

Eternity

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: Jesus our Saviour.

Scripture: John 10:18

Memory Verse: No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. - John 10:18

The Children's Sermon

Good Friday is a very special day, and it's all about something amazing that Jesus did for us. You might wonder why it's called "Good" Friday when it's the day Jesus had to suffer and die on a cross. It seems like a sad day, doesn't it? But it's called "Good" because of the wonderful thing Jesus did for everyone in the world, including you and me.

Jesus wasn't caught by surprise or forced into doing something he didn't want to do. He told people, "No one takes my life away from me. I give it up of my own free will." (John 10:18a - GNB) That means Jesus chose to do this because he loves us so much.

This Good Friday sermon is a chance to think about Easter in a big, forever kind of way. It's not just about what happened a long, long time ago. It's about what Jesus did for you and for me. He made sure we could be with God forever. That's a huge, amazing gift!

When we talk about Good Friday, we remember how Jesus was very brave. He knew that to help us, he had to go through something very hard. But he did it anyway because he wants us to be with him forever. That's like the best gift ever!

Now, let's imagine something. Imagine you have a big, heavy backpack full of rocks. Each rock is a mistake we've made. Carrying it around would be so hard, right? Well, Jesus, on Good Friday, said, "Give me your backpack. I'll carry it for you." When he died on the cross, he took all those heavy rocks for us. That means we don't have to carry them anymore. We can feel light and happy because Jesus loves us that much.

But Good Friday is just the beginning of the story. Jesus did something even more amazing after that. But we'll save that part for Easter Sunday. For now, let's think about how kind and loving Jesus was on Good Friday.

This Good Friday sermon is a time to say thank you to Jesus. We can say, "Thank you, Jesus, for loving me so much that you would do something so hard for me." It's a good day to think about how we can show love to others, just like Jesus showed love to us.

We can also think about how to be brave like Jesus. Sometimes, we might have to do things that are hard or scary because it's the right thing to do. Jesus shows us that doing the right thing is always worth it, especially when it's about helping and loving others.

Now, let's do something special. Let's close our eyes and imagine Jesus is with us right now. He's smiling and giving us a big, warm hug. He's telling us, "I love you so much, and I'm always here for you." That's a pretty awesome feeling, isn't it?

And remember, Jesus wants us to share that love with everyone we meet. We can be kind, help others, and make sure no one feels alone or sad. That's how we can keep the spirit of Good Friday alive every day.

So, this Good Friday, let's make a promise. Let's promise to be kind, to be brave, and to love others just like Jesus loves us. And let's remember that because of what happened on Good Friday, we can be friends with God forever. That's the best news ever!

Dear God, thank you for loving us so much that you sent Jesus to be our Savior. Thank you, Jesus, for being so brave and loving us enough to take our mistakes onto yourself. Help us to remember your love and to share it with others. We love you, and we're so grateful for everything you do for us. Amen.

So, kids, that's what Good Friday is all about. It's a day to remember the big, amazing love Jesus has for us. And it's a day to think about how we can show that love to others too. Let's keep that love in our hearts, not just on Good Friday, but every day.

Bible Memory Verse

No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. -

John 10:18

You Will Need:

- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Crayons or markers
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut out simple sheep and cross shapes from the construction paper.
- Prepare a sample craft to show the children what they will be making.

Do This:

1. Talk to the children about how Jesus is like a shepherd, and we are like his sheep. He loves us so much that he chose to lay down his life for us.
2. Give each child a sheep and cross shape. Have them decorate their sheep and cross using crayons, markers, and stickers.
3. Help the children glue their sheep to the cross, symbolizing Jesus' sacrifice for us. Discuss the memory verse as they work, emphasizing that Jesus laid down his life because he loves us.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Soft toy sheep (or paper sheep cutouts)
- A small, simple cross made of cardboard
- A picture of Jesus (illustration suitable for children)

Get Ready:

- Place the cross and the picture of Jesus on one side of the room.
- Scatter the sheep around the room, not too far from the cross and picture.

Do this:

1. Gather the children and tell them they are going to help the lost sheep (toys or cutouts) find their way to Jesus, our Saviour.

2. Explain that Jesus loves us so much, He laid down His life for us, just like He said in John 10:18. He is our Good Shepherd.
3. One by one, have each child pick a sheep and walk it over to where the cross and picture of Jesus are. As they place their sheep near Jesus, remind them that Jesus keeps us safe and loves us always.
4. After all the sheep are gathered, lead the children in a simple prayer, thanking Jesus for being our Good Shepherd and Saviour.

Snack Activity: Shepherd's Staff Treats

You'll Need:

- Pretzel sticks (large)
- Marshmallows (small)
- Plastic knives or spreaders

Get Ready: Make sure the table is clean and each child has a small plate to work on.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that Jesus is our Good Shepherd, just like in John 10:18, where He talks about laying down His life for His sheep. Tell them we are going to make a snack that looks like the shepherd's staff to remind us of Jesus taking care of us.
2. Give each child a large pretzel stick. This will represent the staff that shepherds use.
3. Let each child use a plastic knife or spreader to gently push a marshmallow onto one end of the pretzel stick, making it look like a shepherd's crook. Remind them that just like the shepherd uses the staff to keep the sheep safe, Jesus keeps us safe and loves us very much.

Game Activity: Follow The Good Shepherd

You'll Need:

- A picture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd
- Soft toy sheep (one for each child)
- A simple maze made out of tape or rope on the floor

Get Ready: Place the picture of Jesus at the end of the maze. Scatter the toy sheep at the start of the maze.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that Jesus is our Good Shepherd, and we are His sheep. Just as a shepherd takes care of his sheep, Jesus takes care of us.
2. Tell the children that they are going to pretend to be little sheep trying to follow the path to find their Good Shepherd, Jesus. Each child picks a toy sheep to be their 'sheep-self'.
3. The children will take turns navigating the maze to get to Jesus, holding their sheep. Encourage them to say, 'Jesus, I'm coming!' as they go through the maze. This simple activity helps them understand the concept of Jesus guiding and taking care of us.

Craft Activity: Jesus, Our Good Shepherd

You'll Need:

- White and black construction paper
- Cotton balls
- Glue

Get Ready: Cut out a simple sheep shape from the white construction paper and a small rectangle for the sheep's head from the black paper.

Do this:

1. Give each child a white sheep shape and a black rectangle.
2. Help them glue the black rectangle to the narrower end of the sheep shape to make the sheep's head.
3. Encourage the children to spread glue all over the sheep's body and stick cotton balls onto it to make it fluffy. Explain that Jesus is our Good Shepherd, just like the shepherd takes care of his sheep, Jesus takes care of us because He loves us.

Prayer Activity: Jesus, Our Good Shepherd Prayer

You'll Need:

- A small toy sheep or a picture of a sheep
- A simple image of Jesus
- A small blanket or cloth

Get Ready: Place the image of Jesus and the toy sheep or picture of a sheep on a table covered with the small blanket or cloth to create a small prayer space.

Do this:

1. Gather the children around the prayer space and explain that Jesus is like a good shepherd who loves and takes care of his sheep. Tell them that we are like the sheep because Jesus loves and takes care of us.
2. Read a simplified version of John 10:18 to them: 'Jesus says He can give His life for His sheep and take it back again because He loves us so much.' Emphasize that Jesus did this because He is our Saviour.

3. Encourage each child to say a simple prayer, thanking Jesus for being their Good Shepherd and asking Him to always stay by their side. They can either say the prayer out loud with your help or silently in their hearts.