

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

Scripture: Acts 1: 6-14

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 seventh 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. In 2011, the date of Ascension Day is Thursday, June 2nd. Ascension Day is during the week and some churches offer a special service on that day. You might ask the children if they attended 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 displays 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 Rosa Parks.

You might consider watching videos online in order to learn more about the person being highlighted each Sunday.

A Notation about this week's Scripture

In this reading, Jesus appears to his disciples for forty days after his resurrection. Jesus asks his disciples to prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit, to be sent during Pentecost, and to also prepare for their mission in the world.

Theme: Power and Authority

Power and authority are important for people to have. People need to remember that power and authority comes with responsibility. Sometimes other people try to use their power and authority against others and that is not fair.

Before Class:

You will need white cloth rectangles (cut the all the same size) and permanent markers or cloth paints. Today is the day the children have been asked to return their UTO offering boxes. Please collect them.

Beginning:

The children have been asked to provide an offering to United Thank Offering (UTO) during the Easter Season. United Thank Offering is an Episcopal Church resource that gives grants to help the mission and ministry of the church.

Collect the small collection boxes today. Ask the children for some examples of times that they put money in their boxes. If possible, the children should walk up to place the boxes on the altar during a church service to present their offerings to the Lord. You can pray over them using the prayer on the box, which can also be found in the Easter Sunday Lesson Plan.

Opening Prayer: Thank you Lord for bringing us to this last Sunday of Easter. Help us to remember all those people that have helped others have power and authority over their lives. Bless all those who work tirelessly for many. Amen.

The Story:

Jesus had been with the apostles for forty days after he rose up from the dead on Easter. He taught them many things about the Kingdom of God. Now it was time for Jesus to return to God in heaven. The apostles still wanted to know one more thing. When was God going to send the Romans out of Israel and give the country back to the people? Jesus told them that no one can know God's plans for exactly when God will do something. God's time is not the same as our time. Jesus told them it was not yet time for them to carry out His mission. They needed to wait in Jerusalem until God sent the Holy Spirit to give them strength and courage for their mission of spreading the Good News.

When Jesus was done talking a great white cloud covered Him up and then He was gone. The apostles were amazed as they stared up at the sky. While they were looking up two angels appeared to them. They said, "*Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.*" No one knows when this will happen, but we trust God will keep his word. The apostles obeyed Jesus. They went back to the upper room in Jerusalem and prayed and waited all together until the day when God would send His Holy Spirit.

Exploring the Role Model:

Each story during the Easter Season will highlight a role model that the children will learn about 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 Rosa Parks.

- Rosa Parks was a brave person. Living in the southern United States during the times of segregation this African American woman stood up to those that mistreated her people. Rosa and others like her believed that they were doing the right thing asking for equality.
- The Montgomery Bus Boycott in Alabama lasted 13 months in the middle of the 1950s. Many people suffered during the boycott because they had to walk to work, and some even lost their jobs because they supported the boycott.
- Rosa Parks sought power and authority for herself and for a large group of people. These people suffered through segregation and unequal living conditions. They were poor because they were discriminated against and did not get the same pay that others did. African

Americans started the Civil Rights Movement because they knew that they deserved power and authority over their lives. They knew from Jesus' teachings that in the sight of God all people are equal.

Jesus and Rosa Parks were brave people. Rosa was a follower of Jesus and she knew that God and Jesus Christ would take care of her and others who were also discriminated against. Jesus Christ works through people like Rosa Parks because they are firm believers that everyone deserves to have power and authority over their lives.

Questions:

- I wonder what you know or remember about Rosa Parks.
- Do you think your community has some people like Rosa Parks?
- How should you or your church show your appreciation for these brave people?
- How can we reflect Jesus' love in the world?

Reflection:

People need to feel that they have power and authority over their lives.

Think of two people in your life that need to believe that they have power and authority.

- How can you show them that they have power and authority?
- Do you know someone that knows that they have power and authority?
- Sometimes people that are close to us know that they have power and authority.
- How can we show appreciation to those who know that they have power and authority?

Art Activity: Peace Quilt

Give each child a white cloth rectangle. Invite them to draw or write about what peace represents to them. Collect the cloth rectangles at the end of your time together.

Ask someone at your church to sew the rectangles and make them into a Peace Quilt.

Present the quilt with the children's rectangles to the congregation the following week, Pentecost Sunday.

Closing Prayer:

On this Seventh Sunday of Easter we remain grateful to God for giving us power and authority over our lives. We know that this is not always easy and that many people have suffered many injustices in order for others to enjoy the ability to make decisions for themselves. Thank you for those people who realize that we all should have power and authority over our lives. Thank you for giving us the ability to see that we all deserve to be able to make decisions for ourselves as we grow up. Amen.

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