

Sunday between November 13 and 19 – year C

Preparation

Read [Luke 21:5-19](#). 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/properc28.htm>

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-cwvx.htm#p33>: word puzzles

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

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

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/c/33-c/F-33-c.html>

http://www.episcopalchurch.org/109452_115801_ENG_HTM.htm:

scroll down page to find the one for this Sunday

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Green cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Pictures of large buildings from magazines or from the internet: bring at least 2 or 3

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 what is the largest building they have ever seen in person. (*Wait for their responses.*) Show them the pictures of the large buildings that you have brought. Now ask them if they have seen any buildings as large as these ones. (*Wait for their responses.*) Ask the children what they think the big buildings tell us (*possible answers: power, money, beauty*). Explain that when Jesus was on earth, the largest building in Israel was the temple and many people thought that it was amazing. Jesus has some surprising things to say about it in today's story.

Story Time

Materials

- temple image at the end of the lesson
- construction paper
- glue

Instructions

- Print up the temple image at the end of the lesson. Glue it onto a piece of construction paper. Have it handy for the story.
- Get settled together in a comfortable way to hear and tell today's story.

During the time of Jesus, the land of Israel had an army from another country keeping control. A country far away was in charge of everything. Everyone was afraid of what was going to happen. People who stirred up trouble were put in jail or killed by the leaders. It was not a happy time or a happy place. Many of the people were very afraid.

Show the children the picture of the temple. Explain that this is an artist's idea of what the temple, the place God's people worshipped, looked like in Jesus' time.

Jesus and his friends were at the temple. He heard some of the people around them speaking. They were praising the beauty of the temple. They were amazed at how big it was. They were overwhelmed by how many gifts were given to the temple for the glory of God.

Jesus looking around at the temple said, "All that is here will be gone soon. In the future, not one stone of the temple will be left standing. It will all be thrown down."

The people said to him, "When we will see this happen? What will the signs be?"

Jesus said, "Be on guard. There will be many who come in the future and say that they are me. Do not go after them. Do not be afraid when you hear about wars. Do not be afraid when you hear about people rising up. The end will not be right away."

Then Jesus said to the people, "Many bad things are coming. Just like they did in the past. There will be wars. People will be hurt. People will die of hunger. There will be many signs that things are not going well. Before all of that occurs leaders and officials will come after those who follow me. They will arrest them. Remember this will give you a chance to be a witness to me and to God. Don't worry I will be able to support you in this time and will give you the words you need to say. "

"Remember", said Jesus, "God will not leave you alone in the hard times. By staying true, by staying faithful, you will be saved by God."

Response

Project Idea 1: Keep the Faith Buttons

Jesus reminds us that we need to be witnesses to the faith at all times and in all places. These buttons will give the children a chance to do that.

Materials needed

- card stock
- pencil
- scissors, glue and glitter
- safety pins
- ribbons
- markers
- stickers (if you have any)
- any other craft materials you think will be useful

Instructions

Draw 10 cm (4 in) diameter circles on the card stock and cut out one for each child. Give each child a prepared circle and have them print in the middle “**Keep the Faith**”. You may need to help younger children with this. Ask the children if they understand what the phrase means. Explain that Jesus asks us in all that we do, wherever we are, that we remember to be faithful to God and to share God’s love with others. Invite the children to decorate their buttons as they would like. When they are done, help them to pin them on to their clothes. Tell the children when someone asks them about their buttons they can say that they are being witnesses for Jesus and keeping the faith of God.

Project Idea 2: Faithful Feet Walkway

We are asked to walk in the way of Jesus – the way of faithful actions. This symbolic walkway will be a way for the children to witness to others the faith they have in Jesus.

Materials needed

- construction paper
- pencils
- scissors and glue
- markers
- stickers (if you have any)
- magazines
- blue or white wall tack

Instructions

Give each child two pieces of construction paper. Have them trace their feet on to the construction paper and then cut out the feet shapes. Now have them look the magazines and cut out pictures (that will fit on the feet – you may want to do this ahead of time) that show people acting in faithful ways. When they are done have them print “**Faith**” in the feet shapes and then glue on their pictures of faithful actions. When they are done choose a wall that they can put up their walkway of faithful feet. Work together to put up the walk of feet so that others can see the witness that the children have to faith in Jesus.

Project Idea 3: Acts of Faith Posters

To be faithful to Jesus doesn't just mean telling others about him, although this is important, but acting in the way that honours God's love in the world. These posters will help them to remember that everyday that they see them.

Materials needed

- light construction paper
- white or yellow crayons
- dark green crayons
- newsprint
- marker

Instructions

Take the paper wrappers off the dark green crayons. Put a piece of newsprint up on the wall. Invite the children to think about how they can show their faith in Jesus in today's world. As they name different things (*caring, sharing, loving, helping, etc.*) write them up on the newsprint. Give each child a piece of construction paper. Have them print as hard as they can the words describing the acts of faith onto the construction paper with a white or yellow crayon. Tell them it doesn't matter if they can't see the words clearly or if they overlap the words. When they are done printing give them each a dark green crayon with its wrapper removed. Have them rub the crayon over the paper so that they cover the whole page – they should notice that the light coloured words pop out of the page when they do this. Suggest to the children that they put up their posters at home to remind them to keep on being witnesses for Jesus in today's world.

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.**

Temple Image

