Lesson Plans That Work: Lesson Plans for Younger Children
Proper 19 (B)
Old Testament: Proverbs 1:20-33

BACKGROUND
We continue with the reading of Proverbs this week. In this section of Proverbs, Lady Wisdom speaks to all and she makes it known that if people do not follow her wisdom they will falter and suffer. After they falter she will no longer be available to them. Lady Wisdom makes it clear that the people that do not falter will "live at ease."

A NOTATION FOR THIS WEEK'S READING
The Old Testament reading today is the second of three in the Book of Proverbs. In this section of Proverbs, Wisdom is a woman, also known as, Lady Wisdom. She is standing at a street corner and telling those passing by that they will suffer because they do not follow wisdom's way. Lady Wisdom is heard everywhere because she does not only impart her wisdom to the rich, but she shares it with everyone that will listen. This passage in Proverbs reminds us that we need to listen to the wise. Listening to the wise people around us helps us to better ourselves, as well as, learn from others. Sometimes we are too proud to listen to others and this lesson helps to remind us that others may be speaking to us for God.

THEME
Listening to the Wise

BEFORE CLASS
Prepare the materials for the snack and the craft you decide upon, cut the Young Child Friendly Verses of the reading individually before you begin class.

You may offer goldfish or M&M's and a small cup of water as your snack.

Craft Supplies
Tissue Paper Flower:
Colorful tissue paper (5 quarter sheets per flower- can all be one color, or multiple colors),
Pipe cleaners (one per flower),
Stapler

Popsicle Stick Sunflower:
1 round shape corrugated piece per flower,
15 large popsicle sticks per flower,
Orange and yellow paint,

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Paintbrushes,
Glue

You may decide to glue the popsicle sticks to the corrugated round piece a day or two before you teach this lesson. The children will then have flowers to paint and not need to wait for the glue to dry during the lesson.

Bingo Card Game: (if you did not create the cards for last Sunday)
Print outs of the Bingo Game (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: What does it mean to be wise? Who is the wisest person that you know? Once everyone that wants to share has answered at least one of the above questions invite the children to pray.

OPENING PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, for this new day. Thank you for our friends, our family, and our church. Please help us to hear your wisdom. Help us to love each other even when we do not listen to your wisdom. In god's name we pray, Amen.

THE STORY: PROVERBS 1:20-33

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. Have your students take turns pretending to be Lady Wisdom. They should be asked to stand and pretend that they are standing on a street corner. Have an adult help the children each read one verse of Young Child Friendly Verses (in place of Proverbs 1:20-33).

Young Child Friendly Verses:

Wisdom wants people to listen to her.

She knows that she has been ignored and she does not have any sympathy for those that have turned away from her.

If you continue to ignore, she will turn away from you when you most seek wisdom.

Lady Wisdom advises that you listen to her now before you have any troubles because then you can live without fear of the future.

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You may decide to print the verses and cut them out to hand out to each child or you may pass around the reading to be read off of an electronic device. If you do not have reading children, you can have a helpful adult read them. Once the passages have all been read begin a conversation around the following questions:

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How did you feel while you were listening and pretending to be Lady Wisdom?
- I wonder which of the verses did you like best?

ACTIVITIES

Tissue Paper Flower

Encourage each child to make a tissue paper flower to give to the wisest person that they know. You may decide to begin the flowers before class and have the class begin the activity after step 3. To see a picture, search the following term online: "Mexican tissue paper flowers".

Instructions:
1. Cut 5 sheets of tissue paper together (the size depends on how large you want the flower, you may use the same color, or different colors). If you plan to use the pipe cleaner, you may want a smaller flower in order for the flower to be tied on a wrist similar to a corsage.
2. Beginning at the edge of the tissue paper fold in one-inch increments, reversing the order after each fold (fanlike).
3. Once your tissue paper is folded to the opposite edge, bring it together, and staple the middle.
4. Tie a pipe cleaner in the middle (over the staple). If you want a rounded edge on your flower, cut the edge of the tissue paper now.
5. Pull up each individual tissue paper to the middle of the flower. After each individual tissue paper has been pulled up your flower is complete.

Popsicle Stick Sunflower

Invite the children to put together and paint a sunflower. You may decide to have the students glue the popsicle sticks to the round corrugated piece (this is the center of the flower) at the beginning of your time together. You will glue one stick that will serve as the stem. While the glue is drying you may have your lesson and return to the craft after it dries. The students may use the paint to give the sunflower color. To see a picture of this craft please search the following term online: "Popsicle Stick Sunflower Art".

Bingo Game

Continue playing the Bingo Game that we started last week. 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.

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GETTING CLOSURE

Gather the children and ask them the following:

- Do you listen to others' advice (help, direction)?
- When do you think you will be the one giving lots of advice (help, direction)?

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, for the life you give us and for all those that help to make us wise in our daily lives. Help us to share your advice with others this week. In God's name we pray, Amen.

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