

Lesson Plans that Work
Year B – Third Sunday of Easter
Lesson Plans for Adults

Scripture: Luke 24:36b-48

Background: Easter - the unearned gift of grace. The reflective season of “going in” that Lent provided (no matter what disciplines we undertook, nor even how well we attended to them) explodes on Easter. Of course, we cannot “figure it out.” How comforting, then, to have these scriptures, showing first how the disciples struggled to grasp what had happened and then stories of Jesus before the crucifixion, which are written in the light of the Resurrection.

As Easter people we know, as Paul said, that nothing, not even death, shall separate us from the love of God. We are people who expect life out of death. And so, in Eastertide we celebrate the wonder and prepare ourselves to take the awesome message out into the world on Pentecost.

A Notation for this Week’s Gospel

Words tumble from the mouths of the excited disciples as they try to convey what happened on the road to Emmaus. In mid-sentence, they hear “Peace be with you.” Jesus is in their midst. Jesus encourages them to touch him and see that it is he. As they scramble to believe what they are seeing, Jesus casually asks them if, by any chance, they have anything to eat! They have broiled fish, which is shared all around.

Theme: Seeing Jesus

Before Class: You will need Bibles or copies of the scripture. If you want, they could be two different translations.

Beginning: Greet each other and invite class members to request prayers for people or situations on their hearts so the class can pray with them. Make a note so you can be sure these requests are included in your times of prayer together today. You could then offer to the class this thought: the people who put together the lectionary (the choice of readings for each Sunday) did so almost 40 years ago. Yet, amid all the chaos in our lives, we have today, for the second Sunday in a row, a passage that proclaims: “Peace be with you.”

Opening Prayer: Thank you, God, for knowing our longing for peace in our own lives and in the world. (Insert prayer requests.) We thank you for the words of reassurance we have in Scripture. Amen.

The Scripture: Luke 24:36b-48 Ask for a volunteer to read this fairly short passage from Luke. Allow a bit of silence, and then ask for a different person to read the passage again possibly from a different translation.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder what stood out for you as you listened today?
- Notice the 14-mile round trip – on foot – at the end of a full day for both of the disciples and also for Jesus. When did the disciples know they were in the presence of Jesus? (At the breaking of the bread.)
- In today's passage, what are elements of gentleness, patience, and full-fledged humanity? (The way Jesus gently enters into their conversation, his patience as they need to touch to see, and his question, "Have you anything here to eat?")
- As they ate broiled fish together/what do you suppose they remembered from the last meal they had all together? What had Jesus set up for them at that meal? (The Jewish Seder, which was later transformed into the Eucharist.)
- I wonder when we notice Jesus in our midst?
- Where do we feel Jesus present in our lives today?

Getting Closure: We have looked at people who were struggling to understand over 2,000 years ago. What does this passage have to say to us – here – today? Where do we see Jesus being gentle and patient with us? How do we work through our fears and our doubts?

Closing Prayer: Thank you, God, for sending us Jesus to make it possible to do the work you give us to do. Amen.

Luke 24:36b-48

While the disciples were telling how they had seen Jesus risen from the dead, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you-- that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

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