

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year B – Season after Pentecost, Proper 28**  
**Lesson Plans for Adults**

**Scripture: Mark 13:1-8**

**Background:** During the last weeks of Ordinary Time in Lectionary Cycle B, the Gospel of Mark, our primary guide, continues. The kingdom of God is open for all people. We hear this message in the readings about the rich man, the disciples jockeying for position, the blind man, the saints, the poor widow, and even Pilate as he queries Jesus about being a king. We don't have to pass an entrance exam; we are already in the kingdom. Through all the changes that occur in our lives, what will not change is God's love for each of us. The kingdom that Jesus is proclaiming is already here and yet is also still to come – the undercurrent of Advent, which is coming near.

**A Notation for This Week's Gospel**

A beautiful building, the Temple –laboriously built and the pride of the people. Impressive now, Jesus agrees, but not one stone will be left upon stone. The kingdom he offers is not about fancy buildings. His kingdom will, however, remain after all else has been destroyed.

**Theme: Our Temples and Buildings**

**Before Class:** You might want to check out a website on the Temple in Jerusalem for few of us have been to the Holy Land to see it. A good site is [www.templemount.org](http://www.templemount.org). To print out the map and layout of the temple as well as get some background, see <http://www.templemount.org/theories.html>.

**Beginning:** Ask the group to consider this thought as they read the passage for today: “Our Church could sometimes be considered to be suffering from a serious case of "Edifice Complex.”

**Opening Prayer:** Creator God, help us to understand what you call us to be as a church. Help us to understand our place in your mission and ministry. Amen.

**The Scripture: Mark 13:1-8** If you brought a printout of the Temple let the group look at it. Then, invite volunteers to read the passage of scripture.

**Reflection Questions:**

- Assume that this is the first time the disciples had had the time to really tour the Temple. I wonder how you describe their awe at being in this magnificent place.
- I wonder why Jesus so quickly deflected their awe? (Jesus was continuing to teach that his Kingdom was not about hierarchies and palaces. We are to be in awe of God)
- Where are the disciples in verse 3? (Sitting on the Mount of Olives where they had a great view of the Temple.)
- Assume the disciples had a bit of time to try to understand what Jesus had said in verse 2. What do you think the disciples made of Jesus response (verses 5-8) following their question in verse 4?

**Option:** Discuss the possibility that our church has something of a case of "Edifice Complex." (To have an Edifice Complex means that a public official or administrator has a desire to construct buildings with their name on it as a marker of their place in the community.) To what extent is our building crucial to our ministry? To what extent is it a hindrance to our ministry?

What if we didn't have a building?

If we were to have the opportunity to build an entire new building, what things would we consider essential and what things might we change?

What could we do differently with the building we have that might further God's ministry and mission?

**Getting Closure:** As we consider what we, this community of believers, is being called to do in Jesus name, let us notice the resources we have – the people who make up our community – and the place where we meet.

**Closing Prayer:** Thank you, God, for choosing us to belong to your kingdom. Help us to live the life you dream of for us. Remind us to be focused on those with whom we are ministering. Amen.

---

### Mark 13:1-8

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.'

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?' Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.'

*Published by the Office for Formation and Vocation Ministries of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.*

*© 2015 The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. All rights reserved.*