

Lesson Plans That Work
Year B Proper 17
Lessons Plans for Younger Children
Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: Song of Solomon 2:8-13

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: We do not hear from this book of the Bible very often. It is filled with love songs, some of them erotic. This passage describes a time of renewal and issues an invitation to love. We can read this as an invitation to enjoy the Reign of God already present through loving and serving God, to experience the harmony of nature and relationships in this realm, and to explore the goodness God promises and its similarity to the land of Eden at Creation. Tradition suggests that this was written by King Solomon.

Theme: A Call to Love

Before Class: Gather appropriate paper to use for invitations and pastels or colored pencils. Select and locate desired music.

Beginning: Engage the children in inviting their classmates to the circle to begin class saying, “Rise Up, name of child, and join us in the circle.” Those already in the circle join in saying the invitation together with you. Talk about how it feels to be invited, to be included.

Opening Prayer: Loving God, we are grateful for your invitation to live a life full of love and promise. We want to live in harmony with your creation and with each other. Thank you for your love. Amen.

Story: Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Read verses 10-13.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder what your favorite part is?
- I wonder why this was included in our Bible?
- I wonder where we are being invited to rise up and go to?
- I wonder what the season of singing sounds like?
- I wonder what images would symbolize the reign of God for you?

Activities:

Create Invitations: Make invitations to serve God using folded paper and illustrating with images found in the scripture text. Use pastels or colored pencils for the pictures and fine line markers for the words. They may choose to write “You Are Invited” on the front and “To Serve

God” or “Into God’s Reign” on the inside. Their coloring may be specific images in the text or to represent God’s reign, or it may be abstract.

Music, Poem and Dance: Play spring-like orchestral music while they work - something like Spring from Vivaldi’s Four Seasons or Appalachian Spring by Aaron Copeland or Schumann’s First Symphony. Some children may enjoy creating a dance to the music with scarves.

Encourage the students to create poems describing life in God’s reign. Solomon used the language of renewal and spring. How would they describe life in God’s kingdom?

Closing: Invite the children to show their invitations and share who they plan to give them to. If any children created a dance, they could lead the group in it now. Those who wrote poetry could share their work. Remind everyone that we all are invited into living in God’s realm every day. We can live in God’s realm by serving God and serving others in God’s name.

Sing: Seek Ye First (Hymnal 1982). Once the children know it, try singing it in a two part round.

Closing Prayer: Loving God, we thank you for your invitation to serve you. Help us to see and respond to the needs of others, and to seek your way every day. Amen.

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