

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year B – Season after Pentecost, Proper 29**  
**Lesson Plans for Younger Children**

**Scripture: John 18:33-37**

**Background:** During the last weeks of Ordinary Time in Lectionary Cycle B, the Gospel of Mark, our primary guide, continues. The kingdom of God is open for all people. We hear this message in the readings about the rich man, the disciples jockeying for position, the blind man, the saints, the poor widow, and even Pilate as he queries Jesus about being a king. We don't have to pass an entrance exam; we are already in the kingdom. Through all the changes that occur in our lives, what will not change is God's love for each of us. The kingdom that Jesus is proclaiming is already here and yet is also still to come – the undercurrent of Advent, which is coming near.

**A Notation for This Week's Gospel**

My kingdom is not of this world. My kingdom is not won in a battle. Clearly, the kingdom Jesus offers comes a very different way than we expected. Jesus refuses violence. Instead, he speaks the truth and waits for ordinary people to hear his voice and choose to follow him. The ordinary gathers energy for the extra-ordinary to come.

**Theme: King and Kingdoms**

**Before:** In many Episcopal Churches, this Sunday is celebrated as Christ the King. Bring materials to make crowns: gold gift-wrap, card stock or heavy construction paper wide enough to go around a child's head, staples to secure it. Glue and whatever decorations found in a craft store will make fancy crowns the children can wear home.

**Beginning:** Ask the children what a "king" is. What do they think a king does? Then tell them we have a story about Jesus as king.

**Opening Prayer:** Thank you, Jesus, that you will always be our king. Amen.

**The Story: John 18:33-37** Pilate is the name of the man who is in charge in Jesus' town. Pilate has heard that people call Jesus the King of the Jews. Pilate asks Jesus if he is a king. Jesus tells him: "MY kingdom is not from this world." In Jesus' kingdom people listen to Jesus and follow him.

**Activity 1: Crowns** Using the supplies you have on hand or have gathered so the children can each make a crown to wear and take home. Perhaps they will want to call themselves "The King's Kids" – perhaps even putting those words on their crowns.

**Activity 2: Pre-Advent** If the children are regularly in church for Eucharist, ask them if anyone can tell you what color has been featured. (Green is the traditional color for the Pentecost season that concludes today). Tell them to be looking for a color change next week (Advent's color is either blue or, in some places, purple.) Tell them to be on the lookout for other changes they may

see in church (An Advent Wreath, for example, if your church will have one.) Ask if any of the children have a manger scene that comes out at home in Advent. Maybe a Christmas tree will be put up soon.

**Getting Closure:** Tell the children the church has some different special days from the calendar we use in school. Tell them that this day is something of a New Year's Eve. That next Sunday is the first Sunday in the new year for the church!

**Closing Prayer:** Thank you, God, that Jesus is our king and we can follow him where he asks us to go. Amen.

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

*© 2015 The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. All rights reserved.*

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year B – Season after Pentecost, Proper 29**  
**Lesson Plans for Older Children**

**Scripture: John 18:33-37**

**Background:** During the last weeks of Ordinary Time in Lectionary Cycle B, the Gospel of Mark, our primary guide, continues. The kingdom of God is open for all people. We hear this message in the readings about the rich man, the disciples jockeying for position, the blind man, the saints, the poor widow, and even Pilate as he queries Jesus about being a king. We don't have to pass an entrance exam; we are already in the kingdom. Through all the changes that occur in our lives, what will not change is God's love for each of us. The kingdom that Jesus is proclaiming is already here and yet is also still to come – the undercurrent of Advent, which is coming near.

**A Notation for This Week's Gospel**

My kingdom is not of this world. My kingdom is not won in a battle. Clearly, the kingdom Jesus offers comes a very different way than we expected. Jesus refuses violence. Instead, he speaks the truth and waits for ordinary people to hear his voice and choose to follow him. The ordinary gathers energy for the extra-ordinary to come.

**Theme: King and Kingdoms**

**Before Class:** You will need copies of the script which is found at the end of the lesson and Bibles if you do the "Look it Up" activity. Bring materials to make crowns: gold gift-wrap, card stock or heavy construction paper wide enough to go around a child's head, staples to secure it. Glue and whatever decorations found in a craft store will make fancy crowns the children can wear home.

**Beginning:** Tell the children that today we will fast-forward in the life of Jesus to his encounter with Pilate, shortly before Jesus is crucified. As we read the passage for today, let's look for clues as to why this Sunday is called Christ the King Sunday.

**Opening Prayer:** Thank you, God, for the kingdom you have prepared for us and for Jesus who shows us the way. Amen.

**The Story: John 18:33-37** Ask for volunteers to read the parts of Pilate, Jesus, and the narrator.

**Reflection Questions:**

- What clues tell us that this Sunday should be called Christ the King Sunday? (Its message is that Jesus the Christ is King. The Gospel for the last Sunday of Pentecost, although different for each lectionary year, focuses on the same theme.)
- Why is Pilate asking Jesus all these questions? (The leaders of the Jewish people had become convinced that what Jesus was teaching was not from God and so they wanted him arrested. Pilate was the person in charge of the government there.)

