

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

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 copies of the Bible or copies of the script found at the end of the lesson. You will also need copies of the Book of Common Prayer, paper, markers, and art supplies. You will want to have a copy of the prayer list your congregation has for those who are sick. Props to help with play: a shawl or long scarf, a small blanket, and perhaps a pillow.

Beginning: Tell the children that today we will be thinking a lot about people who are sick. Ask the children if there are people in their family (e.g., grandparent, cousin) who are sick, or if there are children they know from school who are sick. Make a list and tell the children we will be praying for these people.

Opening Prayer: Gracious and Healing God, we pray for those who are sick, especially, _____. We want them to get well. Uphold them in their sickness and fill them with grace, that they may know the healing power of your love. Amen.

The Story: Tell the children that this story is fairly long, so you will tell part of it, and they can read parts of it out loud. If they follow along in the Bible, here is a way to do that: (There is a script at the end of the lesson.)

Act it Out: Invite the children to act out the story, creating parts, props, etc. If the children are going to present the play to the younger children, explain that also. Otherwise, gather some props and ask for volunteers to play the parts. You will need someone to play Jesus, the old woman, and the sick girl. If you have additional children, add the parents, the disciples, and members of the crowd.

Produce the play. If more than one child wanted a particular part, feel free to do the play again with a different cast.

Pray for the Sick: Show the children pages in the Book of Common Prayer with prayers for the sick (pp. 453-461, especially p. 461). Invite the children to pray for people by creating prayer cards for them. They can use pictures, create their own prayers, or use prayers from the book of Common Prayer. These can be for people they know or people from the prayer list.

Getting Closure: Invite the children to share the card they created if they wish to do so.

Closing Prayer: Say one or the healing prayers from page 461, adding the names of people you have chosen to pray for today.

Mark 5:21-43 (storyteller script)

(Teacher in regular print, *child in italics*)

Jesus was with a large group of people when a very worried man, named Jairus, pushed his way through the crowd and threw himself at Jesus' feet. This is what he said.

“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.”

Jesus decided to go to the man's house to heal the man's daughter. A large crowd went along with him.

In the crowd was an old woman who had been sick for years. She was bent over with pain. She had heard about Jesus, so she sneaked up behind Jesus, reached out, and touched his robe. This is what she said.

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

Immediately she felt better and could stand up straight.

“Who touched my clothes?”

His disciples knew that in that large crowd there was no way you could figure out who had been the one to touch him. But the woman knew he knew, so she knelt down in front of Jesus and told him the whole story – how she had been so sick, how she was sure he could heal her, and that she felt so very much better. Jesus then said to her:

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

So they all went on to the sick girl's house. When they got there, everyone was sure it was too late. The girl was not even moving. So Jesus took three of his disciples, Peter, James, and John, the brother of James, into the house to pray for the sick child. The child's mother and father were standing by her bed. Jesus said "*Talitha cum*" which means,

“Little girl, get up!”

Well she got up and was well. And Jesus said to them,

“Somebody get her something to eat.”

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