Lesson Plans That Work: Lesson Plans for Younger 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.

BEGINNING
Sing: This is the Day (the Lord Has Made) or "Halle Halle Halle" from My Heart Sings Out

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
Invite someone to read the passage aloud while the rest of the group follows in their Bibles. Introduce the passage by explaining that this is a very different rendition of the Christmas story, perhaps equally familiar, but it contains no baby, no manger, no stars or angels or shepherds or wise men.

THE Episcopal CHURCH

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- I wonder what the Temple looked like?
- I wonder what the people thought when Solomon prayed?
- 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

Activities

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.

Create a Temple

Provide building blocks or Legos for children to create their own temples. Save time for show and tell

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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