

Lesson Plans that Work
Year A – Season after Pentecost, Proper 7
Lesson Plans for Older Children

Scripture: Matthew 10:24-39

In this season after Pentecost, we hear stories of Jesus ministry in the world and our call to engage in that mission. This season is also known as Ordinary Time coming from the word “ordinal” which means counted time. This time is not ordinary as in common or regular, but it is the time of counted weeks between Pentecost and Advent. The color for this season is green and it is often referred to as the green growing time as we hear stories of what God is calling us to do in the world, we join in that call, and we grow in our faith.

A Notation for This Week’s Gospel and Reading

The reading for today can be a difficult one if we do not look at what lies beneath the word. Jesus tells us that what we instinctively do or don’t do, we should be doing the opposite. Jesus talks about setting family members against one another and turning things upside down. These are challenging words for us because it means that all those relationships, all the things we think are important, all those cultural norms we try so hard to abide by are turned on their head. The central message in all this upendedness is that God comes first before anything else we think might be important AND God knows all of those things in our hearts and minds. The good news is that because God knows all, it means that we do not need to keep anything hidden, we do not need to fear, we do not need to keep secrets. All is known by God and nothing comes before God. Nothing.

Theme: God Knows Us

Before Class: You will need Bibles or copies of the scripture for each child. If you are going to do the activity, you will need costumes for the drama, mural paper or plain paper, markers, pens, and crayons.

Beginning: Tell them a bit about what this Season after Pentecost means (you can use the description found at the beginning of the lesson if you would like to) and invite them to think about what this green growing time can mean for them.

Opening Prayer: Loving God, we ask you to be with us as we explore what your words mean for our lives. Guide us as we seek to do your mission in the world. Amen.

The Story: Matthew 10:24-39 Invite five of the children to read the scripture for today. You can see below the five sections are broken up this way: vs. 24-25, 26-31, 32-33, 34-36, 37-39.

Questions:

- wonder what it was like for those listening to Jesus’ words for the first time?
- What do you think their response may have been?
- I wonder why these words are difficult to hear?
- I wonder how these words might make us feel liberated?

- I wonder what this kind of world would look like? What would it look like for people to be equal, for us to not be fearful, for things to be out in the open, and for us to put God first?

Activity: Living in a Different World

Drama: Invite the children to act out what this kind of world would look like. (see the last question to spur on ideas.)

Art: Invite them to create a mural of how this world would be different than the world we live in now. What would look different? What would be the same.

Getting Closure: Invite the children to share what they created. Invite them to share how they think they might live into this vision today.

Closing Prayer: Loving God, help us put you first in our lives, to listen for your guidance, and to hear the call to serve you. Guide our ears, eyes, mouth, hands, and feet that we may engage in your mission in the world. Amen.

Matthew 10:24-39

Jesus said to the twelve disciples, "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

"So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

"Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

"Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

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