

Lesson Plans that Work
Year B – Christ The King/Proper 29
Lesson Plans for Younger 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 story for yourself. And, if you choose to do both activities, you will also need: Crowns, crayons, stickers, 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

David was a great king of Israel. When David came to the end of his life, this is what he said:

“I am David. Jesse was my father.
I am a man who God gave many blessings to.

God chose me to be King of Israel because
God knew I had a strong heart and mind.

The Holy Spirit of God speaks through me.

God said that it is important to find a king who is fair
And who loves God.

God said that a good king is like a beautiful sunny morning.

I know that God thinks I am a good king.
God picked me to be king because God trusted me.

God will make sure I have everything I need.

Loving God is the most important thing.”

Reflection Questions after Each Verse:

- I wonder why David said this.
- I wonder what David mean when he said that the Holy Spirit of God speaks though him.
- I wonder what the most important part is.

Activity: Last Word Telephone: for our activity this week we are going to play a game of telephone. To play this game, everyone will need to sit in a circle on the floor or in chairs. You will start the game by whispering an important phrase in to the ear of the child sitting next to you. Instruct the children that they will then whisper what they heard to the person next to them and so forth, until the phrase goes all the way around the circle. The last person in the circle will say the phrase out loud to see if he/she got the right message. Try this a few times to see if you can pass the message correctly.

You could use lines from this week’s story as the special messages and then you could invite the children to think of their own ideas of what the “most important thing” would be to say.

After playing a few rounds of the game, gather back at the table to make Last Word Crowns. Share with the children that David was King of Israel and today we celebrate that Jesus was King of Earth! To honor these great kings, we will make our own crowns with our own “last word” or “most important word” on the front. Offer the kids suggestions of words like “faith” “hope” or “love”. While the children color their crowns, go around the circle and help them write their word on the front of their crown.

Getting Closure: Have each child don his or her crown and invite them to share their chosen “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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