

Lesson Plans That Work
Year B Proper 12
Lessons Plans for Older Children
Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: (2 Samuel 11:1-15)

(Since this story is inappropriate for children, we suggest an overview of David as leader for this week.)

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: (Since this story is inappropriate for children, we suggest an overview of David as leader for this week.)

Theme: David Served God

Before class: Gather materials for learning stations or quadtych, prepare music for singing at opening and closing. optional - bring in pictures of David or storybooks

Beginning: Greet the children and ask them to share something good from the past week. Remind them to be joyful in the Lord. Sing: Come Into God's Presence (My Heart Sings Out)

Opening Prayer: Use part of the Jubilate: Psalm 100, page 729, BCP
One option is to say a line and have the students repeat it, then say 2 lines and repeat then 3 lines and repeat.

Jubilate Deo

Be joyful in the LORD, all you lands; *
serve the LORD with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
Know this: The LORD himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
For the LORD is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Story: See the adapted story about David's service to God. Tell this in place of the scripture assigned for today, which is inappropriate for children.

David was the youngest son of Jesse. He had a deep passion and love for God that was more important to him than anything else.

David was a shepherd - someone who takes care of the sheep. He wasn't very likely to be chosen to do something special. But God doesn't make choices the way we do. God knew David's heart. David's heart was full of love for God and that was all that mattered.

You might also remember that David killed the giant, Goliath. The Philistines were people who worshiped false gods and had been Israel's enemy for many years. One day the Philistine soldiers sent their man, Goliath, to fight. He stood and yelled at the Israelites to send someone to fight him. He said wicked things about God. No one wanted to fight the giant. They were afraid. But David was not afraid. He went to fight. He did not use a sword, or bow, or have any armor to protect him. He simply used a sling and a smooth stone. This was the beginning of the story of David. David became the greatest king Israel ever knew.

King Saul wanted David to stay at the palace with him and not go back to his own home. David and King Saul's son, Jonathan, became best friends. Saul made David the commander of his army. David was very successful. He became a favorite with the people. David was very musical - he played instruments and wrote psalms or songs to God.

David went on to unite the people and lead them in a time of great wealth and growth. David would become the greatest king Israel had ever known.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder which part about David you like best?
- I wonder what is most important to remember about David?
- I wonder what made David such a great King?
- I wonder how you are like David?

Activities:

David's Life Story: Consider setting up 4 learning stations around the room, each with a different emphasis on David's life: 1) shepherds and sheep, 2) David and Goliath, 3) Music and Psalms, 4) King of Israel. Provide pictures, additional wondering questions, and simple crafts or pictures to color at each station. Cotton balls glued to paper could become sheep to tend. Puppets could be used to act out David and Goliath. A few simple psalms and songs and some simple instruments for the music station. Music could be playing at this station. A Crown pattern out of construction paper and some fancy fabric as a robe would create some young kings. Encourage selfies of the temporary kings.

Make a Quadtych: (4 pictures next to each other or hinged) of these 4 aspects of David's life - allow the children to illustrate David as Shepherd, Slingshot Warrior, Musician, and King. Talk about the different talents and skills these required.

Illustration: Choose the Jubilate or some other psalms for the students to learn and illustrate. Play psalms set to music in different styles while they work.

Act it Out: Consider helping the students (in groups or as a whole) act out the four different aspects of David’s life. Discuss what different and similar characteristics each role requires.

Closing: Encourage the children to share their work with each other, describing what was most fun or what they like best about David.

Closing Prayer: Sing “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” from My Heart Sings Out or other Alleluia songs or share part of another Psalm.

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