

Lesson Plans That Work
Year B Proper 13
Lessons Plans for Older Children
Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a (adapted)

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: This week’s lesson is the teaching of David’s poor judgment from last week’s appointed text - taking Bathsheba as his own and sending Her husband to die in battle. We do not need to go into detail regarding this particular account of David’s foolishness. But we can still hear Nathan’s parable and understand that even the great King David made mistakes and acted in his own interest instead of being faithful to God and the people in his care.

Theme: Nathan Confronts David

Before class: Ask parents to send a piece of fruit with each child (have extra for those who forget). Alternatively, you could have a basket of fruit at the door when the children enter and invite them to choose a piece of fruit. find copies of the songs,

Beginning: Ask the students to share a time when they showed compassion or generosity.

Opening Prayer: Dear God, we thank you for all you have given us. Help us to be generous with what we have, and to show compassion to those who have little. Amen.

Sing: Peace Before Us from Wonder, Love and Praise

Story: 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a (adapted) Tell the story using the adapted version below. The Lord sent the prophet Nathan to David. When Nathan arrived he said, “I have a story for you. There were two men in the same city, one rich, one poor. The rich man had a lot of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had nothing—just one small ewe lamb that he had bought. He raised that lamb, and it grew up with him and his children. It would eat from his food and drink from his cup—even sleep in his arms! It was like a daughter to him.

“Now a traveler came to visit the rich man, but he wasn’t willing to take anything from his own flock or herd for the guest who had arrived. Instead, he took the poor man’s ewe lamb and offered it to the visitor.”

David got very angry at the man, and he said to Nathan, “As surely as the Lord lives, the one who did this is demonic! He must restore the ewe lamb seven times over because he did this and because he had no compassion.”

“You are that man!” Nathan told David. “This is what the Lord God of Israel says: I anointed you king over Israel. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. If that was too little, I would have given even more. Why have you despised the Lord’s word by doing what is evil in his eyes? You have hurt people who work for you and taken what does not belong to you. You disobeyed my commandments and thought only of yourself. You have let your people down and acted selfishly.”

“I’ve sinned against the Lord!” David said to Nathan.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder why Nathan told David that story?
- I wonder if you have ever been like David, realizing that you had done something wrong?
- I wonder what David might choose to do next?

Activities:

Make Friendship Fruit Salad - each person offers a piece of fruit to be cut up and mixed with other fruits - everyone enjoys the combined offerings of everyone in the group. As you work together to prepare it, discuss how each person’s contribution is needed to make a varied and tasty salad.

Make confession/resolution cards: On one side draw a picture of something done that wasn’t helpful or generous; on other side draw what could be done to remedy the situation or show compassion or generosity.

Lead the group through the Litany of Reconciliation (attached) - afterwards discuss people’s favorite parts, least favorite parts, and how it made them feel. Remind them that reconciliation is always available to us.

Closing: Think together of ways to show compassion and hospitality to others. Consider those who have less and what we might share with them from what we have. Invite them to bring in canned goods for a food drive, or toiletry items needed at a nearby shelter or some other object to be given away. They may wish to challenge the parish to join them in this effort.

Sing or play Ubi Caritas (Taize song) - from Wonder Love and Praise

Closing Prayer: Dear God, we thank you for our time together. We thank you for Nathan and for David. Help us to admit when we have been selfish and help us to share what we have with others. Amen.

Litany of Reconciliation

Stand in a circle and hold hands.

Sometimes we do things or fail to do things that let people down.

(Let go of the hands you're holding.)

Sometimes we turn our backs on people who need our help.

(Turn around and face outside the circle.)

Sometimes we walk away from situations instead of staying to work things out.

(Take a step away from the circle.)

Sometimes we shut our eyes to the pain and suffering of others.

(Close your eyes.)

Sometimes we alienate ourselves from others and live in isolation.

(Take another step away.) (pause)

But we have the power to change our direction.

(Turn around and face the center again.)

We can engage in practices that bring our awareness and create openness.

(Open your eyes.)

We are created to live in community and relationship, not isolation.

(Take a step toward the circle.)

We can choose to invest in relationships and do the hard work of building community.

(Take another step toward the circle.)

We can build and re-build relationships with people, asking for and offering forgiveness and hospitality.

(Take hold of your neighbors' hands again.)

Take a look at the people in the circle, looking with the eyes of compassion.

For a chance to participate in your reconciling work, we give you thanks, O God. Amen.

**Significantly adapted by Kate Gillooly from a litany found in Barbara Varenhorst's book "Training Teenagers for Peer Ministry" Group Publishing 1988.*

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