

Lesson Plans That Work: Lesson Plans for Younger Children

Proper 19 (A)

Old Testament: Exodus 14:19-31

BACKGROUND

The Season after Pentecost is the longest season of the church year, spanning almost half the calendar year. The weeks after Pentecost are called Ordinary Time coming from the word “ordinal” which means counted time. This time is not ordinary as in common or regular, but it is the time of counted weeks between Pentecost and Advent. The liturgical color of the season is green. It is often thought of as a season of growth both in our personal faith and in the life of the church. Common themes to focus on throughout the season are:

- Our relationship with God.
- Our relationship with Jesus Christ and with one another through our prayers, the sacraments and life in the body of Christ.
- The presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- The Church and its work for God’s mission.

A NOTATION FOR THIS WEEK’S READING

The Israelites have fled Egypt, headed toward the Red Sea and are being led by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. As they flee, Pharaoh’s heart is hardened once again (as God foretold) and he sends 600 picked chariots and other chariots with Egyptian officers after them. As the Egyptians close in on the Israelites, they begin doubting Moses and what God had told him to do. Moses tells them ‘Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.’ Then God tells Moses what to do to escape the Egyptians.

This is a plan by God so that the Egyptians will see God’s power and his might. The lead up and crossing of the Red Sea puts the power in God’s hand even though there are thousands of Pharaoh’s men following them in chariots with whips. Their power is useless against God’s power. This is an amazing reversal of the power that the Israelites had known, and they come to have faith in God.

THEME

Parting of the Red Sea

BEFORE CLASS

You will need brown cardboard or construction paper, blue paper, toilet paper rolls (or paper towel rolls cut in half or thirds), printed person and fish (see below), markers or crayons, glue or glue sticks OR props to reenact the story. Precut the blue paper and roll the edges. You may need to precut the people and fish for the children as well.

BEGINNING

Spread a blue sheet or blanket on the floor in front of the area that you are going to use to tell the story. Have the children gather around and wonder with you what the blue sheet or blanket might be.

OPENING PRAYER

God of Grace and Wonders, we come before you today to learn about the miracle at sea that you commanded Moses to perform to save the people of Israel. Open our hearts that we can hear your works and come to know your incredible power.

THE STORY: EXODUS 14:19-31

In the Bible we hear stories of many people. These people are just like us, they eat and sleep, go to school and work. God has a plan for each of them, and in hearing the stories we learn that God's plan is for each of us too.

Read Exodus 14:19-31 from a Children's Bible.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- I wonder what your favorite part of the story?
- I wonder what your questions were after you heard the story?
- I wonder what the Israelites were feeling as the clouds swirled around them and the Egyptians were chasing them?
- I wonder how Moses felt when the waters parted in front of him?
- I wonder how the people felt when they saw the power of God working around them?

ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Parting of the Red Sea Craft

You will need a brown piece of construction paper or cardboard, blue paper and the printed sheet below for the children to color. Using the sheet below, have each child create his or her own Red Sea creation.

Activity 2: Reenact the Story

To help with the reenactment, it is good to have some props for the children to use such as 2 large sheets of fabric to make the blue water, a brown piece of fabric for the land below the water, a staff for Moses, some costumes (or fabric, towels or sheets that can be

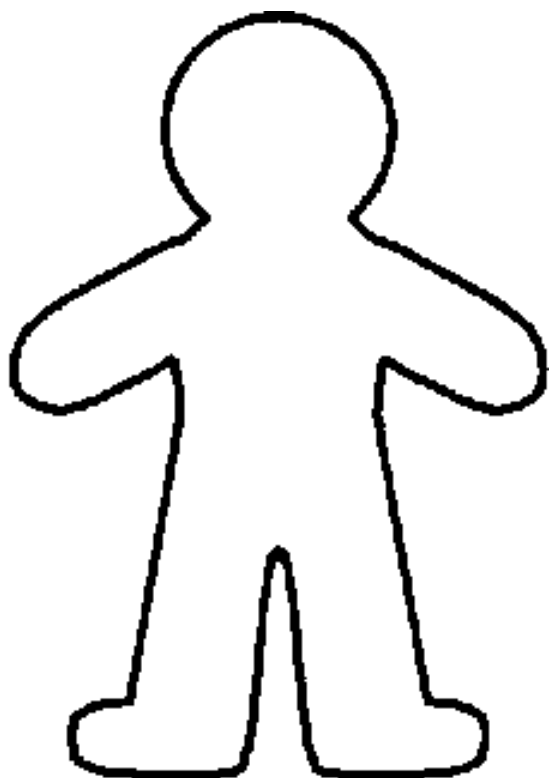
draped on to the children for costumes), some cotton or white fabric to make the clouds, fans for the wind, and maybe some fish cut out from paper or stuffed animals that would appear in the sea if it parted. As you (or another person) reads the story, have the children act it out. You may want to use a more contemporary version of the text for this such as The Message.

GETTING CLOSURE

Gather the group back together and have the children share their art creations OR ask them what it felt like to act out or “be” parts of the story. As you have snack together, wonder again with them what it would be like if this were to happen today. Would they walk across the dry land? Would they do as God told them as Moses did?

CLOSING PRAYER

Loving God, we gather as your people once again to give thanks for your mighty works. Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world around us that we might come to know you in new ways each day. Bless us as we go forth into the world and keep us safe until we gather together again. Amen.



Take a sheet of brown paper or cardboard and place it on the bottom.

Take the blue paper and cut it down the middle and then cut one-inch strips along two edges. Curl the paper up by rolling it around a pencil or crayon.

Glue the blue to the brown leaving a pathway in the middle.

Color and decorate the person and the fish. (If you want the children to have a whole group of Israelites, give them more of the cut out figures.)

When the figures are done, glue or tape them to the toilet paper roll so they will stand up and “walk across the sea on dry land.” Cut out the fish and glue or tape them to the scene.