- We have had many stories this fall where people asked Jesus something and he gave them an answer different from their question or he responded with a question for them. Let's look for this happening in this passage:
- What does Jesus answer to these questions of Pilate:
  - Are you the king of the Jews? (verse 34)
  - What have you done? (verse 36)
  - So, you are a king? (verse 37b)
- What is different from most governments about the kingdom Jesus is describing? (No army, no fighting, people told to listen for the truth, and verse 37b)

**Activity 1: Crowns** Using the supplies you have on hand or have gathered so the children can each make a crown to wear and take home. Perhaps they will want to call themselves "The King's Kids" – perhaps even putting those words on their crowns.

**Activity: Look it Up** If you are doing the "Look it Up" activity, tell the children that today we have two pretty obscure books of the Bible. These books cover a period between the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament. They are entitled I and II Maccabees. When they have found it, ask if anyone can tell us the name of the holiday our Jewish friends celebrate in December. (Hanukkah). To find out why our Jewish friends celebrate Hanukkah, read I Maccabees 4:56. To get the full story, read verses 36-58.

**Getting Closure:** Next Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent, the first Sunday of the new Church year. (You could suggest that the children greet people – next Sunday – with "Happy New Year!" and watch expressions!) You can invite the children to think about what might be different in church next week since it will be Advent.

**Closing Prayer:** Thank you for the stories you we have had this year that assure us that you love us. Amen.

**John 18:33-37**

**Narrator:** Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him,

**Pilate:** “Are you the King of the Jews?”

**Jesus:** “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?”

**Pilate:** “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?”

**Jesus:** “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.”

**Pilate:** “So you are a king?”

**Jesus:** “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

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

*© 2015 The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. All rights reserved.*

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year B – Season after Pentecost, Proper 29**  
**Lesson Plans for Adults**

**Scripture: John 18:33-37**

**Background:** During the last weeks of Ordinary Time in Lectionary Cycle B, the Gospel of Mark, our primary guide, continues. The kingdom of God is open for all people. We hear this message in the readings about the rich man, the disciples jockeying for position, the blind man, the saints, the poor widow, and even Pilate as he queries Jesus about being a king. We don't have to pass an entrance exam; we are already in the kingdom. Through all the changes that occur in our lives, what will not change is God's love for each of us. The kingdom that Jesus is proclaiming is already here and yet is also still to come – the undercurrent of Advent, which is coming near.

**A Notation for This Week's Gospel**

My kingdom is not of this world. My kingdom is not won in a battle. Clearly, the kingdom Jesus offers comes a very different way than we expected. Jesus refuses violence. Instead, he speaks the truth and waits for ordinary people to hear his voice and choose to follow him. The ordinary gathers energy for the extra-ordinary to come.

**Theme: King and Kingdom**

**Before Class:** You will need copies of the script found at the end of the lesson.

**Beginning:** In our world where there are few kings ruling, today we have Pilate, a secular person of significant power in a battle of words with Jesus whose power is not of Pilate's arena. As we read the passage for today, let's notice the differences.

**Opening Prayer:** Dear God, we are still so far away from understanding what power means in your kingdom. Thank you for your patience with us as we struggle with the concept. Amen.

**The Scripture: John 18:33-37** Ask for volunteers to read the parts: the narrator, Pilate, and Jesus. At the conclusion of the reading, invite the group to remain silent and ponder what they have heard. Then ask the volunteers to read the passage one more time.

**Reflection Questions:**

- Ask if any one word or phrase stands out for anyone.
- What do we think Pilate would have understood "King of the Jews" to mean? (A serious threat to his own position.)
- What does Jesus say would be happening if his kingdom were of this world? (His followers would be fighting to rescue him)
- What do we understand about Jesus saying that his kingdom "is not from here?" (Among other things, that violence begets more violence, power tends almost always to corrupt, etc.)
- If "everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice" what would we expect to hear? (Words full of reconciliation, love, justice, etc.)

**Option:** Invite the group to be silent for a moment or two and contemplate what our world might be like if we really "listened to his voice." After a few moments of silence, invite people to offer what came to them.

**Getting Closure:** In some Episcopal Churches, today is marked as Christ the King Sunday and the children are exploring this concept. Discuss how we would define "Christ the King" as the title pertains to this day. You may choose to close with the Collect for Proper 29 (Book of Common Prayer, page 236)

**Closing Prayer:** Thank you, God, for your Word as we have heard it throughout the Lectionary Cycle B. Make our hearts open to hear afresh your word as next week we begin the Season of Advent and a new church year. Amen

---

### **John 18:33-37**

**Narrator:** Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him,

**Pilate:** "Are you the King of the Jews?"

**Jesus:** "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"

**Pilate:** "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?"

**Jesus:** "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

**Pilate:** "So you are a king?"

**Jesus:** "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

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

*© 2015 The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. All rights reserved.*