

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

Scripture: Acts 2:42-47

The Easter season is when we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Easter Season is a very special time of year. There are fifty days in the season. The season has seven Sundays, and this is the fourth Sunday of Easter. The Easter season brings about a lot of happiness as we celebrate the coming of spring and Jesus Christ's resurrection. During this time children should be reminded that after Jesus Christ died on the cross he came back to be among the disciples for forty days.

Peace and Justice

These 7 Easter Season lessons will explore peace and justice issues. Jesus is the role model for Christians. Throughout the lessons you will want to compare how the values of the persons being highlighted reflect the values we have been taught by Jesus. The person highlighted for each lesson will serve as a modern day role model for others in your community. Be sure to share how their actions reflect the values Jesus taught us. The Easter season is a good time for children to look at what they have in their community, good and bad, and to look beyond their community and into the past to learn about some challenges that the United States and other parts of the world have faced.

Today's role model is Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

You might consider watching the video links that are provided in order to learn more about the person being highlighted each Sunday.

This Week's Scripture: Acts 2:42-47

In this reading, early Christians functioned as a family and they held things in common. When one person needed something another person sold their property to help them. The church gained new members daily. Early Christians showed great love and concern for one another. Christians were dedicated to learning from the apostles and ate, prayed, and worshipped together.

Theme: Generosity and Peace

God is generous to us and wants us to be generous to the world. Early Christians were brave and they were very generous to each other. They took care of each other like family.

Before Class:

You will need copies of the Pinwheels for Peace instruction sheet (at least one per child, maybe more), straight pins or paper clips, sharpened number two pencils.

If you are showing videos of the Role Models this season, find one for Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

You will need UTO Boxes and copies of the UTO information sheet (found in Easter Sunday Lesson).

Beginning:

Invite the children to gather into a circle and tell them:

During the Easter season, we are doing some special things. Each Sunday, we will hear a story from the Acts of the Apostles, which is the book of the bible that tells the story of the early Church. We will also hear a story about a role model that lived the way Jesus teaches us to live. We will also be looking at how we can serve Jesus' mission in the world as the Apostles and role models have done.

Opening Prayer: Thank you for generous people in our world. Please help to support them in their work and guide us to follow their lead. Thank you in your generosity for bringing Jesus Christ to us. Help us to be generous to those who need someone to be kind to them.
Amen.

The Story:

What an exciting time to be a follower of Jesus! The people that Peter baptized were so happy and full of joy. No one had to be lonely or afraid or hungry anymore. Every day the new followers went to the Temple together to pray. They studied with the apostles to learn more about Jesus. Everyone shared everything they had. If someone had a lot of extra things he would sell them, so that the community could buy food and clothes for the poor. Many neighbors and friends would share meals together where they would remember what Jesus did and said in his life on earth and especially at the Last Supper. This is something like what we do at communion on Sunday. Every day and in every way they praised God and showed their gratitude for Jesus by trying to live good lives. Peter and the other eleven apostles were filled the power of God's Holy Spirit.

They were able to heal people and do other amazing signs and wonders that pointed to God's awesomeness. Everyone who saw them was filled with awe or fear. Every day the Lord brought more people into the community of followers of Jesus. A church is not a building. It is the people who pray, worship and work for God together. This church was growing.

Exploring the Role Model:

Each story during the Easter Season will highlight a role model that the children will learn about. Each week as you tell the story highlight the values each person displays reminding them that Jesus is the best role model of all.

Today's role model is Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

- Archbishop Desmond Tutu is a leader in the Anglican Church. He became the first Black to be Archbishop in South Africa. He bravely fought for integration of Whites and Blacks when South Africa practiced segregation of Whites and Blacks. He fought for the civil rights of his people and has served as a role model for the world.
- Archbishop Desmond Tutu has given generously of his talent as negotiator and civil rights fighter. Archbishop Tutu and his followers knew that demanding that South Africa end the practice of separating Whites and Blacks, also known as apartheid, was dangerous but they also knew that God and Jesus Christ were with them in their struggles. South Africa no longer practices apartheid, thanks to fighters like Archbishop Tutu.

- The Early Christians were brave because they did not know if non-Christians would try to kill them. Archbishop Tutu was brave to stand up to the government leaders of a segregated South Africa. Both Archbishop Tutu and the early Christians became role models to others in the world. People have followed Archbishop Tutu and the early Christians because they did what God and Jesus Christ wanted them to do.

Show the video you chose about Archbishop Tutu.

Questions

- I wonder what you remember or can tell us about Archbishop Tutu's life in South Africa.
- Do you think your community has some of the problems that South Africa has had?
- How should you or your church help others who are fighting for others' rights?
- How can we reflect Jesus' love in the world?

Reflection:

People need to feel like someone cares for them and that someone is generous toward them.

- Think of two people in your life who need to feel generosity.
- How can you be generous to them?
- Do you know someone that is often generous with their time or money?
- Sometimes people that are close to us are very generous, especially to young people.
- How can we show appreciation to those that are generous?

Art Activity: Pinwheels for Peace

Print the Pinwheels for Peace sheet found at the end of the lesson.

More information about the pinwheels can be found website:

http://www.pinwheelsforpeace.com/pinwheelsforpeace/pinwheel_template.html

If possible, toward the end of the class time go outside and "plant" your pinwheels on the church grounds.

