

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Proper 7
Lesson Plans for Younger Children
Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: 1 Kings 19:11-13a

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

Our lectionary this week is a bit of a “back to the future” trip with this section of Kings coming before the lesson we heard last week about Jezebel having Raboth killed to give Ahab the vineyard. Here we encounter Elijah just as he is run out of the kingdom by Jezebel who is murderously angry after Elijah has banished the gods of Baal by having “fire rain down” upon them resulting in the death of all of the false prophets. Elijah is afraid that Jezebel will kill him and while in the wilderness even wonders if he will survive this trial. God sends angels to wait on Elijah before calling him to Mt. Horeb to meet God. In the section of the passage we’ll use today, we hear about a time when God got quiet to say something really important.

Theme: God Speaks in the Silence

Before Class:

You will need:

- Copy of today’s lesson
- Toilet Paper Tubes (1 per child)
- Construction Paper
- Stickers
- Crape Paper Streamers in Red, Yellow, and Orange
- Masking Tape
- Scissors
- Dried Beans (or Pony Beads)

1. Prep the toilet paper tubes by covering one end of the tube with a piece of construction paper fastened by masking tape. Pre-cut enough pieces of paper to easily cover the other end during class.

2. Precut the streamers into 8 inch strips (one of each color per tube)

Beginning: Today we will begin with a game! When the children arrive ask them to sit in a circle around the table. When it is time to begin let them know that we will be playing a special game of telephone this morning. In a normal game of telephone, one person whispers something into the ear of the person next to them to “pass” the saying around the circle. The person who is last says the phrase out loud to see if the phrase made it around the circle correctly. We will pass 2 phrases around the table this morning. The first time is a normal game of telephone with the phrase “God Loves You.” Pass the phrase along and see if the kids get it right (they likely will because it is a simple and easily passed phrase.) For the second phrase ask the children to drum

their hands on the table (or lap/floor if you do not have a table) until the end of the game. While all are drumming their hands, pass the phrase “God speaks to us when it is quiet out.” See how close you can get with all of the distractions!

Close this time by telling the children that today’s lesson will teach of a time that God told his prophet something very important in the silence.

Opening Prayer: God of Day and Night, Stars and Light, open my ears and still my mind to hear your voice when you call to me. Amen.

The Story: 1 Kings 19:11-13a

Elijah went to the Mountain of God called Mount Horeb. Elijah wanted to speak to God so he waited there in a cave. First came a very strong wind; but God was not in the wind. Next, a violent earthquake shook the ground; but God was not in the earthquake. Third, a hot fire burned up the plants and bushes; but God was not in the fire. Finally, everything got very quiet and Elijah knew it was time. Elijah came out of the cave, covered his face, and listened for God. Then, God spoke to Elijah and told him what to do.

- I wonder what the wind sounded like.
- I wonder what the earthquake felt like.
- I wonder what the fire smelled like.
- I wonder why Elijah came out of the cave when it was quiet.
- I wonder why God waited for it to be quiet before talking to Elijah.
- I wonder if you have ever listened for God.

Activity: Today we will make **Mount Horeb Shakers**. God spoke to Elijah in the silence that followed a ferocious wind, an earthquake, and vast fires. After the storms passed, Elijah heard the silence and came to stand in the open, listening for God’s voice. Sometimes our world is too noisy to hear God unless we work hard to find the stillness. We will make shakers that can help us shake out our energy and chaos before finding our quiet center.

1. Give each child one of the cardboard tubes you have prepared
2. Invite them each to take a handful of dried beans or beads and put them into the tube. Then, help them cover the other end in the same way as the first.
3. After the two ends are covered the children can tape streamers to the tube so that they cover the tube and flutter from the ends.
4. Finally, invite the children to decorate their tubes with stickers.

Before moving on, demonstrate the ways the children can use their tubes to simulate the elements in the story.

Getting Closure: After the children have finished making their tubes read the story again 11-13—this time inviting the children to use their shakers to help act out the story. First, when the winds arise have them wave the streamers in the air, when the earthquakes roar they should stomp their feet and shake their shakers very hard, and finally, when the fires come, they should stand up and

jump up and down waving their shakers around. When you get to verse 12b (the silence) have all of the children freeze! After finishing verse 13 have the whole class sit back down and ask them about the experience.

1. What did you notice about the story when we were making noises with it?
2. Do you think you could hear God if it was that noisy around you?
3. Does it ever feel like it is noisy like that in your head?
4. What are some ideas you have for how you could find more quiet time in your life?

Closing Prayer: God of Stillness, when the world is noisy help me to hear your voice. Amen.

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