

Lesson Plans that Work
Year B – Season after Pentecost, Proper 8
Lesson Plans for Younger Children

Scripture: Mark 5:21-43

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

Jesus heals two people, an elderly woman, and a young girl, neither of whom had any status in their community. The power that was flowing out from Jesus into them can also flow into the things that need healing in our lives, but we must risk opening up to receive it. Jesus seems to insist that the most important work happens in the ordinary and that our faith makes us well.

Theme: Healing

Before Class: Collect an empty plastic medicine container for each child or if you do not have enough you could also use small Dixie cups, and tiny flowers to make bouquets. A small blanket and a scarf or shawl will help the children enact the story.

Beginning: Ask the children if they can remember a time they were sick. Do they know someone who is sick now? Perhaps there is a member of the church the children know who is sick.

Opening Prayer: Gracious and Healing God, we pray for those who are sick, [especially, _____.] We want them to get well. Uphold them in their sickness and fill them with grace, that they may know the healing power of your love. Amen.

The Story: Tell the children that Jesus helped many people get well when they were sick. Today we have a story about two people who Jesus helped get well: a little girl and an old woman. Ask for volunteers to help you tell the story. You will need someone to be a little girl, who is lying down. You will need someone to be an old woman, who has been sick for a very long time and is bent over in pain. You will also need someone to be Jesus.

Have the sick little girl lie on the floor. Cover her with a small blanket if you have one. Tell the children that the little girl's daddy was very worried about her and went out to find Jesus. "Jesus!" the daddy said when we found Jesus. "My little girl is so very sick – I am afraid she is going to die. Please come to my house and lay your hands on her so she can get well."

As Jesus was on his way to the little girl's house an old woman was in the crowd. She had been sick for a long time. She knew that if she could just sneak up behind Jesus and touch his clothes, she would get well. She didn't know how it would happen, but she just knew it would -- so she

sneaked up on Jesus and very gently touched his clothes. And immediately she could stand up straight without it hurting at all!

"Who touched me?" asked Jesus. Well, with so many people following Jesus, who knew who touched him? Jesus kept looking around until the woman came up to him and crouched down before him. She told him everything that had happened. And Jesus said to her: "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace. You will not hurt anymore."

And they went on their way to the little girl's house. The little girl was still lying very still and very sick. Everyone was sure she was already dead, because she was not moving at all.

Jesus took three of his friends into the house and they prayed. Then Jesus reached out and took the little girl's hand and said: "Little girl, get up!" And she did. "She is going to be just fine," Jesus said. "Somebody get her something to eat."

(If you have more than these three children who want to be "in" the story, tell it again, with different actors playing the parts. If you are working with the older children and they tell the story, be sure the younger ones get a chance to be in the story in a second telling.)

Option: Explain to the children that God uses our prayers in ways we may not understand, but God always uses our prayers. If the children have already identified someone they know who is sick, ask them to join you in praying for that person. If they have not previously identified anyone, be ready with someone in your church who has asked for prayer for healing. Ask the children to pray with you.

You can use the opening prayer above, or this one (adapted from Prayers of the People Form IV). Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; [especially _____] give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your healing love.

Then ask, "Does anyone want to add to this prayer?" Accept what they offer, and if they offer nothing, that is OK, too. Then, simply add: "Amen."

Bouquets: Invite the children to help you make tiny bouquets so each child can take one home. Tell the children that when they look at the bouquets, they can stop and pray for the person we prayed for today. Or they can pray for someone else who is sick. If they know someone who is sick, they can give that bouquet to that person later that day.

Getting Closure: Ask the children to sit quietly for just a moment, holding their bouquets and thinking about the sick person they have prayed for.

Closing Prayer: Thank you, God, for taking our prayers and using them. Thank you for the healing that will happen through you. Amen.

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Lesson Plans that Work
Year B – Season after Pentecost, Proper 8
Lesson Plans for Older Children

Scripture: Mark 5:21-43

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

Jesus heals two people, an elderly woman, and a young girl, neither of whom had any status in their community. The power that was flowing out from Jesus into them can also flow into the things that need healing in our lives, but we must risk opening up to receive it. Jesus seems to insist that the most important work happens in the ordinary and that our faith makes us well.

Theme: Healing

Before Class: You will need copies of the Bible or copies of the script found at the end of the lesson. You will also need copies of the Book of Common Prayer, paper, markers, and art supplies. You will want to have a copy of the prayer list your congregation has for those who are sick. Props to help with play: a shawl or long scarf, a small blanket, and perhaps a pillow.

Beginning: Tell the children that today we will be thinking a lot about people who are sick. Ask the children if there are people in their family (e.g., grandparent, cousin) who are sick, or if there are children they know from school who are sick. Make a list and tell the children we will be praying for these people.

Opening Prayer: Gracious and Healing God, we pray for those who are sick, especially, _____. We want them to get well. Uphold them in their sickness and fill them with grace, that they may know the healing power of your love. Amen.

The Story: Tell the children that this story is fairly long, so you will tell part of it, and they can read parts of it out loud. If they follow along in the Bible, here is a way to do that: (There is a script at the end of the lesson.)

