

God Understands Me

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: God hears, understands, and answers our prayers.

Scripture: Romans 8:28

Memory Verse: And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. - Romans 8:28

The Children's Sermon

Today I want to talk to you about prayer. Sometimes when we pray we might think that we said something wrong or that it did not make sense or maybe we could have done a better job, but I want to tell you something. You can't pray in a wrong or incorrect way. In Romans 8:27 it says that "The Spirit intercedes for the Saints in accordance with God's will." Those are a few big words to say that the Holy Spirit hears whatever you say and understands and will make sure that God's will will be carried out. If you make a mistake, or don't pray the same way as someone else it is ok, because The Holy Spirit understands you.

We even see in the passage that the grown-ups will be hearing that there was a man who could not walk and he was asking for money to help him out. In Acts 3:6 Peter replied to him and said, "Silver or Gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." And the man walked.

This man was asking for help with money, but God answered him in a way that he never expected. God knew what he really needed and gave it to him.

Today I want to encourage you to pray, don't be shy, do your best and come to God because he loves to hear from you, you may not consider your prayer to be perfect, but God knows exactly what you need, so ask, pray, and he will understand.

Now, let's talk more about how amazing prayer is. Prayer is like talking to your best friend. You can tell God anything - your secrets, your wishes, and even the things that make you sad. And guess what? God listens to every single word. It's like having a superpower because when we pray, we connect with God, and that's really special.

The Holy Spirit helps us when we pray. Think of the Holy Spirit as a helper who makes sure our words reach God, even if we stumble or can't find the right words. It's like when you're trying to tell a story, and you can't remember all the parts, but your friend helps you fill in the blanks. That's what the Holy Spirit does for us.

Remember, God's will is like a perfect plan for us. Sometimes we ask for things, and we don't get exactly what we asked for, but that's because God has something even better in mind. Just like in the story from Acts 3:1-10, the man wanted money, but instead, he got something much more amazing - he was able to walk!

It's important to know that God always listens and the Holy Spirit is always there to help. Even when we're not praying, God is taking care of us, making sure everything works out the best way possible. Romans 8:28 tells us that "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." That means even when things don't go the way we want, God is still looking out for us.

Praying doesn't have to be hard or complicated. You can pray anywhere, anytime. You don't need fancy words. You can pray when you're walking to school, before you eat, or even as you're getting ready for bed. God is always listening, ready to hear what you have to say.

And remember, when you pray, you're never alone. The Holy Spirit is right there with you, helping you talk to God. It's like having a conversation with your best friend who always understands you.

Sometimes, you might not know what to pray for, and that's okay too. You can simply tell God, "I'm not sure what to say, but I want to talk to you." And that's a beautiful prayer because it shows that you trust God and want to be close to Him.

Prayer can also be thanking God for the good things in your life. It's like saying "thank you" to a friend who gave you a gift. You can thank God for your family, your friends, the food you eat, and so much more. Being thankful is a big part of prayer too.

So, let's remember the important things about prayer: You can't do it wrong, the Holy Spirit helps you, it's about talking to God like a friend, and it's okay to tell God anything. God's will is the best plan for us, and even when things are tough, God is working to make things good for us.

Next time you pray, remember the story from Acts 3:1-10. Just like Peter helped the man walk, God can do amazing things in your life. Your prayers are powerful, and they connect you to God in a special way. So, keep praying, keep talking to God, and always remember how much He loves you.

Prayer is a gift, and it's something we can do every day. Let's use this gift to talk to God, thank Him, and trust in His plan for us. Remember, no matter what, God is listening, the Holy Spirit is helping, and God's will is always the best way.

Bible Memory Verse

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. -

Romans 8:28

You Will Need:

- Colored paper
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into large heart shapes, one for each child.
- Set up a table with markers, crayons, and stickers for decoration.

Do This:

1. Give each child a heart-shaped paper and ask them to write the memory verse on one side using markers or crayons. They can decorate around the edges with stickers or draw pictures that remind them of how God is always working for our good.
2. On the other side of the heart, encourage the children to draw or write about a time when they prayed and felt that God heard them. It could be a simple drawing or a few words.

3. Once everyone is done, have a sharing circle where each child can show their heart and share their story or drawing about prayer. This helps reinforce the idea that God hears, understands, and answers our prayers, just like the verse says.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large poster board
- Sticky notes or small pieces of paper
- Markers or crayons
- A Bible

Get Ready:

- Write "God Hears, Understands, and Answers Our Prayers" at the top of the poster board.
- Read Romans 8:28 and prepare a simple explanation for the kids.
- Set up a quiet corner with the poster board, sticky notes, markers, and a Bible.

