

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany – year A

Preparation

Read [Matthew 5:13-20](#). 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/yeara/epipha5.htm>

http://www.episcopalchurch.org/109452_115820_ENG_HTM.htm

http://www.cyberfaith.com/proclaiming_faith.cfm?id=175

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/pluggedin.html>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/a/5-a/A-5-a.html>

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-awjj.htm#ep05>

http://www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible_themes_l_-_m.html#lightsalt

Gathering

Materials needed

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

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. Pray the following prayer together:

**Learning new things, we walk with God;
Loving new ways, we walk with Jesus;
Looking for hope, we walk with the Spirit. Amen.**

Blow out the candle. Bring out the flashlight. Flash the light on and off. Ask the children if the flashlight will work if it has a blanket over it. *Wait for their responses.* Flash the light on and off again. Now ask the children if the flashlight will work hidden in a drawer. *Wait for their responses.* Again turn the flashlight on and shine it in the corner of the room or up on ceiling. Note with the children how the light shows us things we didn't see before – sometimes these are good things and sometimes these are not good things, like dust. Explain that in today's story we will hear Jesus teach his friends about being light in the world.

Story Time

Materials

- poster from previous weeks
- lamp image at the end of the lesson
- scissors
- wall tack or tape
- salt
- flashlight
- bowl (that will fit over the flashlight)

Instructions

- Copy the people image at the end of the lesson and cut it out. Place it near the poster with the wall tack or tape. With the children get comfortable to hear the story.
- Teach the children to do the following actions during today’s story, each time they hear one of the following words :
 - **salt**: *stand up!*
 - **light** or **lamp**: *clap hands!*
 - **kingdom**: *sit down!*

Start with the children standing up. Remember to emphasize the word cues for the children so they get it easily.

Jesus was on mountain with his friends. Lots of people were gathered around. They wanted to hear more of what Jesus had to teach them about living in God’s kingdom.

Jesus said to the people, “You are the salt of the earth. Salt is only good if it is added to something. When you are salty for the kingdom you add good things to the world.”

Jesus went on to say, “You are the light of the world. A building built up on a hill cannot be hidden. It does not make sense to turn on a lamp and put it under a basket (*turn on the flashlight, then put the bowl over it*). No you put the lamp up where everyone can see it (*bring out the flashlight from under the bowl*) and share in the light it gives out to all. You need to do the same thing. You need to let your light show forth – you need to show all your good works – so that the kingdom of God can be seen by everyone.” (*Turn off the flashlight.*)

Jesus knew that some people were not happy with the things that he was teaching the people. So he said, “I have not come to get rid of any of the good things that God’s people have done and are doing. I have come to add to those good things. Remember you are the salt of the earth. You are to be the light of the world. All those who teach others God’s way and live God’s way will be working with me. With you God is bringing the kingdom into the world.”

Point out the poster to the children. Explain that each week that they are going to add a symbol (an object that reminds us of something) to the poster. Bring out the lamp image. Ask the children why we put the lamp on for today? To remind us of to be the light of the world – the light of Jesus shining in the world. Have one of the children tape it onto the poster on the side of the hill/mountain

Response

Project Idea 1: Salt and Light Painting

This response will give the children a visual and tactile reminder of Jesus calling us to be salt and light for the world.

Materials needed

- newspapers
- drawing paper or newsprint
- light water colour paints and paint brushes
- water in small containers
- salt in salt shakers
- markers

Instructions

Lay out the newspapers over the work area. Print across the bottom of the drawing paper or newsprint '**Light of the world – Salt of the earth**'. Give each child a prepared piece of paper and a paint brush. Place the water colour paints and water in easy access to the children. Ask the children to think of image that speaks about light in the world and then have them paint that image on the paper. When they are done pass around the salt shakers and have them shake the salt onto their paintings. The salt will work with the paint and paper and do interesting things on their paintings as they dry. Suggest to the children that they share their paintings with their families and find a place at home to put it up so that can remember Jesus telling us to God's salt and light in the world.

Project Idea 2: Light and Salt Sun Catchers

Materials needed

- wax paper
- crayons
- vegetable peelers or grater
- glitter
- salt in salt shakers
- tea towels
- iron and ironing board
- scissors
- hole punch
- yarn

Instructions

Take the paper off the crayons and using a vegetable peeler or grater make crayon shavings. Try to only use bright colours as they will work best. Make enough so that each child will have enough to spread over a good size piece of wax paper. Cut two 15 × 15 cm squares of wax paper for each child. Set up the ironing board and put a tea towel on it. Turn the iron onto a fairly low heat. Give each child a piece of wax paper, have them sprinkle the crayon shavings on. Then have the children sprinkle both glitter and salt over the crayon shavings. Give them the second piece of wax paper and have them carefully put it on top. With the children take it to the ironing board and place it on the tea towel. Cover with another tea towel and then press the iron over the whole thing until the crayon shavings are melted –

you may need to increase the heat if this is taking too long. When they have cooled off a bit help the children to punch two holes into one of the sides and then tie yarn through each hole to make a hanging loop.

Suggest to the children that they hang their sun catchers up in a window at home.

Remind them as the sun comes through and glints off the salt that it will help them to remember what Jesus told us all to be – salt and light for the world.

Project Idea 3: Salt Dough Candle Holders

Materials needed

- salt dough recipe at the end of the lesson
- votive candles
- small aluminium pie plates
- newspaper

Instructions

Make enough salt dough (using the recipe at the end of the lesson) so that each child will have a sizeable lump of dough. Cover the work area with the newspaper. Give the children their dough. Explain that it is made with salt that will help it to dry and be good for a long time to come. Show the children a votive candle and explain that they are going to make a candle holder for it with their dough. Let them design their own candle holder. When they are done have them place it on the pie plate and put the candle inside it. Tell the children it will take a few days for their candle holders to dry (the thicker they are the longer they take to dry) and that they shouldn't handle them too often. Suggest to the children that when they take their candle holder home and light it with their family and remember how Jesus wants all to be salt and light for the 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 being with us;
Thank you Jesus for loving us;
Thank you Spirit for leading us. Amen.**

Image of a lamp



Salt dough recipe

- 250 mL of flour
- 60 mL of salt
- 10 mL of cream of tartar
- 250 mL of warm water
- 5 mL of oil
- food colouring (optional: it may be fun to colour the dough)

Mix all the ingredients in a sauce pan and cook over medium heat until smooth.
Add food colouring with the rest of the ingredients if using it.
Let the dough cool and then knead. Store in a plastic bag or airtight container.

This makes enough dough for one child to use..