

Early Summer - Cycle C - Revised Common Lectionary
Pentecost through Proper 10
May 27, 2007 - July 15, 2007

We remain Easter people, now with the wind of the Holy Spirit in our sails. Our task for the months ahead, in this season of Ordinary Time, which extends to the end of November, is to look at what Jesus so tenaciously taught his disciples and see what is in these teachings for us, as we carry out the work we have been given to do. Jesus promised his disciples a helper, an Advocate, who would stand with them making the work possible. This same helper, the Holy Spirit, hovers over us, still eager to quench the fire of fear and replace it with the powerful energy of love.

Proper 5
June 10, 2007
Luke 7: 11-17

A notation for this week's Gospel

Luke focuses on the powerful gentleness of Jesus. A young man is about to be buried. Jesus knows the devastation this man's death will bring to the man's widowed mother. A stunned crowd watches as Jesus gives the, now, obviously alive son back to his mother.

Lesson Plans for Older Children

Theme: Unexpected healing.

Before Class. Be thinking of examples in your community of healings that have happened – perhaps a story that was in the news, or an example from your own church, or a story from your life you are comfortable sharing. You will need Bibles for the children.

Beginning. Tell the children that we have lots of stories in the Bible of Jesus healing people, but today's is different.

Opening Prayer. Thank you, God, that you want us to be well. Amen.

The Story. **Luke 7: 11 – 17.** You will need volunteers to read the parts of the narrator: verses 11-13a, 14a, 15-16a, 17; Jesus: verses 13b, 14b; the crowd: 16b.

Some Questions.

The death of a person we love is always sad but what made the death of this young man such a particular hardship for his mother? (Her husband had died and her son was her only source of housing and food.) Does anyone know why she could not just go out and get a job? (Women were considered property of men. No one would have given her a "job.")

In verse 13 we read that "Jesus had compassion for her." How would we define "compassion?" (The definition would include being able to really understand how the person feels and what that person needs.)

What did Jesus do? (Verse 14b)

What was the reaction of the crowd? (Verse 16)

Activity. Ask the children to share times they know of healings: a family member who was sick or injured and got well; a story of a rescue that was in the news. Allow time for all those who have a story to be able to tell it.

Option. Healing Happens. Provide the art supplies you have brought and invite the children to either: 1) work together creating a banner or 2) work individually where each child makes their own "bumper sticker" type slogan on the theme of "Healing Happens." The children can choose how to illustrate the slogan.

Getting Closure. Gather the children in a circle. Ask if anyone had an idea while they were working on the slogan that they want to share. Then tell the children to sit quietly for a moment to be grateful for the healings we have noticed.

Closing Prayer. Thank you, God, for the healings in our lives. Amen.