

Lesson Plans that Work
Year A – Season after Pentecost, Proper 8
Lesson Plans for Younger Children

Scripture: Matthew 10:40-42

In this season after Pentecost, we hear stories of Jesus ministry in the world and our call to engage in that mission. This season is also known as 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 color for this season is green and it is often referred to as the green growing time as we hear stories of what God is calling us to do in the world, we join in that call, and we grow in our faith.

A Notation for This Week’s Gospel and Reading

Whoever welcomes you, welcomes Christ. Whoever welcomes Christ, welcomes God. Seems simple, but it is rather profound if you stop to think about it. As these words were being written, there weren’t phones or computers or even the postal service. Welcoming someone who came bearing a message meant welcoming not just the messenger, but also the one who sent the message. God sent Christ as a messenger, as one who came to show us and speak to us about God and living as people of God. For us today, what does welcoming the other look like and how do we welcome Christ into our lives? Who or what are our messengers today?

Theme: Welcoming Christ

Before: For the beginning exercise, you will need small plastic cups and water. For the activity, you will need plastic cups (reusable ones like the tumblers you can find at the dollar store), permanent markers, and stickers.

Beginning: Invite the children to gather and give each of them a small cup of water to drink, welcoming them to the space. You can ask them what things we might do to welcome someone into our home or into our classroom.

Opening Prayer: Loving God, we ask you to be with us as we explore what your words mean for our lives. Guide us as we seek to welcome and be welcomed. Amen.

The Story: Matthew 10:40-42

Today, we hear Jesus telling the disciples about the work that they are going to do for Christ. He tells them, “We are closely connected in this work. Anyone who welcomes what you do, welcomes me because I sent you. Anyone who welcomes me, also welcomes God. By welcoming one another, we are helping one another and helping with God’s work. There is a lot of work to do, but we do not need to worry about that because there are many of us to do it. As you welcome the someone doing God’s work, start small. Give a cool cup of water to someone who is thirsty, for instance. The smallest act of giving or receiving makes you a student and learner of God’s work.”

Questions:

- I wonder what work God has given us?
- I wonder how we welcome people as if we were welcoming God?
- I wonder how giving someone a cup of water is helping God's messengers?

Activity: Welcoming Cup

In today's lesson, Jesus instructed that we are to give someone who is thirsty a cool cup of water. Today, we are going to make our own welcoming cups that we can use at home.

Invite the children to each take a cup and decorate it with markers or stickers.

Getting Closure: Invite the children to put away their supplies and clean up with your help. Gather them in a circle and ask them to share what they created.

Closing Prayer: Loving God, help us welcome one another and to welcome you. Help us to hear and see your messengers in our midst. Guide our ears, eyes, mouth, hands, and feet that we may engage in your mission in the world. Amen.

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