

## Sunday, February 15, 2008

### Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

#### Preparation:

Read the Gospel, [Mark 1: 40-45](#), for this Sunday over . Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump out 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/yearb/epiphb6.htm>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/epi6kles.htm>

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/hope-for-hopeless.html>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/b/6-b/F-6-b.html>

#### Gathering:

Materials needed:

Small table or end of one table

White Candle

Candle lighter

Bible & Bookmark

Green cloth

Small bowl of water

Newsprint and markers

Stuffed toy

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 green cloth on the table. Have them help you place the candle, bowl of water, and the Bible on the cloth.

Pray the following prayer together:

**Light of the world, shine on us, (*point to the candle*)**

**Water of the world, refresh us, (*point to the water*)**

**Word of the world, teach us, (*point to the Bible*)**

**Loving God be with us in all that we do.**

**Amen.**

Blow out the candle. Show the children the stuffed toy and tell the children's its name. Tell the children that this little toy is feeling very sad and hurt. Tell the children that no one wants to play with it and it is feeling very lonely. Ask the children how they might give the stuffed toy some comfort. (*Wait for responses.*) Ask the children what they think Jesus would do to give the stuffed toy some comfort. (*Wait for responses.*) Explain to the children that in today's story they will hear about someone who has been on the outside and how Jesus gives him comfort.

**Story Time:***Materials needed:*

A comfortable place to tell the story – on the floor with cushions or around a table

Jesus and his friends were going around the Galilee. Everywhere they went they met people who wanted to know the good news from God. Everywhere they went they met people who wanted Jesus to help them. Everywhere they went they met people who wanted Jesus to heal them.

A man came up to Jesus with a skin disease called leprosy. The law said that he could not live with his family any more. The law said that the man could not get near anyone who was healthy. The man was very lonely. The man was hurting. He looked at Jesus and got down on his knees said, "Jesus if you want you can make me clean."

Jesus could see how sad, lonely and hurt the man was. He felt great compassion for the man. Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man saying, "I do want to. Be clean."

Right away the man was healed. He had no more skin disease. The leprosy was all gone. Jesus looked at the man and said to him, "Don't tell anyone about this. Take yourself to the leaders at the temple in Jerusalem. Make the offering that the holy scripture say you need to make for being healed."

The man thought about what Jesus said. He decided that he needed to go and tell everyone what happened to him. Everywhere he went and with every person he met the man, who had had leprosy, told them what Jesus had done.

People all over Galilee heard the news about Jesus. Jesus was no longer able to go out openly. Jesus and his friends decided to stay out in the country and the people can't find him. They still wanted to hear about the good news from God. They still wanted Jesus to take care of their hurts.

**Response:****Idea #1: Hug Card**

*Children know what it means to need a hug. Sometimes that hug can't be given in person and needs to be given a different way. With this hug card the children can share the love of God with others.*

*Materials needed:* newsprint, markers, and scissors

*Instructions:* Lay out newsprint on the floor. Have the children lay on the floor on the newsprint with their arms spread out from their sides. Trace around their arms up to their bodies. Have the children get up and then finish off the lines to join up the two arms. Let the children cut out their joined together arms. Encourage them to decorate one side of the arms, to look like real arms. On the opposite side of the arms have the children print in large letters **A HUG FROM ME AND JESUS TO BRING YOU GOD'S LOVE**. Encourage the children to think about who they would like to give their hug to as they do the decorating.

**Idea #2: Hand Prints Picture**

*Children love to paint. This response will be a way for them to share creatively in the story that they have just heard.*

*Materials needed:* newspaper, newsprint, tempera finger paint, paint shirts, containers and markers

*Instructions:* Cut the newsprint in half so that the children have a large but not too large piece to do their picture. Spread newspapers out over the work area. Place the finger paint in containers. Have the children put on paint shirts to protect their clothes. Tell the children that they are to use prints of their hands to show a picture of Jesus healing the leper. Before they start painting have them print across the top **JESUS HEALS THE LEPER**. Let the children enjoy the process of developing a picture that uses their creativity to share the story. Make sure everyone gets cleaned up when they are finished. Encourage the children to find a place to hang up their pictures at home to remember the story of Jesus' healing touch.

**Idea #3: Prayer Wall**

*This will be an ongoing activity for the season after Epiphany. Each week the children will add new prayers to the walls using a symbol from the story that will be identified for you. This activity will be a good way to reinforce the learning from the stories that they will participate in.*

*Materials needed:* hand image at the end of the lesson, blue construction paper, scissors, glue and markers

*Instructions:* Copy the hand image at the end of the lesson. Cut out and trace onto the blue construction paper. Have enough ready so that each child has one. Get the children to cut out the hand shape. As they are cutting them out encourage them to think about people who are need of Jesus' touch. When they are finished cutting out the hands have the children write the names of the people who they think need Jesus' touch. Assist the children in attaching their hands to the prayer wall. Encourage them to remember the people they have named in their prayers during the week.

**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:

**As we leave this place, God be with us,  
As we leave this place, Jesus be with us,  
As we leave this place, Spirit be with us.  
Amen.**

**Hand Image**