

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C– Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Lesson Plans for Older Children
RCL Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: Isaiah 62:1-5

Background: In the Sundays after Epiphany, we will hear from a variety of prophets, each speaking to God’s relationship with the people. Although these prophets were speaking to a particular circumstance in a specific time and place, their words are helpful reminders to us today about our own relationship with God.

A Notation for This Week: The return from Exile back to their homeland was not pretty. God’s people had yearned for ages to return home. But when they got there, the country was in disrepair. They began to lose hope. This passage reminds them (and us) that God is not finished - there is still hope! God promises restoration and abundance and reassures us (again) that we are loved and that it will get better.

Theme: The Lord Delights in You

Before Class: You will need to look up the scripture passage online (unless you have Common English Bibles at your congregation) and print out copies. Choose and learn the music. Gather watercolor supplies.

Beginning: Invite people to share times when things were not going well, but then it all worked out in the end.

Sing: Come Into God’s Presence (My Heart Sings Out) as a round.

Opening Prayer: Lord, you are a God of surprises. And you are a God of hope. When things get rough, remind us of your presence and love, and help us to reach out to others who may need hope. Amen.

The Story: Isaiah 62:1-5 Read the lesson from the Common English Bible (CEB) You can look up the passage here: <http://www.commonenglishbible.com>.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder how the people felt when the prophet Isaiah gave them this message from God?
- I wonder how you felt when you heard it?
- I wonder what words or promises bring you comfort?
- I wonder if you have ever had a time when things were not going right and someone offered you comfort?
- I wonder what helps you remember that God delights in you?

Activities

Storytelling Circle - Sit in a circle and hand out different colors of paper to each child. (It is OK if a color is repeated, but best if they are not next to each other). Explain or write out your code - each color represents an emotion or mood. Perhaps red is anger, blue is sadness, yellow is cheer, green is hope, etc. Explain that you are going to tell a story as a group, with each person making up their part, according to the color paper they have. They can have anything happen in the story as long as it fits the mood they are assigned and it picks up where the person before them ended. If your group is large, consider breaking into smaller groups. Let them know how much time they have for the story. You may need to designate when to switch to the next storyteller.

Afterwards, ask:

How hard was that for you to think up your part of the story? Did you wonder where the story would end up? How is this like or unlike the people in the Isaiah passage? How is it like or unlike your own experience?

Art: Invite the children to make notecards to give to people who might need comfort. Have them say “The Lord Delights in You.”

Challenge for the Week: Encourage the children to look for opportunities to share hope with others. Have them brainstorm ways to say “The Lord Delights in You” to others. Have them practice saying it to each other, then finding another way to communicate it without words.

Closing Prayer: Lord, we are grateful that you are always with us and that you delight in each one of us. Help us spread your hope to others. Amen.

Sing: Several hymns from the 1982 hymnal speak to the praise we want to offer when we feel God’s comfort and hope. Consider playing or singing one of the following:

Rejoice Ye Pure In Heart
All My Hope on God Is Founded
O Worship the King

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