

Lesson Plans that Work
Year B –Proper 25
Lesson Plans for Older Children
Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Background

For months now, we have been coming to church and seeing our altars dressed in green. As Godly Play calls it: the season after Pentecost is the “long green, growing season” of the church year. Try as we might, it’s just not as exciting as other seasons. We aren’t waiting for a messiah to be born. We aren’t walking towards the light of Easter. In the season after Pentecost we run the risk of becoming complacent and loosing sight of the big picture. It’s like that in life sometimes too. When time is passing and everything in life is going “just fine” we might take for granted the goodness that surrounds us. Oftentimes, we long for more exciting times to come. Life just as it is feels like a let down and we desire for the excitement of our friends lives. We are shaken from the complacency when something extreme happens: the loss of a pet, going on a trip, making a new friend, or just having a bad day can all shake us free and remind us to call out to God.

A Notation for This Week’s Hebrew Scripture Reading

Job has a lesson to teach us about complacency as well. For the past few weeks we’ve learned about Job’s suffering and have walked with Job as he continued to praise God despite of the hardships he faced. Sometimes Job felt let down by God, but he always returned to praise. Now, as we are coming near to the end of the long green season, we also come to the end of Job’s trials. Job has two choices in front of him: to curse God for all of the pain in his life or to praise God for staying with him through his trials and seeing him safely to the other side. Which would you choose?

Theme: Praising God Always

Before Class:

- Review the end of Job 41 so you have some context for today’s scripture conversation between God and Job.
- Ask your rector or the head of the pastoral care team for a list of people from your church who are elderly, sick, or homebound and who might like to receive a card from the Sunday school. Plan for one card by each student.
- Gather card making supplies (construction paper, markers, scissors, glue, glitter, stickers, etc...)

Beginning: At the beginning of class have the children sit in groups of two or three. Ask each group to come up with a list of times when they felt like praising God. After a couple minutes in their groups, have all of the groups share their list with the class. Were any of the suggestions times of hardship or trouble? Ask the kids why they would or would not feel like praising God after something really bad happened.

Opening Prayer: Thank you, God, for staying with us in good times and bad. Thank you for understanding and forgiving us when we sometimes get mad at you. Help us to remember how much you love us, always. Amen.

The Story: Job 42:1-6, 10-17 Split the reading into two sections (vv. 1-6 first followed by vv. 10-17 second) and tackle them separately before putting it all together. Because this is such a complex passage it will help the children to digest the information if we split it up. (If the children haven't been present the last few weeks as you covered the rest of the Job passages, make sure they know what has happened to Job before jumping into this week's passage.)

Have one child read Job 42: 1-6.

Reflection Questions for Verses 1-6:

- What does it sound like Job is saying to God?
- I wonder what God said to Job before "Job answered the Lord."
- Who can tell me about a time when they felt like they needed to apologize to God?

After you finish discussing verses 1-6, have a different student read verses 10-17.

Reflection Questions for Verses 10-17:

- What did God do for Job?
- Why did God bless Job so much?
- I wonder if anything in this story surprised you.
- I wonder how Job felt at the end of his life.

Reflection Questions to Put the Story Together:

- How do you think the beginning and the end of this story work together?
- How would you feel if you were Job?
- What does this story teach us?

Activity: Sometimes when we are having a hard time it can be difficult to remember that God is with us. Job needed God to remind him that God was there and that God loved him before Job was able to raise his hands in praise. Today for our activity, we will make cards for some of the elderly and homebound from our church to remind them that God loves them and is with them.

Ask the children if they know what it feels like to feel lonely. Talk with the children about loneliness and brainstorm a list of things that we can do to help people who are feeling lonely. As the children continue making suggestions, help steer them towards the idea of reaching out to people who are having a hard time.

Activity Questions:

- I wonder what you would want someone to say to you if you were home or in the hospital sick.
- I wonder what Job would say to someone who was feeling alone or scared.

After this introduction, give each child the name of a person from your church to whom they will be sending a card or let them choose the person from the list. Each card should include a bible verse to remind the recipient that God is with them. (A list of helpful bible verses is included at the end of this lesson.)

Getting Closure: Have each child share his or her card with the class.

Closing Prayer: For the closing prayer today, we will each share out loud the name of the person we made a card for today.

Thank you God for always staying with us, in good times and bad. Today we pray especially for *(insert names of people)* help them to know you are with them always. Amen.

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Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Then Job answered the LORD:

"I know that you can do all things,
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?'
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.
'Hear, and I will speak;
I will question you, and you declare to me.'
I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees you;
therefore I despise myself,
and repent in dust and ashes."

And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends; and the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then there came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and they ate bread with him in his house; they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him; and each of them gave him a piece of money and a gold ring. The LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters; and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers. After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children, and his children's children, four generations. And Job died, old and full of days.

Helpful Bible Verses for Card Making

Proverbs 18:10: The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.

Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Isaiah 41:10 - So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

John 14:27 - Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 16:33 - "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Psalms 46:1 - God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

2 Timothy 1:7 - For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

Psalms 16:8 -

I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Psalms 55:22 - Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.

1 Peter 5:7 - Cast all your anxiety on God because he cares for you.

Psalms 118:14 - The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

Psalms 119:114 - You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word.

Romans 8:38-39 – Nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.