

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

Scripture: Exodus 34:29-35

Background: In this season we continue to hear teachings on how to live in right relationship with God. Most weeks we hear from the prophets, but some words of wisdom come from other parts of scripture. The challenge may be to see how these ancient words apply to our lives today.

A Notation for This Week: Moses has gone back up the mountain to meet with God and comes down with a second set of tablets. This is because he destroyed the first set when he discovered that the people had made a golden calf to worship another god. This is an opportunity for a renewal of the covenant between God and the people. The tablets contain the Ten Words or 10 Commandments which will help the people maintain the covenant. But today’s reading really focuses on the fact that Moses’ countenance or face is changed as a result of seeing God face to face. It is this evidence of encounter with the Divine that helps the people to see this is really something different. And it begs the question, how are transfigured by our encounter with the Divine?

Theme: Moses is Transfigured When Meeting with God

Before Class: You will need a copy of the Contemporary English Version of the Bible or you can make copies of the scripture from an online site. Look through all the activities offered and decide which you will be using. Supplies needed: “The Tin Forest” by Helen Ward, paper, markers or crayons and waxed paper.

Beginning: Welcome the children and ask them to share moments when they could tell by looking at someone that something was different, something big had happened.

Opening Prayer: Dear God, we want to know you better every day. Help us share our stories about you with other people so that everyone can know you and serve you. Amen.

Sing: There’s A Wideness in God’s Mercy (Hymnal 1982)

The Story: Exodus 34:29-35

Consider telling the story of Moses’ transfiguration right along with the story of Jesus’ transfiguration. Invite the children to compare and contrast the two stories in discussion afterward.

Consider traveling with the class to another location for the telling of the story - perhaps a balcony or upper room, a chapel or prayer garden. A different location echoes the journey up the mountain that both Moses and Jesus made. It also signals an encounter with the Divine. Consider using the Contemporary English Version of the Bible.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder what Moses was thinking and feeling as he travelled up and down the mountain?
- I wonder why Moses put a veil on his face?
- I wonder if Moses felt any different when his face was shining?
- I wonder if other people look different after they have a powerful experience with God?
- I wonder if you can remember a time you felt you were in God's presence?

Activity:

Art: Help the children create self-portraits of their faces. Once finished, help them put a piece of waxed paper over their portraits, and staple it just at the top. That way it serves as a veil that can be lifted to see the picture. Talk about other times we use veils - sometimes with brides, or on our communion ware.

One option for the portraits is to wrap aluminum foil over cardboard or Styrofoam plates/meat trays, then use a dull pencil or ballpoint pen to etch the lines in. This takes some time but is a wonderfully different look.

Challenge for the Week: Invite the children to consider how they can live so that people can see God's light shining through them. Suggest that they share those ideas next week.

Closing Prayer: Loving God, we thank you for the many ways you appear to us. Help us to live lives that allow your love to shine through. Amen.

Sing: Amazing Grace (Hymnal 1982)

Written by Kate Gillooly

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