

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C—Advent 2
Lesson Plans for Younger Children
RCL Old Testament Readings—Track One

Scripture: Baruch 5:1-9

Background: This is the second Sunday of Advent, the four weeks that prepare us for Christmas. Advent means “coming” and the One who is coming is the messiah, Jesus. We remember and celebrate Jesus’ birth and we make ourselves ready for the time that Jesus will come again, when God will make all things new. The stories we hear in this season are from the prophets, who bring us messages of great hope and deep joy as we wait and watch and wonder.

A Notation for This Week’s Reading: God will restore Jerusalem and lead God’s people home.

Theme: God’s Goodness Glows

Before Class: Drawing paper and crayons, markers or pastels, jewel-toned colored tissue paper cut into 1” squares for the class, ModPodge or glue thinned with water in containers for every two children. Each child will need a Mason jar, a brush and a votive candle.

Beginning: Prepare your gathering/prayer space with a cloth of blue or purple, whichever color your church uses in Advent. For the four weeks of Advent and two weeks of Christmas, you will need an Advent wreath and a Christ Candle, or four votive candles and a pillar candle, matches and a candel snuffer. A chime is helpful to mark transitions but not necessary.

Opening Prayer: In this season of Advent, we light candles to remind us that Jesus, the light of the world, is coming. Holy God, help us get ready. Let our love of Jesus shine brightly in all that we do. Amen.

The Story: Baruch 5:1-9

Announce the story: *A reading from Baruch:*

You don’t need to wear your sadness like a jacket anymore, Jerusalem. Put on the beauty of God’s glory instead and wear it forever. God will give you a robe of righteousness to wear. And a tiara glowing with God’s goodness will be put on top of your head. God will show your beauty to everyone under the sun. And God will give you a new name, “Righteous Peace, Godly Glory.” Stand up tall, Jerusalem. If you look to the east you will see all your children gathered because God called them together. They will rejoice because God has remembered them. Their enemies had taken them away, but God will bring them back to you as he promised like kings carried in glory on their royal thrones. God has ordered all the highest mountains to be lowered. And the valleys will be filled up

to ground level. That way, Israel can walk back safely to where she belongs. The forests will provide shade for her at God's command. And God will be leading the parade back to Jerusalem with the light of his goodness that makes him glow from the inside.

Reflection Questions: (The children may wish to draw during this reflection time with the drawing paper and crayons or markers, or act out their responses either individually or in small groups.)

- I wonder what it would look like if you wore a jacket of sadness?
- I wonder what it would look like if you took off the jacket of sadness and put on God's glory like a crown, a robe? What would it feel like?
- Jerusalem is God's holy city and Israel is the home of God's people. Baruch says that "God will be leading the parade back to Jerusalem with the light of his goodness that makes him glow from the inside."
- I wonder what that parade would look like? What would it sound like? How would it feel to be there?

Activity: Tell the children that we are going to make lanterns that glow like the light of God's goodness. Each child should have a Mason jar or other wide-mouthed clear glass jar which they will coat with ModPodge or watered-down white glue. Then, they will cover the glue with small squares of brightly colored tissue paper. These will dry quickly. Place a votive candle inside each jar. Show the children what it will look like when the candle is lit. Instructions to make the lanterns with handles can be found here: <http://buggyandbuddy.com/glass-jar-lantern-2/>

Getting Closure: We dream, like God's people have dreamed through the ages, about the time at the end of time when Jesus come again, when God will be all in all. Until then, we can imagine how God's goodness will glow throughout the world when these lanterns are lit. (Remind the children that ONLY ADULTS CAN LIGHT CANDLES.)

Closing Prayer:

Dear God, (Dear God,)
We thank you for the prophets (we thank you for the prophets)
Who give us words (who give us words)
Of hope and joy (of hope and joy)
As we wait (as we wait)
For the coming of Jesus. (for the coming of Jesus.)
Amen. (Amen.)

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