Closing:

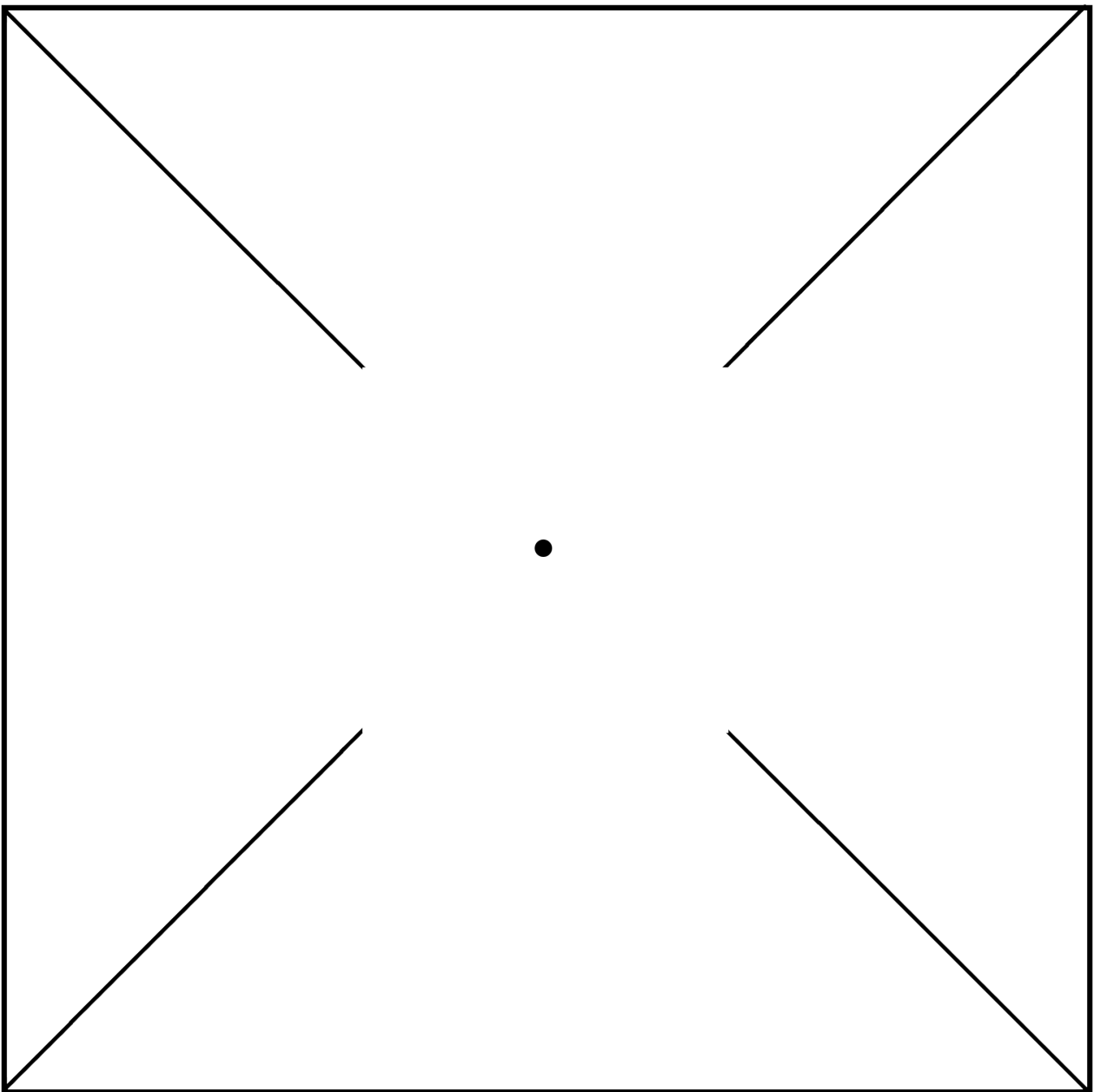
On this Fourth Sunday of Easter we remain grateful to God for filling people with generosity. God was generous with early Christians and continues to be generous to us through his Son Jesus Christ. Thank you God for your generosity. Thank you for the many people who are generous in helping others. Archbishop Tutu is a good example of this and we thank you for his ministry in South Africa and around the world. Please help us to follow others leaders who are generous.

Easter Lesson Plans for Older Children written by Luisa Bonillas, Ph.D.

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for more information, visit <http://pinwheelsforpeace.com>



What you need:

Scissors
Straight pin
Pencil with eraser
Colored pencils or markers to decorate

Pinwheels for Peace

How to get started:

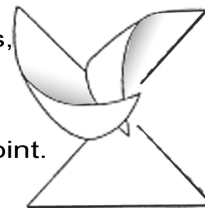
Cut out the pinwheel square on this page. On one side of the paper, write down your feelings about war/peace/tolerance/living in harmony. On the other side of the paper, use markers, colored pencils, paint, or other art media to visually express your feelings. Following the lines on the template, cut in from all four corners, leaving about 2 inches of center uncut.



Cut out this peace sign and put it in the center of your pinwheel before you put the pin in it.

To create the pinwheel:

Gently bend (don't fold) one of the cut corners to the center point. Skip the next cut corner, and bend the next one. Skip and bend until four points meet in the center. Then stick the straight pin through all four points AND the back of the pinwheel. Stick the pin into the pencil eraser. Find some wind to test it out.



Save your pinwheel in a safe place until September 21st (which is International Day of Peace) then take it to a public place and "plant" it into the ground to send a message of **world peace!**