

Lesson Plans that Work
Year B – Season after Pentecost, Proper 9
Lesson Plans for Younger Children

Scripture: Mark 6:1-13

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

Although Jesus was stung by the hardened hearts of those in his own hometown, he realized that the prophet is not without honor -- except in his own hometown. So he moves on and begins to train his disciples. Two by two he sends them out to work in pairs, building their own relationships as they work with those who accept their ministry.

Theme: Two-by-Two

Before Class: You will need supplies to make friendship bracelets – string or chenille stems and pony beads. Think about what activity you can have the children do in prayers as a beginning illustration for class.

Beginning: After children have arrived, divide them into pairs of two. Choose a simple task that can be done two by two. And if you do not have an even number of children, you can be the other half of a pair. Perhaps it is arranging your space, moving a table, gathering chairs, passing out paper and crayons. It could be a simple clean-up project such as going outside and picking up trash and putting it in a plastic bag.

Opening Prayer: Thank you, Jesus, for showing friends how to work together. Thank you for friends who can work together to get things done. Amen.

The Story: Mark 6:1-13 Jesus and his friends had been traveling around the country. Now it was time for Jesus to send his friends out to do some of the work. Jesus knew that when two friends work together they can get more work done and they can support one another. So Jesus began to show his friends how to do this. They did not have big suitcases, or even backpacks. Jesus told his friends to go, two-by-two, and take nothing with them -- not a change of clothes, no extra shoes, no money. Sometimes people would be glad to see them, invite them into their houses, fix them supper, and listen to what they had to say. Sometimes people would not listen to them at all. Jesus told his friends to say thank you for whatever people gave them for supper (even if it was something they did not really like). If people did not listen to them, then the friends should just shake the sand out of their sandals and move on.

Act it Out: The children can act out this passage, both cheerful receptions and doors shut in the face. If you have an uneven number of children, one child can be the person in the house whom

the friends approach. Tell the welcoming child to pretend to bring out a nice supper and listen to the two who come. Then when the next two come, the same householder will not even open the door. The children will probably be able to figure out how to shake the sand out of their sandals. Continue the "enactment" until each child has had a chance to play the roll he or she wants to play.

Friendship bracelets:

Friendship bracelets can illustrate the "two-by-two" theme of this passage. The simplest way to make these bracelets is with a chenille stems (pipe cleaners) and beads with holes large enough for the stems to slide through. You can also use string or yarn instead of chenille stems.

Show the children what you have been able to gather to make friendship bracelets. Very young children will probably want to take home the bracelets they have made. Older children might enjoy making a bracelet for a friend and exchanging the bracelets they have made.

Getting Closure: Each child will have a bracelet to wear. Let the children tell each other about their bracelets. ("I choose this color bead, because," etc.)

Closing Prayer: Thank you, God, for giving us friends. Help us remember to work together and that you send us out two-by-two. Amen.

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