

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C– Easter
Lesson Plans for Younger 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. For younger children, you may need to pre-cut some shapes for their signs.

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

You can read the story from the Bible or tell it to the children in this way:

Peter, one of Jesus' followers told those who were gathered, "God doesn't have favorites. If you are a follower of God it does not matter who you are or where you are from. Jesus came to us to tell us about peace and love and that message continues to be spread today by the work of the Holy Spirit."

God instructs us to also be a part of this movement. We are to be a sign for others of God's peace and love. We are to tell others of God's forgiveness for all. We are to do this together and spread God's message far and wide.

Reflection Questions:

- What did God command Saint Peter and the disciples to do? (Preach and testify)
- I wonder what you think this means? (To point to God - to be signs)

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.

Written by The Rev. Andrew Kellner

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