Lesson Plans That Work: Lesson Plans for Younger Children
Epiphany 1 (B)
Old Testament: Genesis 1:1-5

BACKGROUND
The Sundays after Epiphany contain stories that show forth the divinity of Jesus and the great power of God. We hear miracles, teachings, and events that make manifest God's saving action in the world. We begin at the beginning: Genesis and the creation of the world. Then we hear stories of the prophets God called to tell the world of God's goodness and mercy and often of the people's need for repentance. We hear stories of healing, of promise, and of hope. We come to know that we are part of a long history of God's love and redemption. We consider how we might share this good news with others.

A NOTATION FOR THIS WEEK'S READING
The story of the first day of creation is powerful and creative. We consider what the world was like before God called forth the light. We explore the difference that light makes in our world. We give thanks to God for the gift of light.

THEME
Light and Dark

BEFORE CLASS
Gather art supplies for your chosen response activity (some require advance purchase, easily available in craft stores or online). Choose and learn music. Gather different bible story books and picture books about the creation story as additional resources for free time or while waiting for parents to pick up.

BEGINNING
Gather the children together and sing "Peace Before Us" - Wonder, Love and Praise or My Heart Sings Out - be sure to include the verse with Light.

OPENING PRAYER
Loving God, you made the whole world around us. We give thanks for light and dark, for day and night. Amen.

THE STORY: GENESIS 1:1-5
Almost any bible storybook will have this story, though you only need the first day of creation. If you use the NRSV, you may need to explain what "void" means. The

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Common English Bible is a good version to use: http://www.commonenglishbible.com.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- I wonder what it was like before God created light?
- I wonder how you would feel if you were there?
- I wonder if there was any sound when the light was created?
- I wonder what other powerful things God has done?

ACTIVITIES

Art Responses

Scratch prints - either purchase scratch print paper (available through most craft stores and sites) or help the children make their own (by filling a page with colorful blocks and shapes, then coloring over the entire page with black crayon). Encourage the children to create pictures by drawing with a pencil or pointed stick and scratching away the black to reveal the rainbow of colors underneath.

Diptychs - help the children to use half a sheet of white or light-colored paper to illustrate activities we do during the day - and what we see and hear. Then use a darker color half-sheet to draw what we do and see and hear during the night time. Tape or staple the two half-sheets together to create a Day/Night diptych.

Game

Play charades by pantomiming activities we do during the day or during the night and letting the children guess the activities.

Music

Create your own group song about light. Work as a group to think up as many kinds of light as you can. Try to arrange these into 2 syllable words/phrases as best you can. (Sunlight, moonlight, flashlight, nightlight, etc.) Then lead the children in singing their word list to the tune of Amazing Grace. You could do another verse with adjectives for light (pretty, helpful, brightness, morning, etc.) Consider playing a recording (or YouTube version) of "Morning Has Broken" 1982 Hymnal or "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" 1982 Hymnal while the children create their art.

GETTING CLOSURE

Take some time for the children to share their artwork. Ask them what they are most thankful for. Sing "This Little Light of Mine"

CLOSING PRAYER

Creator God, we thank you for all the gifts of creation, and especially today for light. Help us to remember how powerful and how loving you are, and to share your love with all we meet. Amen.

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