

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

Scripture: Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)

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 Story

Today we hear the story of Saint Paul's conversion. Saul, as Saint Paul was known before this time, is traveling to go and hurt Christians. Jesus comes to him on the journey and confronts him and invites him to love instead of hurt. Jesus does this for each of us, inviting us to follow him.

Theme: God Comes to Us

Before Class: You will need play dough and a surface for the children to work on for the activity.

Beginning: 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 Jesus came to a man named Saul and changed his life. After this experience Saul will get a new name. Can anyone guess what that name will be? *Paul*

Let's think about some of the places that we feel Jesus with us. Allow students to share briefly (*camp, home, church, nature*)

Opening Prayer: Jesus we thank you that you are not far from us and that you come to us in special ways. Help us to know you are with us. Amen.

The Story: Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." [The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."]

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder how Saul felt when he saw the light? (afraid, amazed, curious, etc.)
- Do you think that this experience changed the way Saul saw God? How? (Yes, more open and accepting)
- Who did God use to help Saul understand? (Ananias)
- Who helps you to understand things? (mom and dad, teachers, grandparents, friends, sibling, priest, etc.)

Activity:

Those were some really good answers. I wonder if we can make a model of this story using play dough. I wonder what you think this scene looks like?

Invite students to use the play dough provided to recreate the story. They can make multiple scenes from the story: Saul on the road; Ananias praying; Ananias speaking to Saul; Scales falling from Saul's eyes, etc. Have fun and if time allow, invite students to retell the story using their model.

Getting Closure: Wow, that was really a lot of fun! Do you think that you might encounter Jesus this week? How? (Allow students to share their answers) Jesus loves us and comes to us inviting to be signs of that love!

Closing Prayer: Jesus, thank you for coming to us and helping us to and inviting us to share your love with others. Help us to show your love, even when we disagree with someone. Amen.

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