

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Easter 5
Lesson Plans for Younger Children
Revised Common Lectionary Acts of the Apostles Readings – Track One

Scripture: Acts 11:1-18

Background

Easter is one big celebration! It is a time for us to remember the Resurrection and that Jesus Christ our Lord is not dead but he is alive! We do it up big on Easter Sunday, but sometimes it is easy for us to forget that the celebration keeps going right up to Pentecost. It is also a time of year when we hope for Spring, if it has not already taken root in our neighborhood. We long for new life of plants and animals. It is a time for us to remember how special the gift of life is.

A Notation for This Week’s Story

Today we hear how Saint Peter was shown that all that God made was good, even people that are different from us. Sometimes it is easy to forget that everyone is good and we should respect them, especially when we do not agree with the other person. God desires for all people to know the love he has shown for us in Jesus.

Theme: God Created Everyone and Everything Good

Before Class: You will need construction paper, markers, crayons, colored pencils and other craft supplies (glue sticks, cotton balls, glitter, scissors, etc.).

Beginning: Gather the children together and welcome them.

Good morning everyone and Happy Easter! It is so good to have you with us this morning. Today we are going to hear a story about how Jesus came to a man named Saul and changed his life. After this experience Saul will get a new name. Can anyone guess what that same will be? *Paul* Let’s think about some of the places that we feel Jesus with us. Allow students to share briefly (*camp, home, church, nature*)

Opening Prayer: Jesus we thank you that you are not far from us and that you come to us in special ways. Help us to know you are with us. Amen.

The Story: Acts 11:1-18

Read this story from a children’s bible or tell it in this way.

The apostles and followers of Jesus heard that people who had not been believers or followed their religious laws had now accepted the word of God. The “outsiders” were now “insiders.” How could that have happened. When Peter returned to them from Jerusalem, they asked him, “How could you do such a thing and bring God’s word to the outsiders? Why did you eat with them?”

Peter explained to them that while he was visiting the town of Joppa and praying, he saw a vision that was like this. There was a huge blanket lowered by large ropes at its four corners. It came down from heaven and settled on the ground in front of me. On the blanket were farm animals,

wild animals, reptiles, birds, and all living creatures. It was an amazing site to see! Then I heard a voice say, “Go and kill and eat, Peter.” I said, “I cannot eat of these animals for they do not follow our laws about which animals are clean to eat and which ones are not.” The voice said to me, “If God tells you it is okay, then it is okay.” Peter explained that this happened three times and then the blanket was pulled back up to the sky.

Peter continued the story telling them what happened next. Right after this vision, three men showed up at the house where I was staying and the Spirit told me to go with them. So I went with my friends to go see the man who had sent for me. The man told us that he had seen an angel in his own house and had told him to send for me. He said that the angel told him that I would give him a message by which he and his entire household will be saved.

So Peter began to speak to them with a message from the Holy Spirit. He remembered Jesus’ words, “John baptized with water; you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Peter then turned to those who had been questioning him and said, “If God gave them the same gift that we were given when we believed in Jesus, who was I to stop God?” When the other believers heard this, they were silent. Then they started praising God and saying, “God has given to the all the repentance that leads to life.”

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder what you liked about that story?
- I wonder what animals you remember from Peter’s vision?
- What other stories in the Bible talk about all kinds of animals? (creation, Noah & the ark)
- How do those stories describe the animals and creation? (As good)

Activity:

Those were some really good answers. Peter told the people that all the animals and people are good, because that is how God created them. I wonder, if you had been in charge of creation, what kind of animal you might have created.

Invite the children to use the materials on the table to create an animal that perhaps God had forgotten to create. Tell them to be as creative as possible and remember that all creation is good.

Getting Closure: Wow, you all made some really amazing creatures! (Allow students to share their creatures if time allow.) Do you think that you might be able to help share Jesus’ love with someone you might not like the best this week? How? (Allow students to share their answers) Jesus reminds us that we are all created good and all deserve God’s love!

Closing Prayer: God, thank you for creating so much variety around us and for making it all good. Help us to show forth your love by being kind to everyone, even those we might find it hard to. Amen.

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