

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Proper 19
Lesson Plans for Younger Children
Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: Jeremiah 4:11-12, [22-28]

Background

As we continue to walk through “Ordinary Time” it is hard to imagine the lessons from our Old Testament scriptures as “ordinary” days. We hear fantastical accounts of kings, prophets, and courts and they sound so far away. But we are called to remember these stories of times past and to consider how ordinary days of ancestors relate to the ordinary days we face here and now.

A Notation for This Week’s Scripture

The nature of today’s reading does not lend itself well to study by children because we do not get the whole picture of why God is promising this destruction and judgement. This will be difficult for the children to grasp. Instead, we will focus on the first two versus and the image of the wind. Jeremiah used this image because it would have been something familiar to those he was speaking to as they understand the benefits and destructiveness of wind.

Theme: The Wind Blows

Before Class: You will need a fan or hairdryer with varying speeds and various items of various weights to help the children experiment with the power of wind. (cotton balls, straw, balloons, sticks, cotton swabs, toothpicks, popsicle sticks, rocks, wood dowels, sand, dirt, mud, etc.

You may also want paper and paints to explore wind. If you do this, you may want to have more than one fan/hairdryer for them to use.

Beginning: Gather the children around you and ask them if they have noticed any changes in the weather. As we hit September has it been cooler or hotter? Was there more wind or rain?

Opening Prayer: Creator God, we thank you for sending us the wind, rain, sun, moon, clouds, and snow as a reminder of the wonders of your creation. Help us to remember your power as we move through this amazing world. Amen.

The Story: Jeremiah 4:11-12, [22-28]

Tell the children this or use your own words.

Jeremiah was a prophet. As a prophet, he was always bringing God’s message to the people. The people around Jeremiah had been acting horribly and not following in the ways of God. So God sent Jeremiah to the people, reminding them that God is powerful.

Ask them, “I wonder if you can think of an image of God being powerful? I wonder if you can picture God being angry at people who are not following God?”

God was very angry at the people, and God sent word through Jeremiah, warning the people that if they did not change their ways, that God would send a very strong wind to them. Jeremiah told them:

At that time, this people and Jerusalem will be told:

A blistering wind from the bare heights;
it rages in the desert toward my people,
not merely to winnow or cleanse.

This wind is too devastating for that.

Now I, even I, will pronounce my sentence against them.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder if you have ever felt a really strong wind?
- I wonder if you can think of times that wind can be good? (blowing bugs away, separating the weeds from the wheat, pollination, etc.)
- I wonder if you can think of times that wind can be destructive? (hurricanes, tornadoes, blowing trees over, etc.)
- I wonder what God was trying to tell the people?

Activity:

As the Wind Blows

- Invite the children to gather around the space you have set up with the fan and/or hairdryer and all the items.
- Pass out cotton balls and have them put the cotton balls in front of them. Ask them: Can you move the cotton ball just by blowing on it?
- Give them a straw. Ask them: Does the cotton ball move better when you blow through a straw?
- Give them some of the other items (toothpick, stick, ball, balloon, etc.) and repeat the experiment.
- Now ask, what if we used a fan? Invite them to gather up some of the materials and see what happens when you turn on the fan at various speeds.
- Ask them if they have ever seen wind that damages things? When might wind be good?

Wind Art

Invite the children to create art by using paper and paints. Have them drop paint onto the paper and then use the fan/hairdryer to blow it around. They can also try to just use their breath to move the paint.

Getting Closure: Share what you have created. What did it feel like to create something new?

Closing Prayer: Creator God, we thank you for the world you have created. Help us remember to treat the world and all that you have created with care and love. Amen.

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