

Lesson Plans that Work
Year B – Christ The King/Proper 29
Lesson Plans for Older Children
Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: 2 Samuel 23:1-3

Background

The excitement of New Year's Eve is always palpable. Even if you aren't planning to stay up late to watch the ball drop, our whole culture is obsessed with the idea of new beginnings that come with a new year. Somehow, New Year's Day is never quite as exciting as the night before. Perhaps, it's because the anticipation was half the fun? Christ the King Sunday is a feast day which finds its' purpose in celebrating the divinity and authority of Jesus Christ as royalty over all. On this day we read a passage from scripture that reminds us of another important king's last words. We mark this day as both an ending – of the church year, of the long, green season, of David's time as King over Israel; and as a beginning – of the Reign of Christ, as a springboard into the waiting of Advent, and of the possibilities that come with the start of something new.

A Notation for This Week's Scripture

Final words carry power. Think back over your life and see if you can call to mind the last thing someone important said to you before they were no longer a part of your life. You remember, don't you? Last words are important because they are our last opportunity to shape things or make an impression. It's only human to wish that we could know when we were going to speak our last words so we could make sure to say something profound. We could make sure someone was there to record and share our words with others. David uses his last words to make sure that we are reminded of the promises of God. If you could choose, what would you want to say with your last words?

Theme: The Power of Words

Before Class: You will need a copy of the scripture for each child. For our activity you will need 1" wide strips of construction paper, markers, and a stapler.

Beginning: Welcome the children in and invite them to talk amongst themselves for a couple of minutes. After they have been talking for 2 minutes, ask them to quite down to begin today's lesson. Then, ask one child what the last thing his/her neighbor said before you asked the to quiet down. Talk with the children about the challenge of remembering conversations when that is not our primary focus.

Opening Prayer: Holy God, open our ears to hear your word spoken in this world by the people meet. Amen.

The Story: 2 Samuel 23:1-7 Seated in a circle, you will read the passage twice through. Before beginning the reading, make sure the children know who David is. You can remind them that we heard about David a couple weeks ago when we learned that Ruth and Boaz would be David's great-grandparents.

First Reading: Ask one child to read the passage aloud.

Reflection Questions for 1st Time:

- What style of writing does this look like?
- What do you think this passage means?
- Who is speaking in this passage?

After talking about the passage as a whole, read the passage again, verse by verse. After each verse ask the following questions and write a consensus answer on the board. After the reflection time you should have a “translation” of the poem on the board.

Reflection Questions after Each Verse:

- What does this verse mean?
- I wonder what image comes to mind when you hear these words.
- I wonder why David thought it was important to say that.

After you’ve finished reading the passage verse by verse and writing the “translation” on the board ask the children to explain the meaning of the poem again, using the translation you’ve prepared.

Activity: Last Word Links: for our activity this week we are going to make a chain of important words and thoughts that we should remember to share often. Put the strips of construction paper on the table. Invite each child to write on the construction paper the words or ideas they think Jesus would want us to share most often with others. Once the words are written invite the children to come staple them on the chain.

Getting Closure: With help from the students, hang the chain around your classroom. From this week until you run out of links you can tear off and read one of the “last word links” to the class each week. Start today: what is your first, last word.

Closing Prayer: God of hellos and goodbyes, thank you for sending us kings like David and Jesus to show us the path to you. Help us to remember that the words we use are important. Amen.

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