



Sunday 1 Lament

Three Sundays of children's time worship resources for leader

Sunday 1 goal:

To develop the theme that God's gifts are given in God's own time.

Materials needed:

- *The Cherry Tree* book or *To Everything There is a season: Verses from Ecclesiastes*
- Copies of the activity sheet for Sunday 1
- Pencils

Children's Time During Worship

To develop the theme there are two options:

1. **Read a picture storybook. Search libraries or purchase.** (*Available at Amazon.com*)
The Cherry Tree by Daisaku Ikeda, Knopf, 1991. Illustrated by Brian Wildsmith. A story of hope after war. The tree bloomed again in God's own time and with the love and care of people.

OR

To Every Thing There is a Season: Verses from Ecclesiastes illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon, Scholastic, 1998. Each verse is illustrated by a different style of art from countries around the world.

2. **Talk about lament.** When we lament, we complain, or express our sorrow or fear. It is okay to lament, but we need to remember that God is wisdom, and God's gifts are given in God's own time. Lead the children in a lament. You read the lament, and have the children reply with the affirmation.

God, why do mean kids get away with teasing and fighting?

All will be well in God's own time.

God, why are there diseases?

All will be well in God's own time.

God, why do people have to die?

All will be well in God's own time.

God, why are there terrorists?

All will be well in God's own time.

God, why are there wars?

All will be well in God's own time.

Extended Time: Children's Church or Sunday School

Children could make a mural of *The Cherry Tree* in two sections: the tree right after the war and when it finally bloomed. Some could draw the tree and others the characters in the story. Blooms on the tree could be made with sponges or for 3-D blossoms, cut 1 inch squares of pink tissue paper. Place the top of a pencil (eraser end) in the middle of the square, and pull the paper down around the pencil. Holding the paper and pencil, dip the tip with the paper around it into glue, and stick it on the tree. If you have a large group, make several murals.

Children could each select one of the verses from Ecclesiastes to illustrate. Then place the illustrations on a bulletin board or wall in the right order. They might also be challenged to think up other opposites to illustrate, such as "a time to play, and a time to work," or "a time to surf the web, an a time to turn off the computer," or "a time to play soccer and a time to rest."

Use some of the wisdom literature from Proverbs. You might begin by mentioning a few common proverbs such as "A stitch in time saves nine," or "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." Ask if they have heard these or if they know some others. Turn, then, to your Bible and read some verses from Proverbs. Choose ones where wise actions result in good happenings, such as Proverbs 14:25, 15:1, 15:4, 15:18, 15:27. There are many, many more. If the children all have Bibles, invite them to find Proverbs and read on their own. When they find one they especially like, they should write it across the bottom of a piece of drawing paper, and then illustrate it. These can then be shared with the group. If Bibles are not available, you could hand out sheets with the proverbs already written across the bottom.



Sunday 2

Learning from Wise Persons

Three Sundays of children's time worship resources for leader

Sunday 2 goal:

To develop the theme that we can learn from persons in the Bible who acted wisely.

Materials needed:

- Copies of the activity sheet for Sunday 2
- Pencils

Children's Time During Worship

First, review last Sunday by reminding the children of the story of *The Cherry Tree*, or re-read part of the verses from Ecclesiastes, or repeat the lament, whichever you used. Then choose one of the following:

1. **Abigail, who offered hospitality.** Read: "The Mystery of the Thatch" from *Coals of Fire* by Elizabeth Bauman, Herald Press, 1982, or from *Walking With Jesus*. "Nasiamindele, the Forgiver" or "Brave Rose Marie," by Mary Clemens Meyer, Herald Press, 1992, available from Provident Bookstores or Amazon.com.

OR

2. **Solomon, who sought wisdom.** Read a lovely Jewish story of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba retold by Sheldon Oberman, called *The Wisdom Bird*. It is illustrated by Neil Waldman, published by Boyds Mill Press, 2000. Available at Amazon.com.

OR

3. **Esther, who acted wisely.** Read Tomie dePaola's retelling of the story of *Queen Esther*, Harper, 1987, available at Amazon.com. This book has cutouts in the middle that can be made into stick puppets to use in telling the story.

Extended Time—Children's Church or Sunday School

Hamentaschen (Haman's ears)

You will need:

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|------------------|----------------------|
| 1/2 lb margarine | 8 tsp. sugar |
| 3 1/4 cup flour | 2 tsp. baking powder |
| 1/4 tsp. salt | 3 tsp. orange juice |
| 2 eggs | 2 tsp. vanilla |

Filling:

- 1 jar of your favorite jam or poppy seed filling
- 1/4 cup chopped nuts
- sugar and cinnamon

Cream the margarine and sugar. Sift the dry ingredients and add to margarine and sugar mixture. Mix well. Add the eggs, orange juice and vanilla. Knead until dough forms and divide into 6 sections. Refrigerate until chilled.

