

# Be Diligent Like Ants

## PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

**Theme:** Diligence

**Scripture:** Proverbs 6:6-8

**Memory Verse:** Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! - Proverbs 6:6

## The Children's Sermon

Hey kids! Today, I want to tell you a story about some tiny creatures that can teach us a big lesson. Have you ever watched ants? They're so small, but they're always busy, working together, and carrying things that seem way too big for them. It's pretty amazing!

Ants are super hard workers. They don't have someone telling them what to do every minute of the day. They just know what needs to be done, and they do it. They don't wait around or waste time. And you know what? We can learn a lot from these little ants.

In the Bible, there's a story that talks about ants. It says, "Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!" That means, look at how the ant lives and learn from it. Be wise like the ant. Don't be a sluggard, which is a funny word that means someone who is lazy and doesn't want to do any work.

Ants are always preparing. They gather food and prepare bread for times when there might not be any food around. They know that to have food later, they need to work

hard now and save up. It's like when you save your allowance to buy something big later on. You have to be patient and keep adding to your savings.

Ants also teach us about teamwork. Have you ever seen ants carrying something together? They help each other out. If one ant finds a big crumb, it doesn't try to carry it all by itself. It goes and gets more ants, and together, they carry it back to their home. We can be like ants when we help our friends and family. When we work together, big tasks don't seem so big.

Now, let's talk about harvest. Harvest is when all the hard work of planting and taking care of plants pays off. But, just like ants gather food, we have to be ready to harvest at the right time. If we wait too long, the veggies might go bad. If we're too early, they might not be ready. Being wise means knowing the right time to harvest.

Remember, ants don't have someone telling them when it's time to gather food or prepare bread. They have to figure it out. And they do! They're always watching and ready. We can be like that too. We can pay attention and be ready for when it's time to do something important, like finishing our homework or helping out at home.

Sometimes, we might feel like being lazy, like the sluggard in the story. We might not want to do our chores or homework. But think about the ants. Even though they're tiny, they don't give up. They keep working and preparing. They know that being lazy won't help them when winter comes and there's no food to find.

So, what can we do to be more like ants? First, we can start by doing our tasks without being asked all the time. Maybe it's cleaning our room, doing our homework, or helping set the table for dinner. We can be wise and know that these tasks are important.

We can also help others. Just like ants gather food together, we can work with our friends and family to get big tasks done. Maybe you and your siblings can clean up the playroom together. It'll be faster and more fun than doing it alone.

And, just like ants prepare bread and gather food for later, we can plan ahead. Maybe you can help make sandwiches for a family picnic or pack your school bag the night before. That way, you're not rushing in the morning.

Lastly, remember to be thankful for the harvest. Just like we enjoy the food that we get to eat every day, we should be thankful for all the good things we have. We can thank our parents for taking care of us, our teachers for teaching us, and our friends for being there for us.

Let's say a little prayer together: "Dear God, help us to learn from the ants. Help us to be hard workers, to be wise, and to be ready for the work we need to do. Help us to be thankful for all the good things we have. Amen."

So, kids, next time you see an ant, remember how much we can learn from them. Be wise, work hard, and always be ready, just like the ant. And most importantly, be thankful for every harvest that comes your way.

## Bible Memory Verse

**Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! -**

**Proverbs 6:6**

You Will Need:

-Colored paper

-Scissors

-Glue

-Markers

Get Ready:

-Cut the colored paper into small oval shapes to represent ants.

-Prepare a large piece of paper or a poster board as the background where the children will place their ants.

Do This:

1. Show the children the memory verse and explain what it means to be diligent like an ant.

2. Have the children decorate their ant shapes with markers to add eyes and legs.

3. Let the children glue their ants onto the large piece of paper or poster board in a line to show how ants work together and are diligent. Discuss how we can be diligent in our tasks just like the ants.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)

- Scissors (for teacher use only)

- Glue sticks

- Small plastic toy ants or ant stickers

- Markers or crayons

Get Ready:

- Cut out leaf shapes from green construction paper.
- Prepare a sample craft to show the children.

Do this:

1. Read Proverbs 6:6 to the children: "Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!" Explain that ants work hard and we can learn to be diligent like them.
2. Give each child a piece of construction paper and help them select a few leaf shapes and toy ants or ant stickers.
3. Encourage the children to glue the leaves onto their paper to create a scene. Then, they can add their ants to the leaves, showing how ants are diligent and work hard.
4. While they work, talk to them about the importance of being diligent in their tasks, like cleaning up toys, helping their parents, and listening in class.
5. Once everyone is done, allow the children to share their artwork and discuss what they learned about diligence from the ants.

## Snack Activity: Ants on a Log: The Diligent Ants

You'll Need:

- Celery sticks
- Peanut butter (or any child-safe, allergy-friendly spread)
- Raisins

Get Ready: Wash the celery sticks and dry them thoroughly.

Do this:

1. Spread peanut butter on the celery stick using a child-safe knife or spreader. This represents the log.

2. Carefully place raisins in a row on top of the peanut butter. These are the 'ants' being diligent and working hard.
3. Discuss Proverbs 6:6 and how the ants work hard and are diligent, just like we should be while we enjoy our snack.

## Game Activity: Ants at Work

You'll Need:

- A large open space (indoor or outdoor)
- Several small bean bags or soft toys
- Masking tape or chalk

Get Ready: Use the masking tape or chalk to draw several large 'ant hills' on the ground, spaced well apart from each other. Each ant hill should be big enough for a child to stand in. Scatter the bean bags or soft toys around the room, not too far from the ant hills.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that they are going to be like diligent ants gathering food for the winter, just like in Proverbs 6:6. Each 'ant hill' is their home, and the bean bags or soft toys are the food.
2. When you say 'Go', children should hurry to collect one 'food' item at a time and bring it back to their ant hill, placing it inside. They should then run back to collect more, continuing until all the food is gathered.
3. Emphasize the importance of working diligently and not giving up until all the food is collected. Celebrate their hard work at the end by counting how much food each ant hill has gathered.

## Craft Activity: Little Ants Hard at Work

You'll Need:

- Black and red construction paper
- Glue sticks
- Safety scissors
- Googly eyes (optional)

Get Ready: Cut the black and red construction paper into small circles for the ant's body parts. Prepare enough pieces for each child to have sets of three circles to make their ants.

Do this:

1. Show the children how to glue the circles together in a line to make the ant's body. Explain that each circle represents a part of the ant: the head, the thorax, and the abdomen.
2. Once the body is assembled, help them cut six tiny strips from the black construction paper for the ant's legs. They can glue three legs on each side of the ant's body.
3. If using googly eyes, assist them in gluing two eyes on the head of the ant. If not, they can use the safety scissors to cut tiny white circles and a black marker to dot the eyes. Explain that just like the ant works hard by being diligent and never giving up, we can also work hard in everything we do, just like Proverbs 6:6 teaches us.

## Prayer Activity: Little Ants' Prayer for Diligence

You'll Need:

- A picture of an ant

- Small pebbles or beans
- A container

Get Ready: Place the picture of an ant on a table and scatter small pebbles or beans around it.

Do this:

1. Gather the children around the table and show them the picture of the ant. Explain that ants are very hardworking and diligent, just as Proverbs 6:6 teaches us. Tell them we can learn to be diligent in our tasks and prayers too.
2. Encourage each child to pick up a pebble or bean, one at a time, and place it in the container while saying a simple prayer for diligence in their daily tasks (e.g., 'Help me to be diligent like the ant, God.').
3. After everyone has placed their pebbles or beans in the container, say a closing prayer together, thanking God for the example of the ant and asking for help to be diligent in everything we do.