

Lesson Plans That Work: Lesson Plans for Older Children

Proper 7 (B)

New Testament: Mark 4:35-41

BACKGROUND

We are now in the long season known as Ordinary Time, which runs through Christ the King Sunday. As we take this journey, nourished by the scriptures appointed for the season and empowered by our baptisms, we are invited to be on the lookout for all the blessings found in the ordinary – to see God at work here and now. And we are compelled to share our blessings with others.

A NOTATION FOR THIS WEEK'S READING

Amid the storms that toss our boats is the assurance that Jesus sleeps on a pillow in our boat! Are we comfortable enough to look at the question Jesus poses? "Why are you afraid?"

THEME

Jesus in the Storm

BEFORE CLASS

You will need Bibles or copies of the lesson for each child. You will need colored chalk or calculator tape and markers available.

If you are also working with younger children, read the lesson plan for them before planning your lesson.

BEGINNING

Ask the children if anyone has been out on a boat with oars, or if no one has, are they familiar with how the oars work. If they are not, pantomime how one would row a boat. Tell the children we will read a story about Jesus in a rowboat. Ask them to imagine how we can act out this passage after we have read it. Ask them if they will be willing sharing the story with the younger children, so they can be prepared if they want to.

OPENING PRAYER

Thank you, God, for the people who stayed right with Jesus and learned from him so we can learn about Jesus. Amen.

THE STORY: MARK 4:35-41

Ask for volunteers to read – Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Jesus, Disciples. If you would like, everyone can read the disciples' part.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Why do you think Jesus was sleeping? (He was probably very tired from a long day of teaching, and he probably trusted the disciples to get him to the other side of the lake.)
- What scared the disciples? (Fierce winds that were causing water to flood into the boat.)
- Why do you think the disciples said what they did in verse 38? (They could not believe that Jesus would sleep through all this chaos.)
- What did Jesus say to the wind? ("Peace! Be still.")
- What did Jesus say to the disciples? (Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?)
- What did the disciples mumble to each other in response to what Jesus said? (See the end of the reading)

ACTIVITY

Made for TV

Tell the children that this scene needs to be televised. Ask them to look around your space for the props they will need. Will a table, turned upside down, for instance, serve as a boat? What will work as the pillow? Oars? (Remind them that competent actors such as they are can create convincing imaginary props.

When the children have "rehearsed" their play, you can be the appreciative audience. And perhaps the children will perform their play for the younger children.

GETTING CLOSURE

Ask the children if they want to share a time in their lives when they were really scared and then realized that they were not all alone. Feel free to offer such an experience of yours, if you choose. The words to write in chalk – or on calculator tape – could be: "Peace! Be Still!"

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank you, Jesus, for being with us in happy times and in scary times. Amen.

MARK 4:35-41

Narrator 1: On that day, when evening had come, Jesus said to them,

Jesus: “Let us go across to the other side.”

Narrator 2: And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him,

Disciples: “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”

Narrator 1: Jesus woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea,

Jesus: “Peace! Be still!”

Narrator 2: Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them,

Jesus: “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?”

Narrator 1: And they were filled with great awe and said to one another,

Disciples: “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”