

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C– Easter
Lesson Plans for Older Children
RCL Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: Acts 10:34-43

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.

Note: During Easter, we read from the Acts of the Apostles rather than from the Old Testament as we focus on Jesus' life and ministry and the life and ministry of the apostles.

A Notation for This Week's Gospel: Today we find Peter preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ and his resurrection. It is not always easy to stand up and say the things you believe, especially when you are telling people that a dead guy really is not dead. Today's lesson reminds us that God gives us the courage to be signs of Jesus' life and resurrection.

Theme: Being a Sign for Jesus

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 shared how Jesus rose from the dead to a whole bunch of people. He shared with them that Jesus was still alive and invited them to believe. He pointed people to Jesus. He was kind of like a sign. What are some important signs that you have seen? Allow students to share briefly (*stop sign, direction or road sign, Do Not Enter, Bathroom sign, etc.*)

Opening Prayer: Gather students in a circle and if time allows sing *This Little Light of Mine*.

Pray: Thank you God for sending us people like Saint Peter, who was a sign pointing to you and your love. Help us to think about how we can be signs for you as well. Amen.

The Story: Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but

God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Reflection Questions:

- What did God command Saint Peter and the disciples to do? (Preach and testify)
- What does that mean? (To point to God - to be signs)
- Do you think that we should do the same as followers of Jesus? (Yes)
- How can we do that? (being kind, telling people about Church and what we learn there, wearing religious symbols such as a cross, etc.)

Activity: Those were some really good answers. Why don't we create something that will help us remember that we are signs pointing to Jesus and his love. 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. Prompt them to use one of their answers from above or something else.

Getting Closure: Wow, these are some really great reminders! (If time allows, have students share their projects with the class). Do you think that you can be a sign for Jesus and his love today? 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 inviting us to share your love with others and for making us your signs in the world. Help us to share your love this week with our family, friends and others we meet. Amen.

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