Lesson Plans That Work: Lesson Plans for Younger Children
Advent 2 (B)
Old Testament: Isaiah 40:1-11

BACKGROUND
Today we continue our Advent journey. Advent is a time when we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. During Advent, we reflect on the hope, peace, and joy that come with the birth of Christ. We prepare ourselves for the coming of the light that will help bring God's kingdom to earth.

A NOTATION FOR THIS WEEK'S READING
Today's scripture comes from the book of Isaiah. Many times we associate Isaiah's prophecies with the coming of the Messiah. In fact, the imagery of Isaiah 40 has inspired the creation of many different artistic and cultural works. However, it's important for us to remember that these words were written to God's people long before they knew the Messiah would ever come. Isaiah's words of comfort and peace were written to God's people while they were facing the destruction and pain that came from the Babylonian exile.

THEME
Prepare the Way

BEFORE CLASS
Read the story in Isaiah 40:1-11 and practice the motions in the script below prior to the start of class. Take special note of what words, phrases, or images stand out to you as you read. You will need a Bible in a child-friendly translation to tell the story. Gather and prep materials for your chosen activities.

BEGINNING
Light the first and second candles on your class Advent wreath. What season of the church year are we in? Why are we lighting candles on the Advent wreath?

OPENING PRAYER
Mighty God, you sent prophets to help prepare the way for your coming. Be present with us as we learn more about what they say and do. Amen.

THE STORY: ISAIAH 40:1-11
Read the story in Isaiah 40:1-11 from your favorite child-friendly Bible translation. After reading each verse, invite students to engage in the action below that corresponds to the appropriate verse:

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Verse	Action
1	Pat a friend on the back.
2	Cup your hands around your mouth.
3	Walk in a straight line.
4	Reach your hands high above your head, and then lower to touch your feet
5	Jump and wave your hands in the air.
6	Cup your hands around your mouth.
7	Bend and touch the ground.
8	Stand up, as tall as possible.
9	Raise your hands above your head, as high as possible.
10	Shield you eyes as if you are looking for something.
11	Pretend you are feeding sheep

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- I wonder why Isaiah would tell the people of God this lesson. What do you think?
- I wonder what Isaiah means by saying, "Prepare the way of the Lord?" What do you think?
- According to Isaiah, who should the people of God put their trust in? Why do you think Isaiah would tell them this?
- Who are some people that help you prepare the way for Jesus?

ACTIVITIES

Option 1
Provide a tub of sand. Invite students to play in the sand as a reminder of the story.

Option 2
Play a game of follow-the-leader. As you play the game, shout, "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

Option 3
Make reminders of Isaiah 40:3. Give each student a sheet of construction paper and some paint. Invite them to paint a picture that illustrates the verse. Then, while the paint is wet, cover it with sand.

GETTING CLOSURE

Gather around your class Advent wreath. What are some ways we can prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus at Christmas?

CLOSING PRAYER

Loving God, you send your Son to live among us at Christmas. Help us prepare our hearts for his coming. Amen.

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