Roll out sections on a floured board. Use a glass as a cutter for forming circles for the hamentaschen shape. Place a teaspoon of filling into each circle and fold into a triangle by pinching the edges together. Bake in 325 degree oven for 25 minutes. (You would need to mix the dough at the beginning of your time so you could refrigerate it a bit, or make the dough at home and just have the children form and bake the cookies.)

1. Use some of the materials you did not choose for Children's Time during worship. Other Bible persons who could be used include:
 - a) Daniel—see Jubilee curriculum *Cycle C Fall, Early Childhood* Lesson 10, for telling or reading the Daniel story.
 - b) Joseph—see Jubilee *Cycle A Fall Primary*, Lessons 12 and 13 for telling the Joseph story.
 - c) If you use Abigail, Solomon, Esther, Daniel and Joseph, you could divide the children into groups to act out a wisdom scene from each person's story.
 - d) Solomon additional activities can be found in the Jubilee Curriculum *Cycle A Middler* Lesson 11 on pages 72–74 of the teacher's guide.

These include making a cooperative giant Solomon puppet to use as children solve wisely four situations presented; interesting questions and answers about Solomon; and several additional activity suggestions.

2. Extend the story of Esther by having the children make hamentaschen, or Haman's ears, which are cookies used in the Jewish celebration of Esther's saving of the Jewish people, known as Purim. See recipe below. Other parts of the celebration could be described.
3. Watch a video of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, noticing when Joseph made wise decisions and what the results were.

4. Read *Joseph Had A Little Overcoat* by Simms Tabak, Viking, 1999. (Available at libraries or Amazon.com.) Decide how this Joseph was wise. Discuss other ways we can be wise about the environment. Find a craft project that uses recycled materials.
5. Read one or several of D. B. Johnson's books on Henry, that share ideas of another wise person, Henry David Thoreau. If you can locate all four books, divide the children into four groups. Have each group report back to the whole group how Henry was wise in the book they read. The books are all by D. B. Johnson and published by Houghton Mifflin. In *Henry Works* (2004), how Henry wisely observed nature and then wrote about his observations in *Walden* is very simply described. His civil disobedience is related in *Henry Climbs a Mountain* (2003). In *Henry Builds a Cabin* (2002), the wisdom of a simple lifestyle is illustrated, and in *Henry Hikes to Fitchburg* (2000) Thoreau's wise use of time and money to enjoy life more is demonstrated.
6. A modern African wisdom tale was written in *Seven Spools of Thread* by Angela Shelf Medearis, illustrated by Daniel Minter, Albert Whitman, 2000. It is wiser to cooperate and share ideas than to bicker and argue all day. And as a by-product, beautiful kente cloth is created. With paper, children could each design a square of "cloth," and when finished, combine them into one beautiful design.

Sunday 3

Wisdom of Jesus



Three Sundays of children's time worship resources for leader

Sunday 3 goal:

To develop the theme that Jesus is the wisdom of God and was a teacher of new alternative wisdom.

Materials needed:

- Copies of the activity sheet for Sunday 3
- Pencils

Pretzels

You will need:

- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1/4 cup cocoa
- 2 cups flour – unbleached, unsifted

Cream butter and sugar until light. Beat in the egg, vanilla, and milk. Sift cocoa and flour. Mix into butter mixture until thoroughly blended. Chill dough until firm enough to handle (about 30 minutes). Shape pretzels: Using 2 T. dough, roll a rope about 12 inches long between your hands. Make a loop about 1 1/2 inches in diameter by crossing the ends, leaving 1-inch tails. Flip the loop down over the crossed ends. Press firmly into place. Place pretzels on greased baking sheets. Bake at 350 degrees F. for about 10 minutes.

To frost, mix 2 tablespoons cocoa with 1 1/4 cups confectioners1 sugar. Gradually stir in 2 Tablespoons melted butter or margarine and 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract. Thin with milk, if required. Spread cooled pretzels with cocoa frosting. Makes 2 dozen.

Children's Time During Worship

Again, briefly review the lament from two Sundays ago, and review the wise people you talked about last Sunday. Then:

Focus on the Lord's prayer as a prayer of wisdom. It deals with the kingdom of God, it advances the idea of forgiveness as opposed to revenge, that God likes to give good gifts to God's children when they ask, and it refers to our hope as well as our daily struggle for security. Draw the children's attention to these aspects of wisdom as you read *The Lord's Prayer* illustrated by Tim Ladwig, Eerdmans, 2000. After the reading and discussion, pray the Lord's prayer together.

