Lesson Plans That Work: Lesson Plans for Younger Children
Advent 3 (B)
Old Testament: Isaiah 61:1-4; 8-11

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
Our scripture comes once again from the book of Isaiah. Today's passage calls for preaching the good news of deliverance; the prophet states in verse one that they have been sent by God to bring good news to the oppressed and to proclaim the year of God's favor. In Israel, this year was called the jubilee year. Every fifty years, debts were cancelled and slaves were set free. The prophet preaches this message of peace and justice so that those who feel captive can be set free. During Advent, we prepare for the coming of Jesus, who brings us deliverance through his crucifixion and resurrection.

THEME
The Good News of Deliverance

BEFORE CLASS
Read the story in Isaiah 61:1-4; 8-11 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, paper, and crayons to tell the story. Gather and prep materials for your chosen activities.

BEGINNING
Light the first, second, and third 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
Almighty God, you are always with us. Be present with us now as we learn more about your good news of deliverance. Amen.

THE STORY: ISAIAH 61:1-4; 8-11
Give each student a sheet of paper and some crayons. Read the story in Isaiah 40:1-11 from your favorite child-friendly Bible translation. As you read the story, invite students

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to color images or symbols that remind them of the story. After students finish their drawings, invite them to share their creations with the class.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- I wonder why Isaiah would tell the people of God this lesson. What do you think?
- I wonder why God's people needed to hear a message of freedom and deliverance. What do you think?
- Who in our world today do you think needs to hear God's message of deliverance and freedom? Why do you think they need to hear this message?

ACTIVITIES

Option 1

Engage students in a time of prayer for those in the world who need to know the love, healing, and peace. Invite students to think of a person or group of people for whom they would like to pray. Invite them to share this prayer out loud. Then, invite them to tie a piece of string or yarn around their wrist as a reminder to continually pray for this person or group of people.

Option 2

Make noisemakers reminders of Isaiah 61:1. Give each student a plain white paper plate. Invite them to color on the plate. Fold the plate in half and fill it with beans or beads. Staple or tape the ends of the plate together. Shake the noisemaker as a reminder of how we can share the good news of Jesus.

Option 3

Isaiah 61:10 invites us to rejoice in God and what God is doing in the world! Sing some songs of praise as a class.

GETTING CLOSURE

Gather around your class Advent wreath. How can we help bring the good news of deliverance to people this Advent?

CLOSING PRAYER

Mighty and merciful God, you deliver those who are in trouble. Help us share the good news of this deliverance with others. Amen.

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