Act it Out: Invite the children to act out the story, creating parts, props, etc. If the children are going to present the play to the younger children, explain that also. Otherwise, gather some props and ask for volunteers to play the parts. You will need someone to play Jesus, the old woman, and the sick girl. If you have additional children, add the parents, the disciples, and members of the crowd.

Produce the play. If more than one child wanted a particular part, feel free to do the play again with a different cast.

Pray for the Sick: Show the children pages in the Book of Common Prayer with prayers for the sick (pp. 453-461, especially p. 461). Invite the children to pray for people by creating prayer cards for them. They can use pictures, create their own prayers, or use prayers from the book of Common Prayer. These can be for people they know or people from the prayer list.

Getting Closure: Invite the children to share the card they created if they wish to do so.

Closing Prayer: Say one or the healing prayers from page 461, adding the names of people you have chosen to pray for today.

Mark 5:21-43 (storyteller script)

(Teacher in regular print, *child in italics*)

Jesus was with a large group of people when a very worried man, named Jairus, pushed his way through the crowd and threw himself at Jesus' feet. This is what he said.

“My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.”

Jesus decided to go to the man's house to heal the man's daughter. A large crowd went along with him.

In the crowd was an old woman who had been sick for years. She was bent over with pain. She had heard about Jesus, so she sneaked up behind Jesus, reached out, and touched his robe. This is what she said.

“If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.”

Immediately she felt better and could stand up straight.

“Who touched my clothes?”

His disciples knew that in that large crowd there was no way you could figure out who had been the one to touch him. But the woman knew he knew, so she knelt down in front of Jesus and told him the whole story – how she had been so sick, how she was sure he could heal her, and that she felt so very much better. Jesus then said to her:

“Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

So they all went on to the sick girl's house. When they got there, everyone was sure it was too late. The girl was not even moving. So Jesus took three of his disciples, Peter, James, and John, the brother of James, into the house to pray for the sick child. The child's mother and father were standing by her bed. Jesus said "*Talitha cum*" which means,

“Little girl, get up!”

Well she got up and was well. And Jesus said to them,

“Somebody get her something to eat.”

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Lesson Plans that Work
Year B – Season after Pentecost, Proper 8
Lesson Plans for Adults

Scripture: Mark 5:21-43

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

Jesus heals two people, an elderly woman, and a young girl, neither of whom had any status in their community. The power that was flowing out from Jesus into them can also flow into the things that need healing in our lives, but we must risk opening up to receive it. Jesus seems to insist that the most important work happens in the ordinary and that our faith makes us well.

Theme: Healing

Before Class: You will need Bibles or copies of the lesson for today (which can be found at the end of this lesson plan). You will also need a Book of Common Prayer.

Beginning: You may choose to point out that the two people healed in today's story were even less than ordinary in their time. Women and children had absolutely no status.

Opening Prayer: Thank you, Jesus, for healing an aching woman and a dying child. Thank you for coming among us to heal us and make us whole. Amen.

The Scripture: (Mark 5:21-43): Invite one of the participants to either read the whole passage, or you can read it in parts as outlined below.

Reflection Questions:

- What stood out for you in the reading?
- What is the leap of faith taken by Jarius? (He was a well-placed leader of the synagogue who was questioning the ministry of Jesus.)
- What is the leap of faith taken by the woman? (She could have been run off by the disciples for even trying to touch Jesus, and she clearly feared Jesus' finding out what she had done. See vs. 33).
- What are the leaps of faith we take when we pray for someone who is ill?

Option: Distribute copies of The Book of Common Prayer and examine portions allocated to prayer for the sick (pp. 453-461, p. 841).

Invite people to reflect on these prayers either as a whole group or as small groups. If you do the small group model, it is a good idea to leave some time at the end to come back together as a large group and “report out” some of your reflections.

- What stood out for them?
- What surprised them?
- What had they experienced before?
- What are they wondering about after reading the service?

Getting Closure: If your congregation offers healing prayers, you may want to invite the group to especially take part in them today. If you don’t regularly offer healing prayers, you may want to end with a special prayer, asking for healing, such as this one found on page, 460. If you feel so called, you may pause at the space and invite those present to offer petitions for healing for themselves or others.

For Health of Body and Soul

May God the Father bless you, God the Son heal you, God the Holy Spirit give you strength. [We especially pray for those things which we name before you now, either silently or aloud _____.] May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard your body, save your soul, and bring you safely to his heavenly country; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Closing Prayer: If you have used the prayer above, that can serve as your closing. If not, you may use one of the prayers in The Book of Common Prayer (pp. 453-461).

Mark 5:21-43

Narrator: When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly,

Jairus: “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.”

Narrator: So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said,

Woman: “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.”

Narrator: Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said,

Jesus: “Who touched my clothes?”

Narrator: And his disciples said to him,

Disciples: “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’”

Narrator: He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her,

Jesus: “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

Narrator: While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader’s house to say,

People: “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?”

Narrator: But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue,

Jesus: “Do not fear, only believe.”

Narrator: He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them,

Jesus: “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.”

Narrator: And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her,

Jesus: “Talitha cum,”

Narrator: which means, “Little girl, get up!” And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

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