

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Sixth Sunday After Epiphany
Lesson Plans for Adults

Scripture: Luke 6:17-26

Epiphany: Shimmering glimpses of the abundance of the Kingdom of God. Perhaps we, too, noticed a star and followed it. Or maybe someone led us to the gift of faith. Now we take the Light — the Good News — out into the world. Will others see the light shimmering in us? Will they risk taking a journey into faith with us?

A Notation for this Week's Gospel

Last week, we hear about Jesus calling the first disciples. Today, Jesus introduces new teachings to his disciples and those who are gathered around him. In Luke 6:12-16, Jesus chooses and names his 12 disciples, so this is his first teaching directly to them. A teaching of blessing the poor, a teaching of reversals.

Theme: Blessing

Before: Look at the activities listed below and decide which one/ones you will do with the children. Gather the supplies needed.

Beginning: Invite the group to gather together. Ask them “I wonder how you would define the word ‘Blessing’?”

Opening Prayer: Good and gracious God, thank you for the blessings we have in this life. Help us to be a blessing to others and live as you have taught us. Amen.

The Scripture: Luke 6:17-26

Invite the group to go around the circle, each taking a paragraph or line to read. If you would like, you can print these on index cards and number them. Hand out the cards as people enter and then invite them to read the cards in order.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder what stands out for you as you hear this lesson?
- I wonder what questions it brings up for you?
- I wonder what blessings you have received?
- I wonder what the “woes” in the reading say to us?
- I wonder how Jesus’ blessings and woes are different than how the world is today?
- I wonder what blessings you can give?

Activities:

Invite the group to talk about how we might be able to bless each other and thus live into what Jesus is teaching about today. (The last question of the reflections questions can begin this conversation.) After some brainstorming, invite them to create some blessings for others.

Blessing Boxes

Invite each individual to create boxes that will hold the blessings they can give to others. You can use shoe boxes, small cardboard boxes or create boxes from a box folding pattern like the one attached. Invite them to take 3x5 cards and write or draw different kinds of blessings they can give to the people around them. Each week, they can draw a card and do what the blessing card says. (Ideas: donate items to a homeless shelter, visit a homeless shelter and give out blessing bags to those who are there, write a note to someone who is feeling sad, give someone flowers if they are having a hard time, tell someone you love them, etc.) Have them decorate the outside of the box if there is time. If they have children, let them know that the children are doing the same thing today and they can combine their cards!

Blessing Bags

Invite the group to create blessing bags for a local homeless shelter or women's shelter. Blessing bags can include snacks, hygiene products, personal care items, etc. You can contact local shelters to see what might be helpful to include.

Closing Prayer: God of many blessings, as we go forth into the world, guide us in our ways so we can be a blessing for others in this world and so that we can see your blessings all around us. Amen.

Luke 6:17-26

Jesus came down with the twelve apostles and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.”

"But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

"Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

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