

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C– Epiphany 5
Lesson Plans for Younger 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: Choose and locate/learn the music for today. Gather pastels or watercolors and appropriate paper for the art project. Consider a sacred space where you might take the children for a moment with God. Alternatively, you could set up a worship area in the classroom.

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 what Isaiah did next?
- I wonder if you have ever had a time when you felt particularly close to God?
- I wonder how we might say to God, “Here am I, send me?”

Activities:

Art: Using pastels or watercolors, have the children paint their own versions of Isaiah’s vision, or of what they think an encounter with the Holy One might look like. Play inspiring music such as Taizé chants or instrumental music, while they create. Allow time for sharing their work,

making sure to affirm each vision and model for the children an acceptance of different interpretations.

Drama: Have the children act out Isaiah's call and 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. Invite the children to be quiet and rest in God's presence. Or use a corner of your classroom as a prayer/worship area. 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)
Thuma Mina (Wonder, Love and Praise)

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