

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Proper 4
Lesson Plans for Older Children
Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: 1 Kings 18:20-21 (22-29), 30-39

Background

Today we are in the season after Pentecost, also known as “Ordinary Time.” This season runs through Christ the King Sunday, which we celebrate in November. This season of the church year invites us to think about how we live as Christians and how we live out the resurrection of Jesus Christ in our ordinary lives.

A Notation for This Week’s Scripture

This week’s Scripture passage is a story about the prophet Elijah, as told in 1 Kings. In this story, Elijah encounters the Prophets of Baal, who worship a God other than the God of Elijah. The prophets and Elijah have a contest to see whose god is more powerful. Though they pray and call on their god all morning, the prophets are unsuccessful. Then, Elijah calls on his God, and God burns Elijah’s sacrifice, even drying up the water that is poured over the altar. Through this act, people see the awesome and mighty power of God. Elijah’s prayer was answered!

Theme: God Listens to Us

Before Class: Read the story in 1 Kings 18:20-39 prior to the start of class. Take special note of what words, phrases, or images stand out to you as you read. You will need a Bible tell the story. You will need paper, brown poster board or craft paper, red, orange and yellow construction paper, scissors, markers and pens. If doing Activity 3, you will need raisins, pretzel sticks, blue chocolate candies, red and orange candies and a bowl.

Beginning: Invite the students to sit in a circle. Light a pillar candle (or use a battery-operated one) and place it in the center of the circle. Ask students to share about a time when they saw something amazing happen.

Opening Prayer: Awesome God, you are always with us. Be present with us today as we learn more about how you listen to us. Amen.

The Story: 1 Kings 18:20-39 Assign students roles based on characters in the story. Be sure to assign the parts of Elijah and the prophets, though feel free to assign other roles as numbers allow. Invite a child to read the story from a Bible, or if you have a smaller class, read the story yourself. Read the story and have students act it out while you tell it.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder how the prophets felt when they saw the fire come to Elijah’s altar. How would you feel?
- I wonder how Elijah felt when he saw the fire come to his altar.
- I wonder how you would feel?
- How did the prophets respond to Elijah’s altar being set on fire? What did they say and do?

- Do you think that Elijah knew what would happen? Why or why not?
- What are some of the things you pray for? How do you know that your prayers are answered?

Activities

Option 1: Split students into groups of 3 or 4. Invite them to create a news report that re-tells the story. Invite small groups to share their reports with the class.

Option 2: Before class begins, use brown poster board or paper to make the base of a fire. Cut “flames” for each student from red, orange, and yellow construction paper. During class, give each student a flame. Invite them to write or draw a prayer they have for the upcoming week. Attach the flames to the base of a fire to make a class prayer mural. If possible, display the mural somewhere in your church.

Option 3: Make a snack mix as a reminder of the story. Use raisins to represent the stones that made Elijah’s altar. Use pretzel sticks to represent the wood. Use blue chocolate candies to represent the water poured on the altar. Use red and orange chocolate candies to represent the fire. Make your snack and then invite students to re-tell the story while you are eating the mix.

Getting Closure: Stand in a circle and hold hands. Invite the children to share a “please” and “thank you” prayer. Each student should share one prayer of intercession (“please”) and one prayer of thanksgiving (“thank you”).

Closing Prayer: Loving God, you listen to us when we pray. Help us remember that you always listen to us. Amen.

Published by the Office for Lifelong Formation of The Episcopal Church, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.

© 2016 The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. All rights reserved.