

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Second Sunday of Easter
Lesson Plans for Younger Children
Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: Acts 5:27-32

Background

Easter is one big celebration! It is a time for us to remember the Resurrection and that Jesus Christ our Lord is not dead but he is alive! We do it up big on Easter Sunday, but sometimes it is easy for us to forget that the celebration keeps going right up to Pentecost. It is also a time of year when we hope for Spring, if it has not already taken root in our neighborhood. We long for new life of plants and animals. It is a time for us to remember how special the gift of life is.

A Notation for This Week's Gospel

Today we find Peter & the apostles preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ and his resurrection. It is not always easy to do something you know is right. This is especially true when you face peer pressure or punishment. Today's lesson invites us to think about how we might find strength to do the right thing, even when it is hard.

Theme: God is our Strength

Before Class: Set paper, markers, crayons, colored pencils, or other craft supplies out for use in your activity.

Beginning: As students gather: Good morning everyone and Happy Easter! It is so good to have you with us this morning. Today we are going to hear a story about how Saint Peter and the apostles did what God asked them to do, even when it was not popular. Have you ever had a time when you had a choice to make, between what you knew was right and what you knew was wrong? Allow students to share briefly (*staying up past bedtime, eating cookies before dinner, etc.*)

Opening Prayer: God, sometimes it is hard to know what is the right thing to do. Thank you for giving us parents, teachers and friends who help us to make good choices. Amen.

The Story: Acts 5:27-32

Read from a children's bible or tell the children the story in this way:

When the temple police brought the apostles (who were the followers of Jesus) back, they stood before the council. The Chief Priest said, "Didn't we give you instructions not to teach about Jesus or in Jesus' name? Yet you are teaching in Jerusalem, filling it with Jesus' teaching, and trying to blame us for his death."

Peter and the apostles said, "We have to obey God rather than what people say. God raised up Jesus, who was killed. God set Jesus at his side in heaven as Leader and Savior so that people's lives are changed and sins are forgiven. We are witnesses to these things and the Holy Spirit is with us.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder why the people did not want Saint Peter and the apostles to teach about Jesus? (they were afraid, they did not believe, etc.)
- How did Saint Peter and the apostles answer? (said must obey God)
- Were they alone in doing what they were doing? (No, they had the Holy Spirit)
- Does God ask us to do anything? (Yes, be loving, kind, forgiving and to work for justice)
- Are we all alone in doing these things? (No, we too have the Holy Spirit)

Activity:

Those were some really good answers. I wonder what it looks like for us to be kind to someone? (Give them time to answer.) Why don't we draw a picture of us loving and being kind to someone. Instruct students to use the materials provided to make something that will help them or someone else remember that they can point people to Jesus and his love.

Getting Closure: Wow, these are some really great projects! (If time allows, have students share their projects with the class). Do you think that this week you might be able to show God's love to someone? How? (Allow students to share their answers) Jesus loves us and we get to be signs of that love!

Closing Prayer: Jesus, thank you for giving us examples of how we are not alone in making the right choice. Help us to share your love this week with our family, friends and others we meet. Amen.

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