

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C– Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Lesson Plans for Younger 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 the children to think about a time when things were not going well, but then it all worked out in the end. Invite them to share if they choose. You may want to start with an example from your own experience.

Sing: Hallelujah, We Sing Your Praises (Wonder, Love and Praise) or Halle, Halle, Halle (My Heart Sings Out) or Come Into God’s Presence (My Heart Sings Out)

Opening Prayer: Lord, you are a God of surprises. You are a God of hope. When things get rough, remind us of your presence and love. 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

Drama: “At First/But Then” skits: invite the children to find a partner and each share a time when things were not going well, but then something happened to make things ok again. Then have them share these stories as skits with the rest of the class. For each story, one person narrates and the other acts it out.

Art: Use watercolors to create pictures of hope. These can be hung in the classroom or given to someone who might be feeling sad or lonely. The pictures can be representational or abstract. Consider playing upbeat instrumental music while the children create.

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.

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: Way, Way, Way - a Native American lullaby meant to offer comfort (Wonder, Love and Praise) OR “Siyahamba” (Wonder, Love and Praise) for a more upbeat celebration

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

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