

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Seventh Sunday After Epiphany
Lesson Plans for Older Children

Scripture: Luke 6:27-38

Epiphany: Shimmering glimpses of the abundance of the Kingdom of God. Perhaps we, too, noticed a star and followed it. Or maybe someone led us to the gift of faith. Now we take the Light — the Good News — out into the world. Will others see the light shimmering in us? Will they risk taking a journey into faith with us?

A Notation for this Week's Gospel

Jesus continues his teaching with disciples from last week. Instructing them on what this new way of life, this new way of being means. These are reversals and things that flip the current way of life on its head. As we near the end of Epiphany, I wonder what these reversals say to us.

Theme: Love, Bless, Give

Before: Look at the activities listed below and decide which one/ones you will do with the children. Gather the supplies needed.

Beginning: Invite the Children to gather together. Ask them if they have heard of the Golden Rule. Discuss with them what it might mean.

Opening Prayer: Gracious God, thank you for sending Jesus to teach us, guide us, and impart your wisdom to us. May we love, bless, and give to the world as you have shown us. Amen.

The Scripture: Luke 6:27-38

Invite the children to go around the circle, each taking a line to read from the scripture found at the end of the lesson.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder what stands out for you in this reading?
- I wonder what questions you have?
- I wonder if you have ever heard any of these things before?
- How Jesus' words be useful for us today?
- Looking at the teachings of Jesus in this passage all together, what do you think the main message is for the disciples?

Activities:

Invite the children to brainstorm what love means, what bless means, what give means. Write their answers up on an easel or white board.

Love, Bless, Give

Once they are done brainstorming, invite them to make commitment cards to themselves as to how they will love, bless and give to the world around them. They can write these on index cards, in a journal they can take home, or you can use the sheet found at the end of the lesson and have them write their commitments in the circles.

Mural

Take the brainstorming ideas and invite them to create a mural of how they can love, bless and give. You can have them cut things out of magazines, draw, write, create poetry, whatever they would like to contribute to the mural. Hang it up in the classroom or hallway so that others can see the mural.

Song

Invite them to create a song or poem about this reading. How would they convey Jesus' teaching to others?

Getting Closure: Gather in a circle and invite people to share what they have created.

Closing Prayer: God Our Teacher and Redeemer, thank you for all you have given us. Help us to leave this place, remembering your words, honoring what you have asked us to do, and living how you have instructed us. Help us to love and be loved, to bless and receive blessings, to give and receive that we may know you through each other. Amen.

Luke 6:27-38

Jesus said, “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt.

Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again.

Do to others as you would have them do to you.

If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.

If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.

Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.

Forgive, and you will be forgiven;

give, and it will be given to you.”

A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

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