

Sixth Sunday of Easter – year C

Preparation

Read [Psalm 67](#) and [John 14: 23-29](#) 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/yearc/easterc6.htm>

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-cwss.htm#e6>: lectionary word puzzles

http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452_115784_ENG_HTML.htm:

scroll down to find this week's lesson

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/east6les.htm>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/c/6Easter-c/K-6Easter-c.html>

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

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- White or yellow cloth
- Newsprint and markers

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you.

With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the Bible on the cloth.

Light the candle. Pray the following prayer together:

Praise God for new life!

Praise Jesus for new beginnings!

Praise Holy Spirit for new paths! Amen.

Blow out the candle. Ask the children if they have ever felt worried or upset about something.

Wait for their responses. Now ask them if they have ever been worried about something

that hasn't even happened yet. *Wait for their responses.*

Explain that Jesus' friends were worried about what would happen when Jesus was no longer with them. In today's story the children will hear how Jesus reassures his friends and makes a special promise to them.

Story Time

During this season a paraphrase of a verse of the psalm of the day will be used as a refrain for the story.

Instructions

- Teach the children the following phrase for use during the story:

May God bless us always!

Jesus was with his friends. They were having a long, long talk about what it was going to be like when Jesus returned to be with God. Some of his friends were sad. Some of his friends were worried. None of Jesus' friends wanted him to go away. They didn't know how they would keep going without him around.

May God bless us always!

Jesus said to his friends, "Remember that those who love me, love God. Remember that those who follow me and keep my way, follow God and keep God's way. The people that I love, God loves. The people that I care for, God will care for always. We will come and make our home with those who love us."

May God bless us always!

As Jesus continued to speak to his friends, they began to feel more at ease and less worried about what was coming. Jesus said, "I am telling you these things while I am still with you so that you will know what is coming. Remember that the Holy Spirit, who God will send when I am gone, will teach you everything you need to know and remind you of everything that I have taught you."

May God bless us always!

Jesus reassured his friends by saying, "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. Do not worry. Do not let your hearts be upset. Do not be afraid. Remember my peace I give you. Peace I leave with you."

May God bless us always!

Jesus said, "My friends remember I told you I am going away and that I will be coming back to you. Be glad for me. I am going to God who loves us all! I have told you all of these things before they happen so that when they do you will remember and believe. My friends my peace I give you. Peace I leave with you."

May God bless us always!

Response

Project Idea 1: Peace Fans

This response will be a way for the children to make a connection between the gift of the Holy Spirit and the Jesus' gift of peace for all of us.

Materials needed

- light coloured construction paper
- markers
- strong tape

Instructions

Give each child a piece of construction paper. Have them print the word “**Peace**” on the construction paper in as many different ways that they can think of and on both sides of the paper. Suggest that they use different colours and print it in different ways and in different sizes. They may even want the words to cross over in some places. When they are happy with what they have done then show them how to fold the paper into a fan shape. After folding have them pinch together one end and fold it up slightly and then wrap it with a piece of strong tape to make a small handle. Then have them fan out the paper so that they can see the words on the fan. Remind the children that we often talk about the Holy Spirit as wind and that one of the gifts of the Spirit is Jesus' gift of peace. Invite the children to use their fans to remind them of Jesus' gift for all of us.

Project Idea 2: Peace Bookmarks

The children can share Jesus' peace with others by making these bookmarks and sharing them with a friend or family member.

Materials needed

- card stock
- markers
- contact paper
- scissors
- tissue paper
- glue stick
- hole punch
- yarn

Instructions

Cut the card stock up into 5 cm (2 in) widths. Make one for each child. Have the children tear up small pieces of tissue paper (different colours) and glue them down firmly to one side of the bookmark. Encourage the children to overlap the different colours of tissue paper on the bookmark. Explain that it will give them a stained glass look. When they have covered the whole side have them carefully print “**Peace**” with a marker on top of the tissue paper. Help the children to cover the bookmark with the contact paper, trim the edges with the scissors. Punch a hole in the top end of the bookmark and then tie a piece of yarn through the hole. Suggest to the children that they give their bookmark to someone that they know who needs to hear about Jesus' peace.

Project Idea 3: Peace String Rubbing

For all of us peace is an abstract concept and can be more about a feeling at some times. As a way to get at those feelings have the children make this rubbing to share with their families.

Materials needed

- string or yarn
- white paper
- scotch tape
- construction paper
- glue
- brightly coloured crayons
- markers

Instructions

Take the wrappings off the crayons. Cut string or yarn into 30 cm (12 in) lengths. Have the children lay at least 3 pieces of string or yarn on the table in interesting designs – they can have the pieces of string or yarn cross over each other – the design should be able to fit under a piece of white paper. Have them place a piece of white paper over the string/yarn design and then tape the corners down onto the table. Show them how to rub the string/yarn design with the sides of the crayons. They may want to use other colours or to turn the paper and tape it down in a different way over the string/yarn and then rub a different crayon over it. When they are happy with their rubbing have them glue their picture onto a piece of construction paper (which will act as a frame) and then print across the top “**Jesus gives us his peace**”. Encourage the children to share their peace pictures with their families and to share today’s story with them when they do.

Closing

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

Alleluia! Thank you God for our time together.

Alleluia! Thank you Jesus for being with us.

Alleluia! Thank you Holy Spirit for leading us. Amen.