

Third Sunday after Epiphany – year C

Preparation

Read [Luke 4: 14-21](#) 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/epiphc3.htm>

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-cwjj.htm#ep03>: word puzzles

http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452_115775_ENG_HTML.htm :

scroll down to find the lesson for the day

http://www.sermons4kids.com/just_what_the_doctor_ordered.htm

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/epi3les.htm>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/c/3-c/F-3-c.html>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Green cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Newspapers and magazines: cut out good and bad news stories and photos from each

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:

Gracious God, bless our time together.

Loving Jesus, bless our learning together.

Faithful Spirit, bless our work together. Amen.

Blow out the candles. Lay out the photos and stories from the newspapers and magazines.

Invite the children to look carefully at them. Ask them which show bad news. Put them in one pile. Now ask the children to point out which show good news. Ask the children how they knew something was bad news and how something was good news. Tell the children that in today's story Jesus is going to share some good news. Encourage them to listen carefully to hear what the good news is.

Story Time

Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit after his baptism. He knew that it was time to share with others the message of God's love and care. He knew that it was time to share that the promises of God were going to be kept.

He started going through the towns of Galilee. News about Jesus began to spread all over the place. Jesus was teaching in the synagogues, the places of worship, and many thought very well of him.

Jesus came up to Nazareth, the town that he grew up in. On the sabbath day, Jesus went with his family to the synagogue to worship God and to study the word of God.

While there he stood up to read from the word of God. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to Jesus. (Tell the children that during Jesus' day there were no books like we have now, but scrolls of writings.) Jesus unrolled the scroll. Those in the synagogue could tell that Jesus was looking for something in particular. Finally Jesus found the place that he was looking for and he read:

The Spirit of God is upon me,
because God has blessed and chosen me
to bring good news to the poor.
God has sent me to announce freedom for those in prison,
and that the blind will be given their sight,
those that are undergoing hardship will be freed,
to announce the year of God's blessing for all.

Jesus then rolled up the scroll. He handed it back to someone to put away. Jesus then sat down. Everyone in the synagogue were looking at him. They were wondering what Jesus was going to say.

Jesus said to all there, "Today this word of God has become true in your hearing."

Ask the children if they can identify what the good news is that Jesus shared with the people.

Response

Project Idea 1: Promise Scroll

This will be a good way to reinforce the key words from the reading that Jesus chose to share with his home community and will help the children remember the story more clearly.

Materials needed

- newsprint
- markers
- tan or brown coloured pieces of construction paper
- white paper
- glue sticks
- ribbon or yarn
- crayons

Instructions

Print up the Isaiah reading from the story on the newsprint. Read it over with the children. Ask them to say which words speak to them the most. Underline the words that they tell you. Give each child a piece of white paper. Have them write the words that mean the most to them on the paper as creatively and then invite them to colour them with the crayons. When they are done decorating their words, have the children glue the white paper to a piece of tan or brown construction paper. Help them to roll them up like a scroll, and tie the scroll up with a piece of ribbon or yarn. Invite the children to share their scrolls with their families and share the story of Jesus and the scroll with them.

Project Idea 2: Good News Buttons

Buttons are a fun way of sharing what we believe with others. Younger children especially will appreciate having one that they can show the good news to others.

Materials needed

- card stock
- large safety pins
- ribbon
- glitter
- fine line markers
- glue
- scissors
- stickers

Instructions

Cut out circles that are 6 cm (2.5 in) in diameter. Make one for each child. Have the children print or help the younger ones print the following into the centre of the button: “**Jesus brings good news**”. Explain to the children that they are going to make buttons to wear so that they can share with others the good news of Jesus. Invite them to decorate their buttons with the materials that are available. As they are working discuss with them the good news that Jesus comes to share with all of us. When they are done working pin their buttons onto their clothing with the safety pin.

Project Idea 3: Good News Booklet

This response will be good for older children and help them to make the connection between Jesus' good news and the good news that Christians are asked to share with the world today.

Materials needed

- newsprint
- marker
- construction paper
- white paper
- pencils
- pencil crayons
- stapler & staples
- scissors
- stickers

Instructions

Cut the white paper in half. Make four sheets for each child. Cut the construction paper in half so that it makes a front and back cover for the booklet. Place the white paper in between the construction paper covers and staple down the left side, so that a booklet has been formed. Print the Isaiah reading from the story up on the newsprint. Give each child a prepared booklet. Read over the Isaiah reading with the children. Ask them to identify the good news that Jesus is bringing to the world. You may want to underline some of the words that they identify. Invite them to print on the front cover “**Jesus brings Good News**”. Ask them to choose four pieces of good news – one per page – put the word for each on each page. Then have them illustrate how that good news is lived out today. They may want to use the pencils first and then colour them in with the pencil crayons. When they are done ask if anyone is willing to share one of their illustrations. Invite them to share their booklets with their families and friends.

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:

**For the coming of Jesus into the world, thank you God.
For the gift of the Holy Spirit, thank you God.
For the faith to serve, thank you God. Amen.**