Do this:

1. Start by gathering the kids and reading Romans 8:28 together. Explain that this verse means God is always working for our good, especially when we talk to Him through prayer.
2. Hand out sticky notes and markers to each child. Ask them to think of something they want to talk to God about. It could be a worry, a wish, or a question. Have them draw or write it on the sticky note.
3. Invite each child to come up and stick their note on the poster board. Say a simple group prayer together, thanking God for listening to all our prayers, understanding what we need, and answering us in the best way possible.

4. Encourage the kids to check the board over the coming weeks to remember that God is always listening to their prayers, just like He promised in Romans 8:28.

Snack Activity: Prayer Pretzels

You'll Need:

- Small pretzel twists
- Small marshmallows
- Chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Wax paper
- Plate

Get Ready: Place a sheet of wax paper on the plate.

Do this:

1. Explain that the pretzel represents our prayers - they may twist and turn, but God always hears them. Place a pretzel on the wax paper.
2. The marshmallow represents God's love - soft, warm, and comforting. Place a marshmallow on top of each pretzel.
3. The chocolate chip represents God's answers to our prayers. Sometimes it's a 'yes,' sometimes it's 'wait,' and other times it's something better. Place a chocolate chip on top of the marshmallow. Microwave the plate for just a few seconds until the marshmallow and chocolate begin to melt. Remind the kids that Romans 8:28 teaches us that God works all things together for good for those who love Him. Just like the ingredients combine to make a tasty treat, God hears, understands, and answers our prayers in the best way.

Game Activity: Prayer Path Hopscotch

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- A small stone or beanbag
- A list of simple prayer requests or thanks (e.g., for family, friends, pets, nature, etc.)

Get Ready: Draw a large hopscotch grid on the sidewalk or driveway. Number the squares from 1 to 10. Next to each number, write a simple prayer focus (e.g., 'Family', 'Friends', 'School').

Do this:

1. Each player takes a turn by tossing their stone or beanbag onto square 1. Before hopping through the squares, the player must say a short prayer related to the focus next to where their stone landed. For example, if the stone lands next to 'Pets', they might say, 'Thank you, God, for my pet dog.'
2. The player then hops through the squares, skipping the square with their stone or beanbag. If they complete the course without stepping on a line or losing their balance, they pick up their stone on the way back and pass it to the next player.
3. The game continues with players tossing their stones to the next number and praying about the corresponding focus. The goal is to complete prayers for all the focuses up to number 10. If a player misses their throw or steps on a line, they pass the stone to the next player and try again from where they left off on their next turn.

This game combines physical activity with prayer, helping children understand that God hears, understands, and answers our prayers, just like Romans 8:28 says.

Craft Activity: Prayer Connection Beads

You'll Need:

- A variety of colorful beads
- Elastic string
- Scissors
- Small paper tags
- Markers or pens

Get Ready: Cut the elastic string into pieces about 12 inches long, one for each child.

Do this:

1. Start by explaining Romans 8:28 to the children: 'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.' Discuss how this means God hears, understands, and answers our prayers, even if it's not always the way we expect.
2. Give each child a piece of elastic string and let them choose their beads. Explain that each bead will represent a prayer or a thank you to God. They can use the markers to write their prayers or thanks on the small paper tags.
3. Have them thread the beads and their prayer/thank you tags onto the string, creating their own Prayer Connection Beads. Once they are done, help them tie the ends together, making a bracelet or necklace. Finish by reminding them that every time they wear or see their Prayer Connection Beads, they can remember that God is always listening to their prayers.

Prayer Activity: God's Listening Ears

You'll Need:

- A large poster board
- Markers or crayons
- Sticky notes

Get Ready: Write 'God Hears Our Prayers' at the top of the poster board and draw two big ears on either side of the title.

Do this:

1. Read Romans 8:28 aloud together and discuss what it means that God works all things together for good for those who love Him. Explain that this includes listening to our prayers.
2. Invite each child to think of a prayer or wish they have for themselves or someone else. Have them draw or write it on a sticky note.
3. Let each child come up and stick their prayer on the poster board between the big ears, showing that God hears their prayers. Encourage them to say a short prayer aloud or silently as they place their note.