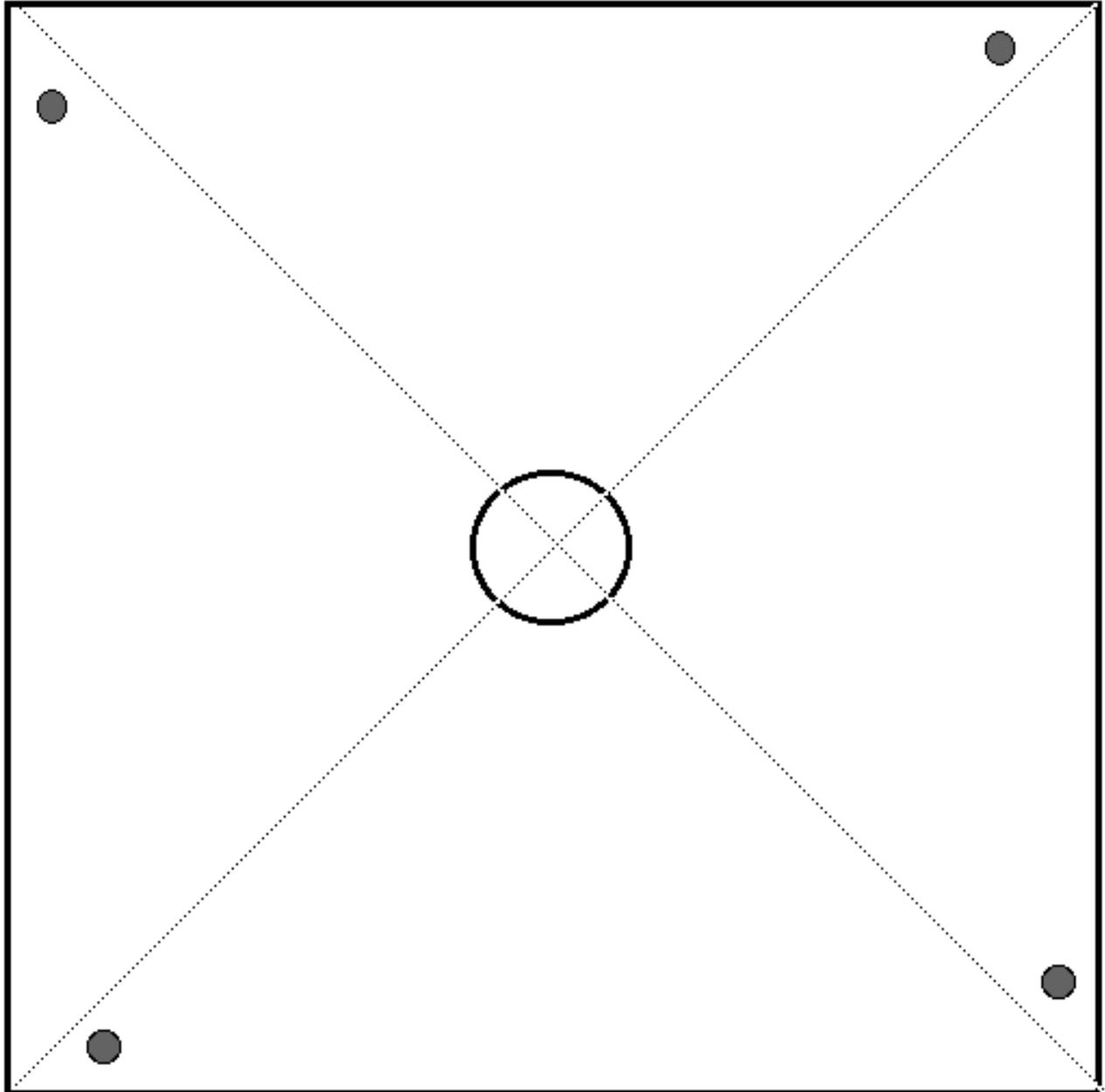
Closing

Have the children return the supplies to their spaces and clean up their workspace. Return to the story circle. Say this closing poem:

Our time together is almost done
I hope you had a bit of fun.
May God's blessings go with you.
Show His love in all you do.
So now on this special day
Let us bow our heads and pray.

Closing prayer

Dear Risen Lord, thank you for giving us faith. Teach us to live it and share it. Amen.



Easter Lesson Plans for Young Children written by Trudy Ardizzone, 2011

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