

Lesson Plans that Work
Year B – Season after Pentecost, Proper 5
Lesson Plans for Older Children

Scripture: Mark 3:20-35

Background: We are now in the long season known as Ordinary Time, which runs through Christ the King Sunday. As we take this journey, nourished by the scriptures appointed for the season and empowered by our baptisms, we are invited to be on the lookout for all the blessings found in the ordinary – to see God at work here and now. And we are compelled to share our blessings with others.

A Notation for This Week’s Gospel

Proper: appropriate, fitting, and during Ordinary Time, the scripture appointed for each particular Sunday. The scriptures for this Season after Pentecost all come from the Gospel of Mark. In today's Gospel, our story begins with the realization that the crowds around Jesus had become so big that the people could not even eat (presumably because it was too crowded). People were very interested in what he was saying, some thinking that his take on God and his ministry made him look crazy while others were drawn to his new kind of message.

We see his family try to come and make him stop, worried about what people were saying about him. But rather than taking a breather or taking a time out, Jesus instead challenges the notion and challenges the notion of family.

Theme: Who is Your Family

Before Class: You will need copies of the scripture for everyone (see below for script.) You will also need either copies of the tree or blank paper (butcher paper if you want) markers, pens, pencils, etc.

Beginning: As we begin a new season in the church and as summer begins, you may find that your class changes, therefore you will need to make sure to begin the class so people can get to know one another. As the children enter the room, invite them to your gathering place in the room. Ask them to share about their week, what they did or what they are looking forward to in the coming week. Once you think that everyone has arrived, invite each child to say their name and one thing that they really like about their family. Nametags would be helpful as well.

Introduction to the Season: Explain to the group that on this Sunday we begin the season of Ordinary Time or the Season after Pentecost. It is about six months long, making up the last half of the church's lectionary year. Ordinary Time is a time in which the mission of the church is carried out in the day-to-day life of its members. Besides All Saints' Day on November 1st, there are no high holidays (such as Easter) or disciplined fasts (such as Lent). And interestingly, in Ordinary Time we will probably encounter some out-of-the-ordinary events in our own lives and possibly even in our life together in this particular church community. The gift of this time – if we keep on looking for it – is finding the hidden blessings amid the ordinary occurrences. We could agree to share with each other, as we go along, things the world might consider

unexceptional – a wildflower we noticed on a walk, an intriguing insight from a young child, even a place to purchase really fresh tomatoes.

The scriptures, for the Sundays from now until the end of November, are called Propers. Today is Proper 5. The Gospel for this year is mostly Mark – the most succinct of the Gospels. Mark was a "just the facts" Gospel.

Opening Prayer: Gracious and Loving God, thank you for the families you have given us and for the families we choose. Be with us as we explore what it means to be family that we might find you in new ways. Amen.

The Scripture: Mark 3:20-35 Ask for volunteers to read the passage, one person reading the part of the narrator, one or more reading the lines for the disciples, and one reading the parts Jesus speaks. (See final pages)

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder why the crowds were so big?
- I wonder what interested them?
- In the story that Jesus uses about a divided Kingdom, he is challenging those around him - his followers and those who were opposed to him. Look back at the parable.
 - What stands out for you?
 - What surprises you?
 - What challenges you?
 - What are you drawn to?
- Jesus redefines family at the end of this passage what do you think he means?

