

Lesson Plans that Work
Year A – Sixth Sunday in Easter
Lesson Plans for Older Children
Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: Acts 17: 22-31

The Easter season is when we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Easter Season is a very special time of year. There are fifty days in the season. The season has seven Sundays, and this is the sixth Sunday of Easter. The Easter season brings about a lot of happiness as we celebrate the coming of spring and Jesus Christ's resurrection. During this time children should be reminded that after Jesus Christ died on the cross he came back to be among the disciples for forty days.

Ascension Day is forty days after Easter Sunday. Ascension Day is during the week and some churches offer a special service on that day. You might invite the children to attend this service with their families.

Peace and Justice

These 7 Easter Season lessons will explore peace and justice issues. Jesus is the role model for Christians, throughout the lessons you will want to compare how the values of the persons being highlighted reflect the values we have been taught by Jesus. The person highlighted for each lesson will serve as a modern day role model for others in your community, be sure to share how their actions reflect the values Jesus taught us. The Easter season is a good time for children to look at what they have in their community, good and bad, and to look beyond their community and into the past to learn about some challenges that the United States and other parts of the world have faced.

Today's role model is the group Women Accepted for Volunteer Service (WAVES). You might consider finding videos online in order to learn more about the person being highlighted each Sunday.

A Notation for this Week's Scripture

In this reading, Paul tells the Athenians that we are all God's offspring. Paul struggles with the Athenians because they worship idols and he informs them that God wants them to only worship God. Paul also tells the people that God sent his Son Jesus Christ out of patience for human ignorance.

Theme: We are God's Offspring

As God's offspring we are asked to heed his call and to share our belief in Jesus Christ. We need to remember that we are all God's offspring and that Jesus Christ came to save all of us.

Before Class:

You will need pens, silk flowers, and floral tape. You will need UTO Boxes and copies of the UTO information sheet (found in Easter Sunday Lesson).

Beginning: Invite the children to gather into a circle and tell them:

During the Easter season, we are doing some special things. Each Sunday, we will hear a story from the Acts of the Apostles, which is the book of the bible that tells the story of the early Church. We will also hear a story about a role model that lived the way Jesus teaches us to live. We will also be looking at how we can serve Jesus' mission in the world as the Apostles and role models have done.

Opening Prayer: Thank you for bringing your human family together to worship you. We are grateful for those that give of their gifts in order to help others. Help us to see that we are all God's offspring. Amen.

The Story:

Paul was one of God's best workers. He traveled all over the Bible lands spreading the Good News that Jesus lived and died for us. Some people were happy about the news and they became converts. That means they changed their old ways to become followers of Jesus. Some people got very angry at Paul for telling them their old ways were wrong and they tried to hurt or kill him. But nothing stopped Paul from sharing the Good News. He just kept walking and walking from town to town, talking about Jesus.

One day Paul came to a big city in Greece called Athens. He went to the market place where the people were gathered. Paul saw many statues of different gods. He saw an altar with a sign that said to an unknown God. Paul spoke to the people with these words. People of Athens, I see you have many gods and goddesses. You even have an altar to an unknown god. This God doesn't have to be unknown anymore. Our God made the earth and everything in it. Don't worship stone cold statues any more. Our God gives us life. He made us to search for him and to find him. Our God is very near to us and cares about each of us. He created the nations of the world and we too are his children. God sent his son Jesus to live and die for us. God raised Him from the dead to give us hope and so we wouldn't be afraid of death.

Some people made fun of Paul for saying a man was raised from the dead. Other people wanted to know more and became followers. Paul kept on talking and he kept on walking. We know a lot about what Paul thought through the many letters he wrote to the new churches.

Exploring the Role Models:

Each story during the Easter Season will highlight a role model that the children will learn about each week. Each week as you tell the story highlight the values each person displays reminding them that Jesus is the best role model of all. Today's role model is the group Women Accepted for Volunteer Service (WAVES).

- Women Accepted for Volunteer Service (WAVES) served the United States Navy during World War II. The WAVES numbered 100,000 women. In all, 350,000 women joined all of the military branches during the war. During World War II, women took on roles that were different than times before. Women helped in the war effort by working jobs that only men used to do and by helping to conserve materials needed for military equipment.
- On Memorial Day Weekend, the United States remembers the men and women that have served in the nation's military branches. Everyone that has served in the military has helped to preserve the freedom for which the United States stands. The WAVES and all other

military members are God's offspring and we are grateful to them because they offered to help the United States keep its freedom.

Paul and the WAVES had a lot of convincing to do. The WAVES had to convince groups of people that they could do the work that men's were only believed able to do. Paul had to convince God's followers that having idols was not something God wanted them to have. Paul and the WAVES were strong people that worked hard. People followed Paul because of his hard word and people accepted the WAVES because they proved that hard work and that benefited the entire community. Jesus stressed how important it is to be a supporting community.

Questions:

- What do you remember or what do you know about the WAVES.
- Do you think your community has some women that served as WAVES?
- How should you or your church show your appreciation for these brave women?
- How can we reflect Jesus' love in the world?

Reflection:

People need to believe that they are worthy of being God's offspring.

Think of two people in your life that need to believe that they are God's offspring?

- How can you show them that they are God's offspring?
- Do you know someone that knows that everyone of us is God's offspring?
- Sometimes people that are close to us know that we are all God's offspring.
- How can we show appreciation to those who know that we are all God's offspring?

Art Activity: Flower Pens

Ask the children to pick a silk flower. The children will need to use the floral tape to wrap the stem of the silk flower to a pen. Make sure the cap is off the pen so that they are able to cap the pen at the end of the wrapping of the floral tape.

The children are welcome to take the pens home or if you would like to create a bouquet in your classroom you could ask them to leave the pens to use in the classroom. If you have the students leave them you might put coffee beans or dried black beans into a flowerpot for your display.

Closing Prayer: We are grateful to God for making us his offspring. God helps people realize that they are his offspring when they seek him. Those that seek God will be brave and help during times of need. Help us to share the Good News with those that don't feel like they are worthy of God's love. Thank you for our military women and men. Amen.

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Printed by the Office for Formation and Vocation Ministries of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.

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