

Lesson Plans that Work
Year B – Proper 24
Lesson Plans for Younger Children
Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: Job 38: 1-7, 34-41

Background

As we get closer to the middle of the fall season and to Halloween many fall festivities begin to occur throughout the United States. If your congregation or town holds such festivities feel free to discuss them with the class. They may have questions about why we celebrate certain things in the fall. If the weather permits, feel free to start your class outside. You may decide to sit under a tree whose leaves are changing colors.

Today's reading is the third of four from the Book of Job. Job is a very faithful servant of God's and he is tested by Satan in this series. This series highlights themes of justice and suffering. The Book of Job takes place during 5th or 4th century BCE. In this part of the series, the God answers Job. The answers are not what Job was expecting and Job is overwhelmed. God presents his case to Job and Job does not have the opportunity to present his case to God.

A Notation for This Week's Old Testament: Job 38: 1-7, 34-41

Job has asked to speak with God because he would like to ask him many questions about his great misery. He has endured pain and grief from losing his health, his family, and his servants. Job's friends have questioned his faith to God and Job has defended his beliefs. God's answer to Job comes in an unexpected manner. God asks Job question upon question in a fast series of rhetorical inquiries. God questions Job about creation, the cornerstone laying, nature, and how all are provided for. God's authority and source of all wisdom allows Job to gain a new perspective in his own suffering.

Theme: God Answers All

Before Class:

Prepare to the materials for the activities.

Leaf Stick kids:

Leaves (either real or fake), craft eyes (two per child) popsicle sticks (one per child), crayons, markers. To see a picture of this type of craft you may search the following term online: "Leaf stick kids"

Questions for God:

Large sheet of butcher paper, crayons, markers

Beginning:

Invite the children to gather together and ask: How do you sometimes hear God's answers?
When do you ask God to give you an answer?

Opening Prayer:

Thank you, Lord, for helping your servant Job to see that you are our Savior. Help us to hear your call for us. Help us to share your love with others. In your name we pray, Amen.

The Story: Job 38: 1-7, 34-41

In this part of scripture Job hears back from God. Job had asked to speak with God because he had many questions for God concerning Job's plight in life. Job was miserable with physical pain and his family's suffering and his friends questioning was too much for Job to continue to answer to. When God finally speaks to Job God is unhappy with Job and God does not give Job an opportunity to question all that has happened to him. God shows all the authority that God has and how all source of wisdom and gift of understanding belong to God. God reminds Job and all of us how God provides for all creatures everywhere. Through this, Job gains new perspective and he is able to carry on with his burdens. Job comes to the realization that his situation is very small in comparison to God's universe.

Read the following to the class.

Young Child Friendly Verses:

God questions Job by asking:

Who are you?

Why do you question what I do without any knowledge about it?

Be ready I have a questions for you!

I'm sure you know who measured and stretched the land after I laid the earth's foundation.

Can you tell me who laid the cornerstone?

Can you make the clouds rain down?

Can you make lightning bolts come to you?

Can you feed the ravens?

Can you make rainwater nourish the earth?

Can you hunt prey for lions and feed hungry cubs?

Can you provide wisdom to people's minds?

Once you have finished reading the verses with the children ask them how they would feel if they were Job.

Reflection Questions:

- Have you experienced a time when you questioned God?
- If you have, how did you get an answer back from God?

Activity:**Leaf-Stick Kids:**

The fall season is often enjoyed by children jumping into large leaf piles. Select some leaves from the piles and encourage each child to create a Leaf Stick craft. If your area of the country does not have large fall leaves you may purchase silk ones at a local craft store. Give each child a leaf, a large popsicle stick, and two craft eyes. Instruct the children to glue the leaf to the stick and the eyes to the leaf. Allow each child to decorate the craft to their liking. To see a picture of this type of craft you may search the following term online: "Leaf stick kids"

Questions for God:

Invite the children to listen again to the reading. Ask them, “Who are you?” Ask them how they would answer God. Invite them to draw their answers on the butcher paper. If you have time, invite them to think about the other questions and draw their responses.

Getting Closure:

Gather the students together and ask: How do you know that God is all-powerful and mighty? When you have questions about God, who do you ask?

Closing Prayer:

Thank you, Lord, for all you for us and for helping us to remember that you are our Savior. You are so important to us. We love you, our families, our friends, and our church. In your name we pray, Amen.

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