

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Proper 6
Lesson Plans for Younger Children
Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: 1 Kings 21:1-10, (11-14), 15-21a

Background

As we continue to walk through “Ordinary Time” it is hard to imagine the lessons from our Old Testament scriptures as “ordinary” days. We hear fantastical accounts of kings, prophets, and courts and they sound so far away. But we are called to remember these stories of times past and to consider how ordinary days of ancestors relate to the ordinary days we face here and now.

A Notation for This Week’s Scripture

This week’s lesson tackles some very difficult themes: greed, power, envy, and murder to name a few. These themes are intimidating when it comes to teaching children. However, the theme which redeems the lesson is the one which brings us all to God – forgiveness and grace. In order to round out our lesson this week, we will add to the lectionary text verses 25-29 in which Ahab sees the error of his ways and seeks God’s forgiveness – which is granted him. Even the worst among us are worthy of Grace in the sight of the Lord.

Theme: Be Grateful for What We Have

Before Class: You will need to cut out large circles from light green or light purple paper. (One circle for each class member) You will also need to cut out a brown “stem” from construction paper that you will hang either on your classroom bulletin board, or tape to your classroom wall.

- Tape and/or Stapler
- Scissors
- Construction Paper (Light Green, Light Purple, Brown)
- Grapes for snack and illustration

Beginning: Invite the children into the classroom where there is a bowl of grapes in the middle of the table. Invite each child to take his/her seat and ask if he/she would like some grapes. After all arrive and are snacking tell them how grapes are grown. Talk to them about vineyards (farms where grapes are grown) and tell them that today’s story is about a vineyard owner and a mean king.

Opening Prayer: Dear God, help us to always be grateful for what we have. Amen.

The Story: There once was an evil king named Ahab who was married to an evil queen named Jezebel. King Ahab had a lot of land and power but he was greedy and wanted

more land and more power. King Ahab went to a man who lived in the kingdom named Naboth. Naboth owned a beautiful vineyard that had been in his family for many generations. King Ahab knew he had no right to take Naboth's vineyard so he told Naboth, "I will pay you money for your vineyard." But Naboth said, "No, I want to keep my family's land." So the King said to Naboth, "I will give you a different vineyard that is even nicer." But Naboth said, "No, I want to keep my family's vineyard."

When Queen Jezebel saw how much King Ahab wanted Naboth's vineyard she made an evil plan to take away Naboth's vineyard. The Queen told lies about Naboth and got him in a lot of trouble until some mean men came and took Naboth away.

The queen then told the king that he could have Naboth's vineyard since Naboth was gone. But then, a man of God named Elijah came and told Ahab that God was very upset with how mean Jezebel and Ahab had been. Elijah told Ahab that he was in big trouble because he and the queen were such bad people.

The king was so upset with how he had made God mad with him that the king prayed very hard. God heard Ahab's prayers and believed Ahab was sorry. God forgave Ahab since he said he was sorry.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder why King Ahab was being so mean.
- I wonder why Naboth didn't want to give up his vineyard.
- I wonder what Queen Jezebel was thinking when she asked her friend to lie.
- I wonder if you've ever said something untrue to get something you wanted.
- I wonder why God forgave the king.

Activity: Today we will be **Making a Gratitude Vineyard**. Give each child one of the paper circles you cut out before class. Using their crayons, invite the children to draw pictures on their "grapes" of something(s) they are grateful that they have. After all of the children have finished drawing, invite them to share what they are grateful for with the class before you staple their grape onto the bulletin board. As each child shares the grapes will be stapled in such an order that they begin to resemble a bunch of grapes hanging on the vine.

Getting Closure: After all of the grapes are on the board, help the children to recognize how each of them have different things! They all have unique blessings and that is what makes us each special. Sometimes we might find ourselves wanting something that someone else has. That's a good time to stop and think about all of the blessings we have.

Closing Prayer: God of Love, thank you for making sure I have all of the things I need. Help me to always be grateful for your love in my life. Amen.

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

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