

## Fourth Sunday after Epiphany – year B

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### Preparation

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Read the Gospel [Mark 1:21-28](#) over. Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearb/epiphb4.htm>

[http://www.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452\\_115890\\_ENG\\_HTM.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452_115890_ENG_HTM.htm)

[http://www.sermons4kids.com/who\\_is\\_in\\_control.htm](http://www.sermons4kids.com/who_is_in_control.htm)

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/epi4kles.htm>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/b/4-b/A-4-b.html>

<http://www.mssscrafts.com/newtestament/jesusheals.htm>

### Gathering

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#### Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- White candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Green cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Small bowl of water

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the candle and the Bible on the cloth. Light the candle.

Pray the following prayer together:

**Light of the world, shine on us,**                   *(point to the candle)*  
**Water of the world, refresh us,**           *(point to the water)*  
**Word of the world, teach us,**           *(point to the Bible)*  
**Loving God, be with us in all that we do. Amen.**

Blow out the candle. Ask the children to name some games that they play with their friends. Once you find one that they all know or most of them know get them to tell you the rules for the game. Ask the children when they have named the rules and explained how the game is played how they all learned the rules for the game. Who did they learn the rules from? Explain that in today's story some of the people react to Jesus in an interesting way. They are very surprised and don't know who told him he could act the way he does.

## Story Time

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### Materials needed

- A comfortable place to tell the story –around a table or on the floor with cushions

### Instructions

Teach the children the following chant and explain that when you point to them they are to chant as you direct them.

**Who is this?**

**It's Jesus! A new teacher who comes from God!**

Jesus and his friends, Andrew, Simon Peter, James and John, went to the town of Capernaum on the sea of Galilee. They spent time getting to know the people and share with them the good news from God.

*Point to the children:*

**Who is this?**

**It's Jesus! A new teacher who comes from God!**

The Sabbath day arrived. The day that God had told the people a long time ago is the day to rest and gather together to learn more about God's ways. Jesus and his friends immediately went to the place of worship. They knew that they wanted to be with others who worshipped God

*Point to the children and ask them to whisper:*

**Who is this?**

**It's Jesus! A new teacher who comes from God!**

Jesus spent the day teaching all those who had gathered to worship. The people who were listening were surprised by the way Jesus taught. He taught them with great authority. Jesus taught them like he knew what God wanted him to say.

*Point to the children and have them say it in a normal tone of voice:*

**Who is this?**

**It's Jesus! A new teacher who comes from God!**

All at once a commotion started. Jesus was interrupted by a man who started yelling. He was saying the most extraordinary things. He said, "What are you doing here Jesus? What business do you have with us? We know who you are? You are the Holy One of God!"

*Point to the children and have them say it in a louder voice:*

**Who is this?**

**It's Jesus! A new teacher who comes from God!**

Jesus said to the voices coming out of the man: "You be quiet! Get out of him right away!"

The evil spirit that was in the man threw the man right on the floor. It put up quite a fight. Then it finally left the man.

*Point to the children and have them say it in a normal tone of voice:*

**Who is this?**

**It's Jesus! A new teacher who comes from God!**

The people who were worshipping were astonished. They kept looking at each other. They kept asking each other the same question: "Who is this? Even the evil spirits listen to him? Where did he come from?"

*Point to the children and have them say it in a normal tone of voice:*

**Who is this?**

**It's Jesus! A new teacher who comes from God!**

The news about Jesus spread all over the Galilee. People were sharing with each other what they had heard. They all heard about the new teacher who comes from God and speaks with great authority.

## Response

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### Project Idea 1: Church Leaders Cards

*The leadership of the church both lay and clergy often need extra encouragement. This response will give the children a way to do this.*

#### Materials needed

- card stock
- markers
- church image at end of lesson
- scissors
- glue
- glitter
- stickers

#### Instructions

Make enough copies of the church image in half the size that is there so that each child has one. Give each child a piece of card stock and the church image. Let them cut out the church image (younger children will need help with this part). With the children decide what they would like to print on the card – it can be on the inside or the outside. Let them choose where they would like to put the church and let them decorate with the glitter, stickers and markers. Find a way to make sure that the cards get to the church leadership.

### Project Idea 2: Leadership Prayer

*All of us need to be prayed for regularly and since our clergy and lay leaders often put themselves out for the rest of the church community writing a prayer of support will be good for all.*

#### Materials needed

- newsprint
- markers
- regular writing paper
- pens

#### Instructions

Ask the children to name all the good things that they can think about the leaders in their church community. After they have listed a number of items, tell the children that to write a prayer they need to remember a number of things (*it might be helpful to list these up on newsprint as well*) – Adoration – prayer is addressed to God – Confession – for what we haven't done well – Thanksgiving – for what we want to give thanks – Supplication or Intercession – where we ask God for something in particular. (*A good way to remember this is ACTS and this is a good link that will give you more information -<http://prayerguide.org.uk/actsmodel.htm>*)

Encourage the children to write up a prayer for the leaders of your church that follows the pattern you have set out for them. Help the children as needed. Suggest to the children that they use their prayer over the next week to pray for the church leaders.

### **Project Idea 3: Prayer Wall**

*This will be an ongoing activity for the season after Epiphany. Each week the children will add new prayers to the walls using a symbol from the story that will be identified for you. This activity will be a good way to reinforce the learning from the stories that they will participate in.*

#### **Materials needed**

- church image at end of lesson
- construction paper
- scissors
- glue
- markers
- glitter

#### **Instructions**

Copy the church image at the end of the lesson. Make enough copies so that each child will have one. Give each child a copy of the church image and have them cut it out and then trace onto their construction paper (you may need to do this for younger children). Help the ones who need to cut out their church shapes. Tell the children that this week they are going to pray for the people who help to lead their church. Help them to name the clergy, lay readers and others who provide leadership for the church. It might be a good idea to get those names ahead of time. Have the children choose one or more names to put up on their church. If you have time let decorate their church with the glitter. Glue the church shapes up onto the prayer wall.

### **Closing**

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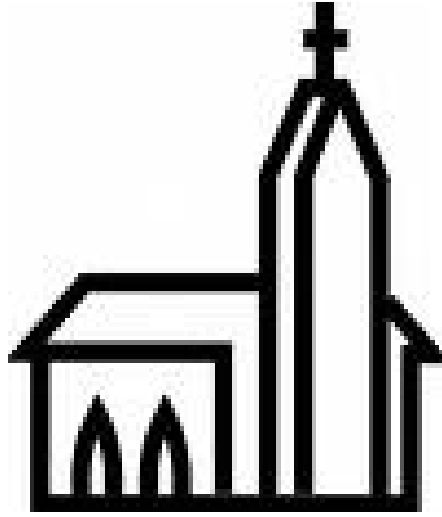
Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candles. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

**As we leave this place, God be with us,  
As we leave this place, Jesus be with us,  
As we leave this place, Spirit be with us.  
Amen.**

## Church Image (project idea 1)

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*Use this small-sized church for project idea 1*



## Church Image (project idea 3)

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*Use this large-sized church for project idea 3*