Extended Time: Children's Church or Sunday School

1. Look at some of Jesus' proverbial expressions, such as Matthew 12:25: "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, but no city or house divided against itself stands, or Matthew 10:16, "Be wise as serpents and innocent as doves." Look at some of his rhetorical questions, such as those in Matthew 6:27, and 7:3: Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye and do not notice the log in your own eye? Let the children choose a proverb or rhetorical question to illustrate with paints. Additional verses that could be used are Matthew 5:43-45, Matthew 6:24, Matthew 6:33-34, Matthew 7:7-8, Matthew 12, Matthew 7:24 and Matthew 20:26.
2. Help the children brainstorm ideas for a prayer of wisdom for the children of the world today, such as "Give us a peaceful world, O God." Write down their ideas on the chalkboard. When you have plenty of ideas, begin arranging them in a logical way. Copy the arranged prayer on a large piece of paper. Assign parts to the children to read individually, or in small groups if you have a large group of children. Practice several times, and then tape record their prayer for wisdom. Then provide overhead transparencies and pens. Let them all illustrate their parts of the prayer. Think of an audience you might share your wisdom prayer with.
3. Just for fun, write on the chalkboard, "The New Wisdom of Jesus." See how many new words the children can create from the letters in these words. Write them on the chalkboard as children come up with them.
4. Make pretzels in the shape of arms crossed in prayer. If you have time, do the entire process. If not, mix the dough ahead of time and have children do just the shaping and baking. Use any recipe, or try this recipe for chocolate pretzels:



Sunday 1 Activity: **Lament**

Can you match the opposites from Ecclesiastes 3?

Draw a line to hook up the pairs.

a time to be born

a time to plant

a time to kill

a time to break down

a time to weep

a time to mourn

a time to throw away stones

a time to embrace

a time to seek

a time to keep

a time to tear

a time to keep silence

a time to love

a time for war

a time to throw away

a time to speak

a time to hate

a time to die

a time to gather stones

a time to build up

a time for peace

a time to pluck up what is planted

a time to dance

a time to sew

a time to heal

a time to laugh

a time to lose

a time to refrain from embracing



Sunday 2 Activity:
Learning from Wise Persons

Subtitle for this one?

Below is an acrostic. After each letter, write a word that begins with that letter, using the large letter as the first letter of the word. The word can be the first word in a phrase, or it can be a single word. Each word or phrase should say something about a person who is wise.

W _____

I _____

S _____

D _____

O _____

M _____

Sunday 2 Activity:
Learning from Wise Persons



Subtitle for this one?

Decorate the letters below. Make them as pretty as you can. Cut on the line below and then hang your wisdom somewhere at home so you will remember to try to be wise!

WISDOM



Sunday 3 Activity: **Wisdom of Jesus**

The Lord's Prayer

Can you number the parts of the Lord's Prayer in the right order? Number 1 is done for you.

- _____ on earth as it is in heaven.
- _____ For yours is the kingdom,
- _____ Give us this day our daily bread.
- 1 Our Father in heaven,
- _____ Your kingdom come.
- _____ and the power,
- _____ hallowed be your name.
- _____ Your will be done
- _____ And forgive us our debts
- _____ And lead us not into temptation,
- _____ and the glory forever
- _____ as we forgive our debtors.
- _____ but deliver us from evil.
- _____ Amen



Sunday 3 Activity: **Wisdom of Jesus**

Comparing God's wisdom with people's wisdom

Sometimes God's wisdom is so wise, it may seem silly rather than wise to people that don't know God's way of wisdom. Can you match people's wisdom to God's silly wisdom?

People's Wisdom

Crown Jesus and put him in the Roman Emperor's place

Always make sure you are at the front of the line and get the best of everything

Always make sure you are the Boss

Try to make more money than anyone else and get more stuff

If someone tries to kill you, kill him or her first

Eat and drink whatever you want, and don't bother to exercise

The world is ours to do whatever we want to with it.

You always have to obey the government

If someone doesn't like you and mistreats you, be sure you get even with him/her

Like nice people and stay away from losers and nasty people

God's Wisdom

Always make sure you are the servant of others

Obey God's laws first and people's laws second

God created the earth and gave it to people to care for

The first will be last, and the last will be first

Love everyone, even your enemies

Don't worry; the flowers and birds do not worry, and God takes care of them

All life is sacred; never kill people

Your body is God's house; take good care of it

Let Jesus die on a cross

Forgive someone who mistreats you at least 490 times