Lesson Plans That Work: Lesson Plans for Younger Children
Advent 4 (B)
New Testament: Luke 1:26-38

BACKGROUND
Advent means “coming.” The coming of the baby Jesus, God among us in human flesh. The coming of Christ again "the Son of man coming in clouds with great power and glory. In between those two great comings is God’s constant longing for each of us to come to God, to love God, and to let God love us. "Be alert." Notice. Listen. Watch. For what? For the ways God will choose to get our attention this season. For those moments when we notice that our ways are not in alignment with God’s ways. For those shimmering glimpses of the Kingdom of God.

A NOTATION FOR THIS WEEK’S READING
A message, directly from God, sent by an angel! No wonder the angel had to begin with "Do not be afraid." And for whom is this message? A very young girl, engaged but not yet married. The message: "You are to bear a child, the Son of the Most High." The angel makes a compelling case, the young girl chooses to risk accepting, and God is choosing to come among us as a human being – the word made flesh.

THEME
Do Not Be Afraid

BEFORE CLASS
Bring in white paper, glue, crayons, markers, and glitter.

BEGINNING
Greet each child. Listen as they tell you what decorations they have noticed this past week – lights, etc. And, if there are any signs within our church of the coming of Christmas (some churches do put up Christmas decorations on the Fourth Sunday of Advent), see what they have noticed.

Gathering around the Advent wreath, state that today we get to light all four candles in our wreath because the message is: someone is coming VERY SOON. Who is coming? When?

OPENING PRAYER
Thank you, God, that you decided to send your son, Jesus, as a little baby. Thank you for all the fun things we will do at Christmas to celebrate Jesus’ birth. Amen.

THE Episcopal CHURCH

Published by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017. © 2015 The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. All rights reserved.

THE STORY: LUKE 1:26-38

This Luke's account of the Annunciation, when the angel tells Mary she will bear a child. You can read the story from a children's Bible or tell it like this:

Maybe you remember that last week we had a story about a messenger. Today, we have a story about a different kind of messenger. This messenger is an angel.

Mary was a young girl about to get married. One day she was all by herself in her house when suddenly there was an angel right there in front of her. Now, I have seen lots of pictures of angels, and they always look so soft and pretty. But almost the first thing this angel said was "Don't be afraid!" The angel told Mary that God needed her to be the mother of a very special baby. And the baby should be named Jesus. Mary was very surprised, but she believed the angel and said she would do what God wanted her to do.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

The angel said, "Don't be afraid!"

- Why would anyone be afraid of an angel?
- Would you be afraid if an angel suddenly appeared?

ACTIVITIES

Give each child a piece of white paper and markers and ask them to draw a picture of the angel appearing to Mary. Glitter and some glue to apply it would be great for angel wings. In this way, they can reflect on the story. Another way to do this would be to let them act out the story, taking turns being Mary and the angel. You may choose to do both.

GETTING CLOSURE

Sing the first verse of Silent Night.

CLOSING PRAYER

Loving God, thank you for your servant, Mary, who listened to the angel and said yes. Thank you for the birth of baby Jesus and the love Jesus brought to us all. Amen.

THE Episcopal CHURCH

Published by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017. © 2015 The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. All rights reserved.