Lesson Plans That Work: Lesson Plans for Younger Children
Proper 20 (B)
Old Testament: Proverbs 31:10-31

BACKGROUND
This lesson presents the importance of Lady Wisdom, not only as a woman, but also as a wife. Lady Wisdom is highly regarded by her family and all those she welcomes into her home. An open heart, like Lady Wisdom's, allows families to be generous with each other and to all that come to their home.

A NOTATION FOR THIS WEEK'S READING
The Old Testament reading today is the third of three in the Book of Proverbs. Today we read about another portrait of Lady Wisdom. Lady Wisdom is both woman and wife. In this scripture we are asked to marry Wisdom. With Wisdom as our spouse, we will have a blessed and abundant life. Wisdom is generous to all, including the poor and the needy. She receives honor and praise from her husband and children. One way to think about this reading is that everyone plays a different role in the family. The family as a whole depends on its member, because everyone is important.

THEME
Everyone in the Family is Important

BEFORE CLASS
Gather the supplies you will need for the chosen craft. Cut the Young Child Friendly Verses of the reading individually before you begin class:

Family Portrait: Cutout simple frames for the children to insert their family portrait, stock paper, crayons, small craft eyes, glitter, glue

Rock Family Portrait: Painted Rock People: Flat face rocks- different sizes (one per member of each child's family), paints, paint brushes, different colors of permanent markers (thick and thin)

Bingo Card Game: bingo cards from three weeks ago, stickers

BEGINNING
Invite your class to gather and begin a conversation with the children with the following questions: How does your family make you feel special? How are you kind to your family?

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Once everyone that wants to share has answered at least one of the above questions invite the children to prayer.

OPENING PRAYER

Thank you, Lord for each of our unique families. Thank you for the wisdom that you give us. Guide us in your wisdom as we seek to do better and to help others. In God's name we pray, Amen.

THE STORY: PROVERBS 31:10-31

The Book of Proverbs provides us with wisdom for our daily lives. In this week's Old Testament lesson, Proverbs 31:10-31, Lady Wisdom serves as God's messenger. She is generous to all, especially her family. Her family loves and appreciates her. Lady Wisdom is seen as a woman, a wife, and a mother.

The Young Child Friendly Verses (in place of Proverbs 31:10-31) can be read by a different child (or a helpful adult) as part of the teaching of the lesson. The children can help to brainstorm the meaning of each verse. 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.

Young Child Friendly Verses:

Lady Wisdom is loved by her husband and children.

Lady Wisdom's husband and children are happy and proud.

Lady Wisdom is strong and she has a good sense of humor.

Lady Wisdom is beautiful and a hard worker.

Lady Wisdom welcomes the poor in her home and gladly helps all who need her.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

After the verses have been read aloud ask:

- What are some things that you admire about your mother (or mother figure.)
- I wonder what you admire about your mother or parent figure in your life.

ACTIVITIES

Note: These activities have to do with children and their families. Keep in mind the family situation of the children in your class. If they have complicated or troubled family relationships, you may want to focus on our "extended families" or those "families we have by choice (friends)" so that no one feels left out or less than the others.

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Family Portrait
Encourage your students to draw a portrait of their family. They may draw the people that live in their home as well as any extended members of their family that they would like to include. You may offer small craft eyes for them to glue onto their portrait. You may also offer glitter to help with "bling" on the paper. Help each student put their family portrait into a cut out frame.

Rock Family Portrait
Hand out one rock at a time to each child. Encourage each child to draw a face and paint clothes on each rock person that represents a family member. If the rocks are too small the child may use two rocks per person: one for the head and one for the body. Give them another rock once they are ready to begin decorating a new one. To see a picture of this type of small crown you may search the following term online: "Painted Rock People".

Bingo Game
Continue playing the Bingo Game that we started two weeks ago. The students have until next Sunday 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.

GETTING CLOSURE

Gather your students in your classroom custom and ask them the following:

- I wonder what some of your favorite places that you visit with your family or friends?
- I wonder what some of your favorite meals that you make with your family or friends?

CLOSING PRAYER

Prayer of sending forth.
Thank you, Lord for the wisdom that you give to our families and our church. Help us to be generous to everyone we see and to share your love with others. In God's name we pray, Amen.

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