Lesson Plans That Work: Lesson Plans for Older Children
Proper 18 (B)
Old Testament: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

BACKGROUND
Today's reading is in Proverbs and we will be focusing on things that the rich and poor have in common. Proverbs brings wisdom to the people through a woman named Wisdom. Through Proverbs, Wisdom helps us understand that all people belong to the same family because we are all created by God. Through Proverbs we see that we should not give preferential treatment to the rich. We are called to look for God in every situation that we are in. Sometimes we meet people that appear to be very different from us, but in reality, we have several things in common with everyone.

A NOTATION FOR THIS WEEK'S READING
The Old Testament reading today is the first of three in the Book of Proverbs. This section of Proverbs allows us to be mindful of how we treat others. We are asked to not be unjust to the poor or to crush the afflicted. This also means that we should not give preferential treatment to those that are wealthy. God is seen as the great defender of the poor and afflicted and being unkind to these groups of people would bring us in opposition to God.

Many people in our world have forgotten what the poor and afflicted are going through. God wants us to treat the poor and afflicted in a kind way, and to also be helpful to them. Finding things that are in common between the rich and the poor are important to help us bridge the gap that currently exists in our two-tier society.

THEME
Rich and Poor are Alike

BEFORE CLASS
Review the lesson and prepare the craft materials you plan on using. Cut the individual verses of the scripture reading before you begin class.

Snack
If your time together includes snack, you may help the children create edible crowns. You will need a round, flat cookie; a spread (peanut butter, jelly, cream cheese – keeping in mind allergies of the children); and pretzels broken into small pieces. Encourage each child to put a spread on the cookie and then to add broken pieces of pretzels around the edge of the cookie. This will make it look like a crown. Serving small cups of water with these snacks is encouraged.

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Supplies for the craft activities
Crowns:
Pre-cut paper crowns (or stock paper for creating your own)
Decorations to be glued on crown (stones, bling, yarn)
Crayons
Glue
Ribbon and hole punch (if you want to tie the back of the crown)

Small Crown:
Toilet paper rolls (one for every two crowns)
Glitter
Glue
Scissors

Bingo Card Game:
Printed bingo card (found at the end of the lesson)
Stickers

BEGINNING

Invite the children to gather (in a circle, or at the table, whatever your class custom is) and once you are all seated ask them the following questions:

- What does it mean to be rich and what does it mean to be poor?
- What are some things that the rich and poor have in common?

Once everyone that wants to share has answered at least one of the above questions inform your class that you are now going to pray (again according to you class custom: bow your head, hold hands to prepare for prayer)

OPENING PRAYER

Thank you, Lord for this beautiful day with our church family. We love that we all have you in common and that you care for the rich and poor in the same way. In God's name we pray, Amen.

THE STORY: PROVERBS 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

The Book of Proverbs encourages us to ponder how we live our daily lives. Proverbs provides advice and wisdom to all who will listen. Proverbs serves as an anthology of shared wisdom written by King Solomon and words of wisdom by others that were collected in his era. King Solomon helped to develop Israel as its third king. He succeeded King David and built the First Temple. His wisdom became legendary and because of this he was seen as a victim after one of his wives lead him to worship other gods.

The six proverbs that are shared in Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 should be read by a different child as part of the teaching of the lesson. Ask the children to brainstorm the

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meaning of each Proverb. Feel free to guide the students if they are struggling for ideas. The reading of each Proverb can be from a piece of paper or from an electronic tablet, smart phone, or computer.

1-2 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold. The rich and the poor have this in common: the Lord is the maker of them all.

8-9 Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail. Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

22-23 Do not rob the poor because they are poor or crush the afflicted at the gate; for the Lord pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

At the end of each Proverb you can ask the following questions or something similar.

- What do you think is being said in this verse?
- I wonder what this might tell us about how God wants us to be?

ACTIVITIES

Decorate a Crown

Before beginning the craft activity ask the students to name someone that likes to give them advice.

Often in our society we are taught that only rich people can wear a crown. Creating a crown for someone that is special in our life is a nice way to show that we care about and appreciate them. Each student should be encouraged to decorate a crown for the person in their life that gives them advice.

The children will decorate a paper crown that rich and poor alike can wear. You may purchase pre-cut paper crowns at a craft store or you may create your own to cut out. You should have one crown available for each child in the class. The children should decorate it in a manner to their liking. Some may decide to glue fake stones and others may decide to use crayons to decorate it. Remind them to give the crown to someone that gives them advice.

Small Crown

You may decide to present a small crown for the children to decorate in place of the larger one. Cut each toilet paper roll in half. Each half will be a small crown. Make "V" shape cuts around the top of the toilet paper roll. Encourage the students to decorate this small crown with glitter or other small decorations. To see a picture of this type of small crown you may search the following term online: "Toilet paper roll crown".

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Bingo Game
Today is the beginning of a 4-week long Bingo Game. See the end of the lesson for a printed bingo card. Remember to put their names on the card.

The students have 4 Sundays to fully complete the Bingo card. Encourage the children to try to remember to do the activities throughout the week. Use a sticker to indicate a finished activity. Check in with the students next Sunday to see how many more spots have been completed. When all nine spots have a sticker the Bingo Card is complete! Keep the cards until the end of the Bingo Game and have small prizes for them at the end.

GETTING CLOSURE

Gather your students in your classroom custom and ask them the following: Which one of the Proverbs that we read today was your favorite? Why?

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank you, Jesus Christ for allowing us this time to be with our church friends and for helping us to learn about ourselves, you, and God. Help us to be mindful of those around us, whether they are rich or poor. In God's name we pray, Amen.

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Did a chore at home	Helped a friend at school	Said thank you to parent or guardian
Said a prayer at home	Went to Sunday School	Visited grandparent or elderly person
Played on a swing	Hugged a sibling, cousin, or friend	Jumped rope