

Second Sunday of Easter – year C

Preparation

Read [Psalm 150](#) and [John 20: 19-31](#) 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/easterc2.htm>

http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452_115784_ENG_HTM.htm:

scroll down to find this week's lesson

<http://children.cccm.com/NTSupportCurriculumPDF/281ThomasDoubts.pdf>

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

http://www.sermons4kids.com/ID_please.html

<http://talks2children.itsforministry.org/t2c/view.asp?ID=22>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/east2les.htm>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/Seasonal/2-Easter/K-2Easter.html>

Gathering

Materials needed

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

Praise God for new life!

Praise Jesus for new beginnings!

Praise Holy Spirit for new paths! Amen.

Blow out the candle. Ask the children if they can name a time when they were given news that they just couldn't believe. (*Wait for their responses and if you have a moment of your own like this then share it with the children as well.*)

Sometimes when we get news about something really big we either have to see it for ourselves or hear about for ourselves from someone who was there. This was the case for one of Jesus' friends. He just wasn't ready to believe that Jesus was alive. He needed proof. Today's story will share with the children what kind of proof Thomas got.

Story Time

During this season a paraphrase of a verse of the psalm of the day will be used as a refrain for the story.

Instructions

- Teach the children the following phrase for use during the story:

Let everything that is alive praise God!

Jesus' friends were gathered together. They could hardly believe the news that Mary Magdalene had told them. Jesus is alive! They were feeling scared and confused. Someone made sure that all the doors to their room were locked. They didn't want the rulers of the temple to find them.

All at once Jesus stood in the middle of them.

Let everything that is alive praise God!

Jesus said to his friends, "Peace be with you."

Jesus invited his friends to look at his hands and his feet. To see where the nails had gone through him. Jesus' friends became very excited and were so happy to see him alive!

Let everything that is alive praise God!

Jesus then said to his friends, "Peace be with you. As God has sent me, so now I will send you."

He then breathed on his friends and told them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of people they will be forgiven. If you don't forgive them they won't be forgiven."

Let everything that is alive praise God!

Now one of Jesus' friends Thomas wasn't with the rest of them in the room when Jesus came to see them. The other friends of Jesus told Thomas what had happened in the locked room. Thomas told them, "I won't believe Jesus is alive until I can see him and touch his hands and feet myself."

The next Sunday all the friends, including Thomas, gathered in the same house again. Jesus came once again and stood in the middle of all of them. Then Jesus said to Thomas, "Come over here. Touch my hands. Look at my feet. Don't doubt anymore. Believe. I am alive!"

Let everything that is alive praise God!

Thomas was quite overwhelmed. He said, "My God, I do believe."

Jesus said, "Do you believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who will believe even when they do not see me. "

Jesus spent some more time with his friends and reminded them how much God loves the whole world.

Let everything that is alive praise God!

Response

Project Idea 1: Peace Butterfly

Jesus' message of peace is one that we all need to remember. Making these butterflies and sharing them with their families will help the children to do that.

Materials needed

- white tissue paper
- pipe cleaners
- food colouring
- small plastic containers
- water
- fine line markers

Instructions

Each child will need at least two sheets of tissue paper. Put small bit of water in the small containers and then add the food colouring so that it is quite a deep colour. Make enough different bright colours for the children to use. Have the children unfold their tissue paper and carefully using the fine line markers print “**Peace**” in several places across the tissue paper. Have them do that on both pieces. After they are finished printing show them how to crumple the tissue paper and dip a corner at a time into the different colours. The colours will likely leak into each other. When they are done dyeing the tissue paper, have them fold their pieces of tissue paper so that they can pinch it in the middle to look like wings. Use pipe cleaners to form a body by twisting it about this middle. Do this with each piece and then tie them together with another pipe cleaner. Help them spread out the ‘wings’ of the butterfly. Invite the children to share their butterfly with their families and to share Jesus’ message of peace with them.

Project Idea 2: Belief Flowers

These flowers will be a way for the children to share the good news of Jesus’ resurrection with their families.

Materials needed

- egg cartons
- scissors
- sharp pencil
- pipe cleaners
- tissue paper
- glue
- construction paper
- markers
- hole punch and yarn

Instructions

Cut apart the egg cartons so that you have separated out the egg shapes. You should have enough egg shapes so that each child has 4 or 5. Cut the construction paper into 8-cm (3-in) squares – make one for each child. Give the children the egg shapes. Let older children poke a hole into the bottom with a sharp pencil. Have them put a pipe cleaner through the hole and tie a knot in the end that is sticking up through the bottom. Put some glue into the centre of the egg

shape and then have the children put some pieces of coloured tissue paper into the centre of the egg shape. This will add colour to the flower. Get them to be as creative as they want to be with this. When they are finished making their flowers help them to tie them up with a piece of yarn. On the square of construction paper have the children print “**We believe in Jesus**” and then attach it to the yarn with another piece of yarn. Invite the children to give their belief flowers to someone who needs to hear the message about Jesus rising from the dead.

Project Idea 3: Celebration Paintings

Materials needed

- plastic straws
- tempera paint (bright colours)
- non-absorbent paper (like finger paint paper)
- newspaper
- small containers
- water
- spoons
- marker

Instructions

Lay out the newspaper on the work area. Pour a little bit of paint into the small containers and add a little water so that it is a bit runny. Print across the top of the paper with the marker ALLELUIA! JESUS IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD. Give each child a piece of non-absorbent paper. Read them what is printed across the top of the paper. Invite them to spoon a bit of paint onto their paper and then give them a straw. Show them how to blow their paint around with the straw and see what interesting patterns it makes. Invite them to add other colours and blow through their straws to make a celebration painting. As they are blowing the paint around the paper remind the children how Jesus breathed on his friends and gave them the gift of the Holy Spirit. This painting of theirs can be a gift to their families for the Easter Season.

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:

Alleluia! Thank you God for our time together.

Alleluia! Thank you Jesus for being with us.

Alleluia! Thank you Holy Spirit for leading us. Amen.