

Fourth Sunday of Lent – year A

Preparation

Read [John 9:1-41](#). 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/lenta4.htm>

http://www.episcopalchurch.org/109452_115827_ENG_HTM.htm

http://www.cyberfaith.com/proclaiming_faith.cfm?id=180

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

<http://www.msscrafter.com/newtestament/jesusheals.htm>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/lent4mles.htm>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/a/4Lent-a/A-4Lent-a.html>

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-awmp.htm#lent04>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Purple candle and candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Purple cloth
- Rocks of various sizes
- Streamer or balloon from previous weeks
- Map or globe showing water and land
- Dark and light coloured scarf

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. Have the children put the rocks and materials from previous weeks around the candle. Ask the children if they know how many days of Lent have gone by since you were last together (6, because we do not count Sunday). Light the candle. Pray the following prayer together:

**Walking with God, we learn to love;
Walking with Jesus, we learn to care;
Walking with the Spirit, we learn to share. Amen.**

Blow out the candle. Ask for a volunteer. Tie the dark coloured scarf snugly but not too tight around the child's eyes. Ask them to describe what they can see. Now tie the light coloured scarf snugly but not too tight around the child's eyes. Ask them to describe what they see. Untie the scarf and ask the child to describe what they see. Ask everyone to remember the different ways of seeing as they hear today's story about Jesus and a blind man. Place the dark coloured scarf onto the worship table.

Story Time

Jesus and his friends were walking down the road. One of them saw a blind man begging by the side of the road. They all stopped to look at him for a moment.

“Jesus,” one of the friends said, “was this man born blind because he did something wrong or because his parents did something wrong?”

Jesus looked thoughtful. He said, “It was neither this man nor his parents did something wrong. You have to remember that God sent me to the world to show God’s love for the world. As long as I am with you I am the light of the world.”

After Jesus said this he picked up some dirt and spit on it and turned it into mud. He then took the mud and put it on the blind man’s eyes. He told the man to go and wash in a special pool. The man went to the pool and after he washed he was able to see.

All of the man’s neighbours and those who used to see the man by the road were amazed that he could see now. He kept telling them that yes he was their friend who used to be blind and that now he could see.

Some leaders in Jerusalem heard what had happened. They called the man to come and see them. It turned out that the day Jesus had healed him was a holy day to everyone – called the Sabbath – a day of rest. They wanted to ask the man what happened to him.

They said, “How did you get your sight?”

“Jesus put some mud on my eyes and told me to wash in the pool. I washed and was able to see.” the man said.

The leaders began to argue amongst themselves. Some said that Jesus couldn’t be from God because he gave the man sight on the holy day. Others said Jesus had to be from God for only someone blessed by God could do what he did. The leaders decided to ask the man who had been blind what he thought.

The man said, “I think Jesus is a man of God. Someone who comes from God.”

The leaders then decided to call in the man’s parents. They wanted to ask them if the man had really been born blind. The parents knew that they were trying to trap everyone so told the leaders to go and ask him themselves as he was old enough to speak for himself.

The leaders called the man who had been born blind to them for another time. They once again wanted to know who had let him see the world. They were still arguing if Jesus was from God or if the man was lying to them about what had happened to him. They were arguing so much that they threw the man out.

Jesus found the man after this. He said, “Do you believe in the messiah?”

The man said, “Yes, I do. Can you tell me who it is?”

Jesus said, “The person who made you see again and the person who is speaking to you right now.”

The man who had been blind then worshipped Jesus and gave thanks to God for sending Jesus into the world.

Teach the children the following song to move from the story into a response:

This song is sung to the tune of “Row, row, row the boat”.

**Light, light, light of the world,
 Came to all of us.
 Jesus healed the blind man,
 Who then showed God’s love to us.**

Response

Project Idea 1: Picture with Light

Stained glass windows show us stories of our faith when the light comes shining through them.

With this response the children will be able to have a picture connected with the story that acts with light to show more of what happened to the blind man.

Materials needed

- picture of story at the end of this lesson
- vegetable oil
- small containers
- crayons
- cotton swabs

Instructions

Make enough copies of the picture for everyone to have one. Put the vegetable oil into small containers. Ask the children to colour the picture as they wish to with the provided crayons. As they are colouring invite them to remember the story of Jesus healing the blind man. Once they are finished colouring put a small amount of the vegetable oil on a cotton swab. Show them how to wipe the oil all over their pictures. If the cotton swab dries up add more oil to it. Once they have oiled the whole page get the children to put them up to the light – they will then see the picture like a stained glass window. With the children wonder aloud what colours the blind man would have seen as he got his sight for the first time.

Project Idea 2: Candle Holders

We call Jesus the Light of the Word. Candles help us to remember that light in our worship together.

These candle holders will be a reminder for the children about Jesus in their lives.

Materials needed

- small clean glass jars, with no labels on them
- votive candles
- white glue
- glitter
- paint brushes
- small bowls and water
- small tin plates

Instructions

Put the white glue into small bowls and water it down to fairly thin – but, not too thin. Put the glitter into a slightly larger bowl. Have the children brush the watered down glue on to

the outside of the glass jars. When the jars are ready – roll them in the bowl with the glitter until the jars are completely covered. Put the jars in the tin plates and put the candles in the jars. Tell the children to only light the candle with an adult. Remind the children that Jesus gave the blind man sight and called himself the ‘Light of the World’. As they light the candle they can think about Jesus lighting up the whole world.

Project Idea 3: Light of the World Posters

We all see billboards and other things advertizing in the world. We can use posters to show who Jesus is for the world at large and for us as people.

Materials needed

- large sheets of construction paper or other heavy paper
- markers
- white glue
- glitter
- scissors
- old magazines

Instructions

This is a response that can be done as a group activity or done by individuals. Beforehand, look through the old magazines and cut out as many pictures that have to do with light (suns, candles, stars, the moon, shining faces, etc.) as can be found. Print on the construction paper “**Jesus is the Light of the World**” for those who have difficulty writing. Give everyone their poster or show them the one they have to work on together. Invite the children to decorate the poster using the pictures gathered from the magazines and the glitter. As the children are working talk about how the poster will help to remind them of the light the blind man got to see when he was given his sight. Enjoy the posters together and maybe find a place to put them up where everyone can enjoy them.

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:

**Loving God, be with us every day;
Caring Jesus, be with us every day;
Sharing Spirit, be with us every day. Amen.**

Image: Jesus Heals the Blind Man

