Lesson Plans That Work
Year B Proper 10
Lessons Plans for Younger Children
Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: 2 Samuel 6: 1-5, 12b-19

Background: We continue to remember Israel's leaders and how they strived to serve God. Each had their own challenges and gifts. The need for faithful leadership continues today and we seek wisdom from how these leaders sought the welfare of their people and showed their devotion to God.

Notation for this Week's Lesson: The emphasis is on celebration of our relationship with God. David brings the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem, thus making this important city a religious center as well as a political one. The Ark of the Covenant represented the people's relationship with God. David as king wants to do what is right for the people and in God's eyes. Most of the time he succeeds. Part of the celebration is sharing food with everyone. We celebrate in community.

Theme: The Ark to Jerusalem

Before Class: Gather rhythm instruments and any recorded music you plan to use, decide on a snack and bring items to bake it or frost it.

Beginning: Ask the children, "What can we celebrate today?" List on newsprint or chalkboard.

Opening Prayer: Dear God, we thank you for so many things (list some the children mentioned and add your own). Help us to follow you and share our joy with our friends and neighbors. Amen.

Story: Tell the story (as edited) of David bringing the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem. Emphasize the celebration, music, dancing, and sharing of food.

David and all the troops who were with him set out to bring up God's chest also known as the Ark of the Covenant. This chest that called by the name of the Lord of heavenly forces who sits enthroned on the winged creatures. David and the entire house of Israel celebrated in the Lord's presence with all their strength, with songs, zithers, harps, tambourines, rattles, and cymbals.

David, dressed in a linen priestly vest, danced with all his strength before the Lord. This is how David and the entire house of Israel brought up the Lord's chest with shouts and trumpet blasts. The Lord's chest was brought in and put in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it. When David finished making offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord. He distributed food among all the people of Israel—to the whole crowd - each receiving a loaf of bread, a date cake, and a raisin cake. Then all the people went back to their homes.

Reflection Questions:
- I wonder what part of this story is your favorite part?
- I wonder why the Ark of the Covenant was so important to David?
- I wonder why David gave everyone food?
- I wonder how we celebrate when something good happens to us?

Activities:

Dancing Parade: Hold a Dancing Parade, with instruments, accompaniment music, and opportunities for dancing. Let children use streamers or scarves, rhythm instruments, bells, whistles, hats, or whatever will make it festive. Teach a simple grapevine dance step (cross left foot over right, step right with right foot, cross left foot behind right, step right with right foot, etc.).

Making the Story: Encourage children to recreate the story with Legos, dolls, puppets, or other objects.

Song of Praise: Work together to create a chant/cheer/song praising God for our many blessings. Include noisemakers or instruments, claps, stomps, etc.

Share a Snack: Make cinnamon raisin muffins together or decorate muffins with icing and enjoy a snack together as a celebration.

Closing: Ask who they will share their snack with and why they chose that person.

Closing Prayer: Dear God, thank you for our time together to learn about David and to celebrate you. Help us to share this celebration with others. Amen.

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH