

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Easter 6
Lesson Plans for Older Children
Revised Common Lectionary Acts Lesson Plan – Track One

Scripture: Acts 16:9-15

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 Paul followed God's guidance. He traveled and preached where he was led. Lydia heard this preaching and was baptized with her whole household. When we believe in Jesus we do Christian things and follow where God invites us to go.

Theme: Baptism is a Reminder

Before Class: You will need string, construction paper, markers, crayons, colored pencils and other craft supplies (pipe cleaners, craft sticks, beads, glue sticks, cotton balls, glitter, shells, 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 Peter followed where God lead him. He meets a woman named Lydia who hears about Jesus and decides to follow Jesus and be baptized. Do you remember the last time you saw someone baptized? Allow students to share.

Opening Prayer: Jesus we thank you for the gift of faith and baptism. Help us to be open your love and guiding. Amen.

The Story: Acts 16:9-15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized,

she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

Reflection Questions:

- How did Saint Paul know where to go? (God showed him in a vision)
- How do we know where to go? (parents, teachers, friends, etc. help us)
- Why did Lydia get baptized? (the Lord opened her heart and she believed)
- Do you remember what happens at baptism? (we become full members of the Body of Christ, the Church - marked as God's own forever)
- How do we remember this in our everyday life? (pray, read bible, go to church, wear a cross, etc.)

Activity:

Those were some really good answers. We have lots of ways to remember that we are God's children. I wonder if we could create something that we could hang on the wall or wear that would remind us that in baptism we were marked as God's own forever. Invite children to use the materials on the table to create something to help them remember that God loves them. They could make a cross to hang on the wall or as a necklace, etc.

Getting Closure: Wow, you all made some really great reminders! Allow students to share their creations if time allow. Do you think that you might be able to remind someone that Jesus loves them this week? How? (Allow students to share their answers) Baptism reminds us to say yes to Jesus and to share his love with everyone!

Closing Prayer: God, thank you for the gift of baptism and for all the ways that you invite us to remember you. Help us to remind others that you love them. Amen.

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