

Eternity

LOWER ELEMENTARY 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:

- Colored construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into large sheep and cross shapes before class.
- Set up a table with all the materials neatly arranged for easy access.

Do This:

1. Give each child a sheep and a cross shape. Explain that the sheep represents us and the cross represents Jesus, our Savior.
 2. Ask the children to decorate their sheep and cross using markers or crayons. While they work, talk to them about how Jesus laid down His life for us because He loves us.
 3. Once they are done decorating, help them glue the sheep to the cross. This will help them remember that Jesus is our good shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep.
- End the activity with a short prayer, thanking Jesus for being our Savior.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large piece of poster board or a whiteboard
- Markers or chalk
- Sheep and shepherd cutouts (can be made from paper)
- Velcro strips or tape
- A simple, child-friendly version of John 10:18 printed out

Get Ready:

1. Before class, attach Velcro strips or tape to the back of each sheep and shepherd cutout.
2. Write John 10:18 on the poster board or whiteboard, leaving space around it for the cutouts.

3. Prepare a simplified explanation of John 10:18: "Jesus tells us that He chooses to give His life for us because He loves us. No one makes Him do it; He does it because He wants to save us."

Do this:

1. Start by reading the simplified version of John 10:18 to the children. Explain that Jesus is like a shepherd, and we are like His sheep. He loves us so much that He chose to save us because He wants to keep us safe.
2. Hand out the sheep cutouts to each child and ask them to think of one thing they are thankful to Jesus for. Once they have thought of something, let them come up and stick their sheep on the board around the scripture.
3. Then, show them the shepherd cutout and place it near the sheep on the board. Explain that just like a shepherd takes care of his sheep, Jesus looks after us. He chose to give His life for us because He loves us so much, and that's what makes Him our Saviour.
4. Conclude by encouraging the children to say a simple prayer of thanks to Jesus for being their shepherd and Saviour, guiding and protecting them every day.

Snack Activity: Shepherd's Staff Pretzels

You'll Need:

- Large pretzel sticks
- White chocolate chips
- Sprinkles (optional)
- Wax paper
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Spoon

Get Ready: Lay out a piece of wax paper on a flat surface.

Do this:

1. In the microwave-safe bowl, melt the white chocolate chips. Heat for 30 seconds, stir, and repeat until fully melted. Be careful, the bowl might be hot!
2. Dip one end of the pretzel stick into the melted white chocolate to coat the top part. This white chocolate represents the purity and goodness of Jesus, our Saviour.
3. If you like, add sprinkles to the white chocolate before it hardens. The sprinkles can represent the many people Jesus loves and came to save.
4. Lay the pretzel on the wax paper to cool and harden. As it cools, talk about John 10:18, where Jesus says He has the power to lay down His life and to take it up again. This shows us that Jesus is our powerful Saviour who chose to save us because He loves us.
5. Once the chocolate has hardened, you can enjoy your Shepherd's Staff Pretzels, remembering that Jesus is our good shepherd who laid down His life for us.

Game Activity: Shepherd's Path

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- Small stones or beanbags
- Pictures of sheep and wolves

Get Ready: Draw a large hopscotch grid on the ground with the sidewalk chalk. Label each square with numbers from 1 to 10. Place pictures of sheep in some squares and wolves in others, but make sure there's always a path to hop without stepping on a wolf.

Do this:

1. Tell the children that they are the shepherds, and they need to hop through the path to save their sheep (the stones or beanbags), which are at the end of the hopscotch grid. Explain that just like Jesus is our Savior, they will be saviors for their sheep.
2. Each child takes a turn to hop through the grid, avoiding the wolves (squares with wolf pictures) to show how Jesus avoids dangers for us because He loves us. They can only hop on one foot in the squares, except where there are two squares side by side; there, they can use both feet.
3. Once they reach the end, they pick up a sheep and hop back. If they step on a wolf or fall, they have to start over, reminding them that sometimes being a savior is challenging, but Jesus never gave up on us.
4. After everyone has had a turn, gather the children and discuss John 10:18, emphasizing that Jesus laid down His life for us willingly, just as they willingly went through the path to save their sheep.

Craft Activity: Shepherd's Staff Bookmark

You'll Need:

- Popsicle sticks (large)
- Yarn (white and any other color)
- Markers
- Glue
- Scissors

Get Ready: Gather all your materials on a clean, flat surface. Cut a piece of yarn about 24 inches long.

Do this:

1. Color the Popsicle stick with markers to make it look like a wooden staff. You can use brown for a traditional look or any color you like to make it fun.
2. Take the yarn and tie one end near the top of the Popsicle stick, leaving a little loop. This loop will be used to hang your bookmark.
3. Wrap the yarn tightly around the stick, going downwards. Once you reach the bottom, change the yarn color if you wish, to make a pattern. When you're done wrapping, secure the end with glue.
4. While the glue is drying, talk about John 10:18 and how Jesus is our good shepherd who lays down His life for us, His sheep. Explain that the shepherd's staff is a symbol of Jesus taking care of us and guiding us.
5. Once the glue is dry, your Shepherd's Staff Bookmark is ready! You can use it in your Bible or any book you're reading to remind you of Jesus, our Saviour.

Prayer Activity: Jesus, Our Guiding Light

You'll Need:

- Small LED tea lights or flashlights (one per child)
- Construction paper
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready: Cut out small paper hearts from the construction paper, one for each child.

Do this:

1. Begin by reading John 10:18 to the children: 'No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.' Explain that Jesus chose to give His life for us because He loves us, making Him our greatest Saviour.

2. Give each child a small LED tea light or flashlight and a paper heart. Ask them to write their name on the heart and something they would like to pray for.
3. Turn off the lights in the room (ensure it's safe and kids are comfortable). Have the children turn on their LED lights or flashlights and place their paper heart in front of them. Lead them in a prayer, thanking Jesus for being our light and saviour, and asking Him to guide us just like the light they hold. Encourage them to say a personal prayer silently for the request written on their heart.