

**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.*

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