

Sunday between November 13 and 19 – year B

Preparation

Read over the Gospel: [Mark 13:1-8](#). 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/properb28.htm>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/pen24ales.htm>

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/be-careful.html>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Green cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Small votive candles

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. Then have each child place a small votive candle by the large candle. As you light their candles say, *We are so happy that (name of child) is with us today*. Pray the following prayer together:

For a time to learn and grow, thank you God.

For friends to share and love, thank you Jesus.

For the time to pray and listen, thank you Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blow out the candles. Lay out the pictures of the large animals or objects that you have found. Ask the children if they have seen any of them. If they have been impressed. Then ask the children what the largest thing is that they have ever seen (*wait for their responses*). Explain that in the time of Jesus there was the temple, where people went together to worship God. The blocks of stone that were used to build the temple were huge – they were even bigger than an elephant. Tell the children that in today's story they will hear Jesus' friends asking some questions about the temple and its stones.

Story Time

Materials needed

- Question mark poster made with previous lesson
- Temple stone image at end of lesson
- Scissors, glue stick

Instructions

Copy the Temple stone image from the end of the lesson and cut it out. Set it with the glue stick near the poster. Place the question mark poster where the children can see it through the lesson.

Jesus and his friends were leaving the temple. Jesus had been teaching there all day and it was time to go. As they were leaving the temple, one of them looked up the high, high walls of the temple. It was such a big, big building. They could look very impressive.

One of Jesus' friends said, "Look at that Jesus! Those stones are so huge! Isn't the temple a magnificent building?"

Jesus looked up at the temple and asked, "Do you see all these buildings? Not one stone will be left here. They will all be torn down."

They continued on their way and made their way out of the city. They came up to the Mount of Olives. From there they could still see the temple in the city. Four of Jesus' closest friends, Peter, James, Andrew and John came to him. They asked Jesus, "When will the temple be torn down? What sign will we see that this is coming to be?"

Jesus knew that they were feeling anxious and concerned. It was a big thing for him to say that the temple was going to come down. The temple where everyone went to worship God. The temple they had all been coming to do their whole lives.

Jesus said to his friends, "When you hear about wars among the people around the world, do not get worried. When you hear people claiming to be me, don't believe them. When you hear about things going wrong all around the world, do not be anxious. All of these things need to happen. Let me tell you why. They need to happen to help people see God's signs in the world. They are the signs that God is doing something in the world. Look for those signs and you will know that God is near."

Peter, James, Andrew and John remembered these words of Jesus. They helped them later when things got difficult for all of them.

Question Mark Poster

Direct the children's attention to the question mark in the middle of the poster. Ask someone to remember why they put up a cross, the welcome sign, the jug & cup, the blessing, the kingdom, servant, mercy, Lazarus and widow's mite images from the previous weeks. With the children think about all the questions that were asked in today's story –Do you see all these buildings? What are the signs? Ask them what the answers to the questions were -the temple and the coming of grief in the world and that God is near. Show them the Temple stone image. Have one of the children glue it into the tenth space. Explain that for one more week they will be adding something to the poster to help them remember each week's story.

Response

Project Idea 1: Temple Block Poster

The ideas behind today's story can be difficult ones to hear at any age. Doing a poster will help them to share the ideas with many others in the church.

Materials needed

- poster board
- magazines
- scissors
- glue sticks
- markers
- temple stone image from end of lesson

Instructions

Make enough copies of the temple stone image so that each child has one – you may want to enlarge it from the original image size. In the middle of the poster board print the following with a marker **“What are the signs of God in the world?”** Give each child a temple stone image and invite them to cut it out and then think about what are the signs of God in the world today. Have a brief conversation about the signs of God. If they need some ideas invite them to look through the magazines and cut out pictures. When they have some message about God in the world that they want to share, invite them to decorate their temple block with the pictures they have found and/or write their message on the block. Then have the children attach their blocks to the poster with the glue and put other pictures up that show these signs of God in the world. With the children choose a place where they can show off their poster to others in the church.

Project Idea 2: Brown Bag Temple Block

This response idea is a good one for younger children and will help them to remember the key message of today's story.

Materials needed

- brown paper bags: whatever size you can get
- newspapers
- strong tape
- markers
- temple stone image from end of lesson
- scissors, glue

Instructions

Give each child a brown paper bag and show them how to fill the bag by crumpling up the newspaper into loose balls. When their bags are full help them to close the end with the strong tape. Have the children print **“What are the signs of God in the world?”** on the outside of the bag. You may need to do this for the younger ones. Have them glue the temple stone image onto the outside of the bag and then decorate it with the markers. Invite the children to share with their families the story from today when they show them their temple block.

Project Idea 3: Sign Boards

Signs are things that show us the way. With this response will have the children making a sign to show the way to Jesus.

Materials needed

- card stock
- hole punch
- yarn
- scissors
- markers
- regulatory signs website, such as:
<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/dandv/driver/handbook/section3.1.1.shtml>
- construction paper

Instructions

Cut the yarn into 30-cm (12-in) lengths. Go to the website linked in the materials section and take a look at the various road signs. You may want to choose two or three that you can draw and have ready for the children to have a look at before they make their sign boards. Give each child a piece of card stock and have them punch two holes into the top of the board so that they can tie the yarn on to it for a hanger. Invite the children to think about what road signs do for us – show them the ones that you have chosen and ask them what they mean. Now invite them to use the construction paper to make their own road sign and glue it onto the board. When they are finished that have them use the markers to write a message on the sign that points people to God. Have them think about where they are going to put their own sign boards when they get them home so that others can see the way to God.

Closing

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:

**Loving God surround us with your care,
Friend Jesus be with us each day,
Holy Spirit move us to show your love,
Amen.**

Temple Stone Image