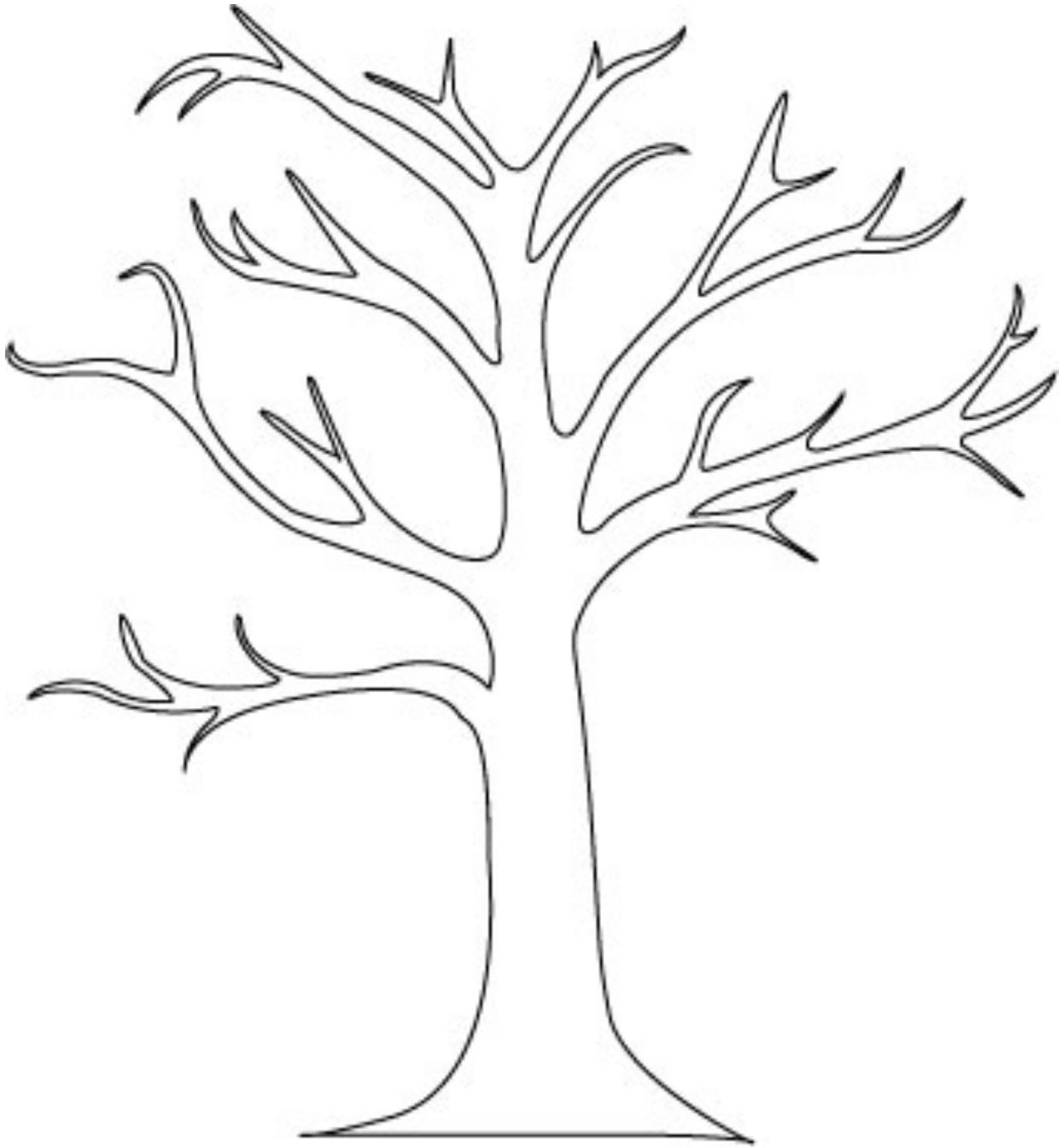
Family Tree:

Give each person either a copy of the tree below or a piece of blank paper and a few markers. Invite them to create their family tree of both relatives and others that they would consider their family. (If you have the materials, it might be fun to give them a large piece of butcher paper or poster paper on which to create their family tree.)

Who would they include? Are there close family friends they would include as family? Who do you consider family? Would they include whole communities as family members?

Getting Closure: Once everyone is done with their family tree, invite people to share briefly about their tree, who they included.

Closing Prayer: God of our families and communities, thank you for our time together to explore your Gospel message. Help us to always remember that you are at the center of our family and you call us into a larger family. Amen.



Mark 3:20-35

Narrator: The crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When Jesus' family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying,

Crowd: “He has gone out of his mind.”

Narrator: And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said,

Scribes: “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.”

Narrator: And Jesus called them to him, and spoke to them in parables,

Jesus: “How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”— for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

Narrator: Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him,

Crowd: “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.”

Jesus: “Who are my mother and my brothers?”

Narrator: And looking at those who sat around him, he said,

Jesus: “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

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