

Lesson Plans for Older Children

Scripture: Acts 10:34-43

Background

Alleluia, Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Today we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord as we emerge from the Lenten season of waiting and watching. We've walked with Jesus through the wilderness into Jerusalem and to the grave. Today we finally get to celebration our true nature: That of an Easter people!

A Notation for This Week's Scripture

During Eastertide, the Old Testament readings are replaced in the lectionary with passages from the book of Acts. Today's passage is obvious and straightforward. Peter, who has been invited to the home of a Roman Centurion, named Cornelius, to proclaim the Good News. Before our excerpt for today begins, Peter arrives at Cornelius' home and Cornelius falls to the ground, worshipping Peter. Peter tell him to get up and explains that he is only a human. Peter then asks why Cornelius has sent for him. Peter says that in the past he would not have come to speak to Cornelius and his compatriots because he would have considered Gentiles to be unclean. But God has opened Peter's eyes to see that the Gospel of Jesus is for all people in all the world. Cornelius explains that he say in a dream that he should invite Peter to preach the Good News, so he has gathered his friends and is anxious to hear the story of Jesus. In this passage Peter literally tells the Good News of Christ Jesus from the baptism of John to the resurrection and forgiveness of sin.

Theme: Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

Before Class:

Supplies needed:

- Bibles for each student
- Large Pieces of Cardstock
- Scissors
- Markers
- Glue Sticks
- Stapler
- Easter Stickers (optional)

Beginning: Today we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead! The opening call and response in church is:

Celebrant/Teacher: Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

People/Students: The Lord is Risen indeed, Alleluia!

Let's practice that a few times, with enthusiasm (!), to get in the right frame of mind. Today is a joyous day! It is the most important festival of the church and it is the basis for all we believe.

Opening Prayer: *Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for your bravery in dying for our sins and for rising to new life again. Amen.*

The Story: Acts 10:34-43

Today you might be wondering why our "Old Testament reading" doesn't come from the Old Testament! During Easter we read a lesson from the New Testament book of Acts instead of an Old Testament reading during the service. We do this to look forward from the Resurrection at Easter. For those who were at the Easter Vigil service, you'll remember that most of the readings were from the Old Testament and looked back at our history as a

people of God. With the dawning of the Resurrection at Easter we look forward toward to our life with God in light of Jesus' coming to new life.

In today's story from Acts we hear as Peter shares the story of Jesus with a group of people who are not Christians or Jews. Remember, Jesus came for all people, so now that news about his death and resurrection is spreading more and more people want to learn about him and about God.

Read the bible passage Acts 10:34-43 together as a class. You can alternate verses, or simply have one person read out loud to the class.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder how Peter felt to share this story about Jesus.
- I wonder what it would be like to hear about Jesus for the first time.
- I wonder how we can share the story of Jesus with people.

Activity: Making Megaphones – Have you ever heard the expression “Shout it From the Rooftops?” That expression is often used when something is so exciting that people want to make sure they can shout it out and share it with as many people as possible. Jesus' resurrection is that kind of news! Jesus came to teach us about God, to draw us closer to God, and to ensure we could be with God in eternal life. That is pretty awesome! That is the kind of news we all want to share. Peter wanted to share it and he did in our story this morning.

To remind us about the exciting opportunity to share the news about God with others, we are going to make megaphones today.

Who knows what a megaphone is? (Give them time to respond, helping them if needed.)

A megaphone is a cone-shaped device used to make someone's voice louder when they speak through it. A megaphone is shaped like the bell of a trumpet and when sound travels through it the bell spreads the sound out so that it can be heard better. Cheer leaders use them at football games sometimes to help the crowd hear the cheers.

Today we are going to make and decorate Good News Megaphones! You can take your megaphone home to remind you to share the Good News of Jesus with people you meet, just like Peter did in today's story.

Give each child a megaphone template and allow them to decorate them. You could encourage the use of Easter symbols.

Getting Closure: Using their megaphone, go over the call and response they learned at the beginning of class:

Celebrant/Teacher: Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

People/Students: The Lord is Risen indeed, Alleluia!

Closing Prayer: *We thank you God for the gift of your son, Jesus. Amen.
Alleluia!*