

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

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4-10

Background: We hear the history of God’s people, called by God, striving for right relationship, often failing and trying again. We hear of personal relationships with God, and the call to serve and lead God’s people. And we consider how we might be called by God to listen, to serve, to repent and try again.

A Notation for This Week: Jeremiah is called by God to deliver difficult news during challenging times. He pleads that he is too young, but God is not accepting that excuse. Jeremiah had plenty of reason to be reluctant. But he becomes an historic prophet and serves during the reign of five different kings, before and during the exile.

Theme: God Calls Each Of Us

Before Class: You will need a copy of the Contemporary English Bible or you can make copies from online bible sites. Locate and learn music. Decide whether to create one large mural or a collection of individual pictures. Gather those supplies and create the heading. Borrow or purchase a copy of the story book if you choose to read it. Obtain affirmation stickers.

Beginning: Welcome the children and ask them to share things they are too young for, and other things they are now old enough to do. Tell them they will hear a story of someone who thought he was too young, but God already had plans for him.

Opening Prayer:

Dear God, you are always with us to call us into ministry and to help us serve you. Open our hearts to hear your call for each of us. Amen.

Sing: This Little Light of Mine (LEVAS)

The Story: Jeremiah 1:4-10 It is suggested that you read from the Contemporary English Version (CEV) Invite a young person to read the passage.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder how Jeremiah felt when God called him to be a prophet?
- I wonder why God chose Jeremiah to deliver his message?
- I wonder if you have ever thought you were too young to do something?
- I wonder how we know when God is calling us to do something?

Activities

Art: Mural activity - create a heading for a class mural: “We are not too young to answer God’s call!” Then either use large banner paper for everyone to work on together, or allow children to

create their own drawings and hang them together with the heading. Invite children to draw pictures of themselves answering God's call by doing helpful and loving things in their families, neighborhoods, church or communities. Give each child a chance to describe his or her picture to the group.

Story: Read "Not So Tall for Six" by Dianna Hutts Aston. (optional)

Challenge for the Week: Hand out 2 "affirmation" stickers to each child. Encourage them to "wear one and share one." Have them choose one to put on their shirt or hand as a symbol that God knows them and calls them. Invite them to share the other with someone they meet during the week who needs some encouragement or affirmation.

Closing Prayer: Let today's closing prayer be a commissioning. Hold out your hands and clasp hands with each child, looking them in the eye, as you say, "(Name), God knows you and calls you into ministry."

Sing: "Thuma Mina" (My Heart Sings Out) or "Here I Am Lord" (Wonder, Love and Praise)

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