

Sunday between June 5 and 11 – year C

Preparation

Read [Luke 7: 11-17](#). 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/properc5.htm>

http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452_115790_ENG_HTM.htm:

scroll down to find this week's lesson

<http://children.cccm.com/NTSupportCurriculumPDF/230TheSonOfTheWidow.pdf>

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

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/lect10les.html>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Green 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:

Loving God, creator of us all, be with us today.

Loving Jesus, friend of us all, show us the way.

Loving Spirit, helper of us all, stir us with love everyday. Amen.

Blow out the candle. Ask the children how they are feeling today. *Wait for their responses.*

Ask the children to name all the feelings that they can.

Some possible answers, sadness, anger, love, joy, happiness.

Explain that our emotions are gifts from God as they guide us how to react to a situation.

However God does not want us to use our emotions to hurt other people. Tell the children that in today's story they will hear about many different emotions that the people had.

Story Time

Materials needed

- construction paper
- scissors
- markers

Instructions

- Cut 4 circles out of the construction paper.
Draw simple emotion faces (using eyes and mouths) showing the following emotions: sadness, surprise, fear and joy. Have them nearby for use during the story.

Jesus and his friends had been all around Galilee. They had been to almost all the communities around the Sea of Galilee. Jesus was teaching the people they met about God and how God's kingdom was near. Jesus had been healing people and giving them a new life.

All those who were with Jesus felt good about this work.

Lay down the joy face for the children to see.

After leaving the town of Capernaum they decided to go to Nain, which was near Nazareth.

All of Jesus' friends and a large crowd came with Jesus to the town. As they got closer to the town gates they could see a procession coming out of the gates. It became clear that it was a funeral for a young man who had died.

This young man was the only son of a woman whose husband had already died. This meant that she had no one left to take care of her. The widow was very, very sad.

Lay down the sad face for the children to see.

Jesus could see that the woman was sad. Jesus could see that she was feeling uncertain about her future. Jesus said to her, "Don't be sad. You do not need to cry."

Jesus decided to do something extraordinary. He walked over to the procession and came right up to the stretcher that they had the dead young man on. The people carrying the stretcher stopped. Jesus touched the young man and said to him, "Young man, I tell you get up!"

Lay down the surprise face for the children to see. Immediately the young man sat up and started speaking to his mother. Jesus gave the young man back to his mother.

People began to be full of fear. *Lay down the fear face for the children to see.*

They were scared of what Jesus had done. They really didn't know what to think about what had just happened.

Lay down the joy face again for the children to see.

Soon some of the people gathered around the woman and her son began to praise God.

They said, "A great prophet has come to the people of God."

Others started to say, "God has looked favourably on this people!"

All around the Galilee district people began to speak about Jesus and the works he was doing in God's name.

Response

Project Idea 1: Emotion Puppets

The emotions in today's story show how we all react to different situations. These puppets will be a way for the children to share that with their families.

Materials needed

- craft sticks
- glue
- construction paper
- scissors
- markers
- yarn
- pipe cleaners
- fabric bits and tissue paper
- strong tape

Instructions

Cut out three circles 5 cm (2 in) in diameter for each child from the construction paper. Give each child three circles and three craft sticks. Ask them to think about the different people who were in the story today and the emotions that they showed. Have the children make three different faces showing three different emotions that were expressed in today's story using the craft materials that are on hand. When they have their emotion faces done help them to attach them to the craft sticks using the strong tape. Encourage the children to use their puppets to share today's story with their families.

Project Idea 2: Praise Acrostic Poems

This response will be an interesting one for readers who are up for a bit of a challenge and are willing to work together.

Materials needed

- newsprint
- markers
- white paper
- fine line markers
- construction paper
- glue
- glitter

Instructions

Print the words “**Praise God**” up on the newsprint vertically. Explain to the children that an acrostic poem is where you use the letters from the words to create sentences that make up a poem that says something about the words printed. Here is an example:

People sing about God's work in the world.
Right now there is so much to thank God for.
Alleluia, alleluia!
In the morning, in the night God should be thanked.
Shout to the world what God has done!
Everywhere we go we remember what God has done!

Glory to God at all times and in all places.
 Open your mouth and sing about God.
 Delight all with the good news of God's love.

Work with the children to create an acrostic poem on the newsprint and then have them print it up on a piece of paper. Remind the children that the reaction of the people to bringing back to life the widow's son was to praise God. Suggest to them that print up the first letter nice and big and use the same colour for the first letter of each line and then use another colour for the line of the poem itself. When they have the poem printed have them glue it on to a piece of construction paper. Let them use the glitter to decorate the edges of the poem by using a glue stick to make patterns and then shaking the glitter over the glue. Make sure the children carefully shake the glitter off over a container so that it can be reused. Suggest to the children that they share their poem with their families and post it up where they can be reminded to praise God regularly.

Project Idea 3: Praise Hand Flowers

Praise is a big part of today's story – the widow praises, the people praise – because God acts through Jesus in a wonderful way. These flowers will be a way for the children to share that praise with others.

Materials needed

- brightly coloured construction paper
- scissors
- pencils
- pipe cleaners
- glue sticks
- strong tape
- yarn, glitter
- markers
- tissue paper

Instructions

Give each child at least three pieces of brightly coloured construction paper. Have them trace a hand on each piece of paper and then cut it out with the scissors. Have them print on each hand "Praise God!" Have them tape a pipe cleaner to the back of each hand with the strong tape. Suggest that they can use the glue sticks and glitter to decorate the flower hands and also can use the tissue paper to make petals for the flowers by gluing pieces of tissue paper onto the fingers. They may also want to make leaves from the extra construction paper and add to them to the pipe cleaner stems with the strong tape. When they are done constructing their flowers they may want to tie them together with a piece of yarn and give them to someone who needs to be lifted up like the young man Jesus raised up in the story.

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:

**Thank you God for loving care;
 Thank you Jesus for loving choices;
 Thank you Spirit for loving ways. Amen.**