

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C– Epiphany 5
Lesson Plans for Older Children
Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8

Background

In the Sundays after Epiphany, we will hear from a variety of prophets, each speaking to God’s relationship with the people. Although these prophets were speaking to a particular circumstance in a specific time and place, their words are helpful reminders to us today about our own relationship with God. Prophets seek to change the minds and behaviors of their audience.

Notation for This Week Two themes weave together in today’s reading: an experience of God and a commissioning to ministry. Isaiah has a mystical experience and is in a state of awe. In this state, he is called to be a prophet to God’s people, to speak on behalf of the Lord. He answers with the famous phrase, “Here I am.” Too often these themes are examined separately, losing the power of one leading directly to the other. We first experience God, then we serve God. Divorcing the two leads to empty worship without service or empty service without worship.

Theme: The Call of Isaiah

Before Class: Gather the music you will use. Gather big banner paper for the class mural and markers or paint. Decide what sacred space you will use.

Gathering: Welcome the children and ask them to name the most awesome thing they can think of. Explain that today’s story is awesome - Isaiah was filled with awe in his vision of the Lord.

Opening Prayer: Awesome God, you created the whole universe and you know each of us by name. Be with us now and help us to know you and serve you better. Amen.

Sing: “Holy, Holy, Holy” Hymnal 1982 or whatever Sanctus is most familiar.

The Story: Isaiah 6:1-8

It might be nice to use the NRSV for this reading, to retain the wording that matches much of the familiar music. An alternative would be the CEB.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder what image caught your attention in today’s reading?
- I wonder how Isaiah’s vision changed what he thought about God?
- I wonder how it changed how he thought about himself?
- I wonder what Isaiah did next?
- I wonder if you have ever had a time when you felt particularly close to God?
- I wonder if you ever had a time when you thought you weren’t good enough for something, but someone or something showed you that you were?
- I wonder how we might say to God, “Here am I, send me?”

Activities:

Art: Have the class work together on a large mural that says “Here Am I, Send Me.” Depict Isaiah’s vision in the center, and surround it with pictures of the students following God’s call in their daily lives. Use tempura paint for vivid colors. Hang in your classroom or elsewhere in the church building. Play inspirational music while they work, such as Beethoven’s 9th Symphony or Vivaldi’s Four Seasons.

Group Sculptures: Break into small groups and determine who will go first as the sculptor. The rest of each group is the clay. Invite the sculptor to arrange their group to depict Isaiah’s vision. Then invite someone else to be sculptor.

Charades: Have the children act out the many different ways we might be called to serve God.

Sacred Space: Consider taking a trip to a holy space in your church - it might be the Nave, or a prayer garden or a small chapel. Or you could use an area in your classroom, arranged with candles, flowers, bible, and other worship items. Invite the children to be quiet and rest in God’s presence. Remind them that they can be with God anywhere, but sometimes we go to a place set apart, or sacred, to help us experience the divine. Ask them what they would put in a sacred space to help them experience God.

Challenge for the Week: Have the children watch for moments of awe during the week. Remind them that they can experience the wonder and awe of the sacred anywhere.

Closing Prayer: Holy, holy, holy God, make us aware of your presence and your power. Create in us clean hearts so that we might go where you send us and spread your love to everyone. Amen.

Sing: Here I Am, Lord (Wonder, Love and Praise)
Will You Come and Follow Me (Wonder, Love and Praise)
Hush...Somebody’s Calling My Name (LEVAS)

*Published by the Formation Office of The Episcopal Church, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.
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