Lesson Plans That Work: Lesson Plans for Older Children
Proper 16 (B)
Old Testament: 1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-43

BACKGROUND
We continue to remember Israel's leaders and how they strived to serve God. Each had their own challenges and gifts. The need for faithful leadership continues today and we seek wisdom from how these leaders sought the welfare of their people and showed their devotion to God.

A NOTATION FOR THIS WEEK'S READING
Solomon is remembered for building the Temple and for his prayerful dedication of it to God. We are reminded of the importance of sacred space even as we know that God is with us everywhere.

THEME
Solomon Dedicates the Temple

BEFORE CLASS
Gather felt squares and felt scraps and glue for the craft. Gather legos or building blocks. Invite a member of the Altar Guild to visit. Choose and learn the songs to sing or play. Find pictures of Solomon's Temple and make available.

BEGINNING
Sing Siyahamba (We Are Walking in the Light of God) from Wonder, Love and Praise

OPENING PRAYER
Dear God, you are everywhere and you are with us. We love to praise you and worship you. Thank you for Solomon and others who have built and cared for your temples and churches. Amen.

THE STORY: 1 KINGS 8:22-30, 41-43
Tell the story of Solomon dedicating the temple using the adapted scripture below.

Solomon stood before the Lord's altar in front of the entire Israelite assembly and, spreading out his hands toward the sky, he said:

Lord God of Israel, there's no God like you in heaven above or on earth below. You keep the covenant and show loyalty to your servants who walk before you with all their

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heart. This is the covenant you kept with your servant David, my father, which you promised him. Today, you have fulfilled what you promised.

Lord my God, listen to your servant's prayer and request, and hear the cry and prayer that your servant prays to you today. Constantly watch over this temple, the place about which you said, "My name will be there," and listen to the prayer that your servant is praying toward this place. Listen to the request of your servant and your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Listen from your heavenly dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive!

Listen also to the immigrant who isn't from your people Israel but who comes from a distant country because of your reputation— because they will hear of your great reputation, your great power, and your outstretched arm. When the immigrant comes and prays toward this temple, then listen from heaven, where you live, and do everything the immigrant asks. Do this so that all the people of the earth may know your reputation and revere you, as your people Israel do, and recognize that this temple I have built bears your name.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- I wonder what the Temple looked like?
- I wonder what the people thought when Solomon prayed?
- I wonder why he was concerned with immigrants?
- I wonder what kind of prayer you would offer at a new church building?
- I wonder what kind of prayer is in your heart right now?

ACTIVITY

Create Worship Decorations

Just as Solomon dedicated the Temple, we too can create a space in our classroom to worship God. Invite the children to make wall hangings or table coverings out of felt, with felt shapes glued on. Place these in a corner of the room designated for prayer and worship. Consider using this corner for opening and closing prayers and having it available for children to use for personal prayer as desired.

Talk with the children about what other items or decorations they would like to see in their worship space. Is it important to be comfortable? able to play music or sing? Have Bibles or candles? Work together to make this a prayerful space.

Altar Guild Conversation

Invite a member of the Altar Guild to come talk about their ministry of setting up and cleaning up for worship. They could bring some items and explain what they are and how they are kept clean, or they could lead a tour of the sacristy and chapel/nave if available.

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Create a Temple
Provide building blocks, shoeboxes or Legos for children to create their own temples. Provide pictures of the Temple that Solomon built (from the internet or from biblical reference books). Talk about the many different forms temples and churches can take. What is similar between Solomon's Temple and your church? What is different?

GETTING CLOSURE

Invite the children to share their work. Create your own prayer of dedication for your worship space or any temples built. What would the group like to pray? Is there a psalm that could be said or a brief prayer?

CLOSING PRAYER

Sing the Doxology.

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