

Lesson Plans that Work
Year B – Season after Pentecost, Proper 8
Lesson Plans for Adults

Scripture: Mark 5:21-43

Background: We are now in the long season known as Ordinary Time, which runs through Christ the King Sunday. As we take this journey, nourished by the scriptures appointed for the season and empowered by our baptisms, we are invited to be on the lookout for all the blessings found in the ordinary – to see God at work here and now. And we are compelled to share our blessings with others.

A Notation for This Week’s Gospel

Jesus heals two people, an elderly woman, and a young girl, neither of whom had any status in their community. The power that was flowing out from Jesus into them can also flow into the things that need healing in our lives, but we must risk opening up to receive it. Jesus seems to insist that the most important work happens in the ordinary and that our faith makes us well.

Theme: Healing

Before Class: You will need Bibles or copies of the lesson for today (which can be found at the end of this lesson plan). You will also need a Book of Common Prayer.

Beginning: You may choose to point out that the two people healed in today's story were even less than ordinary in their time. Women and children had absolutely no status.

Opening Prayer: Thank you, Jesus, for healing an aching woman and a dying child. Thank you for coming among us to heal us and make us whole. Amen.

The Scripture: (Mark 5:21-43): Invite one of the participants to either read the whole passage, or you can read it in parts as outlined below.

Reflection Questions:

- What stood out for you in the reading?
- What is the leap of faith taken by Jarius? (He was a well-placed leader of the synagogue who was questioning the ministry of Jesus.)
- What is the leap of faith taken by the woman? (She could have been run off by the disciples for even trying to touch Jesus, and she clearly feared Jesus' finding out what she had done. See vs. 33).
- What are the leaps of faith we take when we pray for someone who is ill?

Option: Distribute copies of The Book of Common Prayer and examine portions allocated to prayer for the sick (pp. 453-461, p. 841).

Invite people to reflect on these prayers either as a whole group or as small groups. If you do the small group model, it is a good idea to leave some time at the end to come back together as a large group and “report out” some of your reflections.

- What stood out for them?
- What surprised them?
- What had they experienced before?
- What are they wondering about after reading the service?

Getting Closure: If your congregation offers healing prayers, you may want to invite the group to especially take part in them today. If you don’t regularly offer healing prayers, you may want to end with a special prayer, asking for healing, such as this one found on page, 460. If you feel so called, you may pause at the space and invite those present to offer petitions for healing for themselves or others.

For Health of Body and Soul

May God the Father bless you, God the Son heal you, God the Holy Spirit give you strength. [We especially pray for those things which we name before you now, either silently or aloud _____.] May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard your body, save your soul, and bring you safely to his heavenly country; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Closing Prayer: If you have used the prayer above, that can serve as your closing. If not, you may use one of the prayers in The Book of Common Prayer (pp. 453-461).

Mark 5:21-43

Narrator: When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly,

Jairus: “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.”

Narrator: So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said,

Woman: “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.”

Narrator: Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said,

Jesus: “Who touched my clothes?”

Narrator: And his disciples said to him,

Disciples: “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’”

Narrator: He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her,

Jesus: “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

Narrator: While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader’s house to say,

People: “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?”

Narrator: But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue,

Jesus: “Do not fear, only believe.”

Narrator: He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them,

Jesus: “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.”

Narrator: And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her,

Jesus: "Talitha cum,"

Narrator: which means, "Little girl, get up!" And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

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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