

Be Diligent Like Ants

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Diligence

Scripture: Proverbs 6:6

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 work at the right time. If ants wait too long, the food might go bad. If they'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 living room 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 we 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 our own harvests. 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 to gather food and prepare bread, 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 or crayons

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into small, ant-shaped pieces. Prepare at least 4-5 ant shapes per child.
- Set up a table with the ant shapes, glue, markers or crayons, and additional paper for the background.

Do This:

1. Share the memory verse with the children and discuss what it means to be diligent like an ant. Explain how ants work hard and always are preparing for the future.
2. Ask the children to pick their ant shapes and decorate them with markers or crayons to make them unique. They can draw faces, patterns, or anything they like on their ants.
3. Once the ants are decorated, help the children glue their ants onto the background paper in a line or pattern that shows the ants working together or carrying food. Encourage them to create a scene that represents diligence and hard work.
4. After completing their ant artwork, have a short discussion about how they can be diligent in their own lives, at home, school, or in doing their chores.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large picture of an ant (or a toy ant)
- Construction paper (various colors)
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons
- "Ant Task Cards" (small cards with simple tasks written on them, e.g., "Sing your favorite song", "Draw a picture of a flower", "Help a friend with a task")

Get Ready:

- Cut out small ant shapes from the construction paper. These will be used by the children to create their own "diligent ant" craft.
- Write simple, age-appropriate tasks on the "Ant Task Cards".
- Set up a crafting area with all the materials laid out (construction paper, scissors, glue sticks, markers/crayons).

Do this:

1. Start by showing the children the large picture of the ant or the toy ant. Briefly explain how ants are hard workers and how we can learn from them to be diligent in everything we do, just like Proverbs 6:6 teaches us.
2. Hand out the construction paper ant shapes to each child. Let them use markers, crayons, and glue to decorate their ant. Encourage them to think about what makes their ant special and a hard worker.
3. Once everyone has finished their ant craft, introduce the "Ant Task Cards". Explain that each card has a special task and that by choosing a card and completing the task,

they are practicing being diligent just like the ants. Let each child pick a card and encourage them to complete the task during the class or at home.

4. Wrap up by discussing with the children how it felt to complete their tasks and how being diligent helps us in our daily lives, making sure to tie it back to the lesson from Proverbs 6:6.

Snack Activity: Ants on a Log of Diligence

You'll Need:

- Celery sticks
- Peanut butter (or any nut/seed butter for allergies)
- Raisins

Get Ready: Wash the celery sticks and dry them. Make sure you have a clean workspace with a small knife for spreading (parents should help with this part).

Do this:

1. Look at Proverbs 6:6, 'Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!' Just like ants work hard gathering food, we're going to make a snack that requires us to be diligent and careful.
2. Take a celery stick and spread peanut butter inside the 'log' with your knife. This is like the ant working hard to build its home and gather food. Remember to spread the peanut butter evenly and carefully.
3. Place raisins on top of the peanut butter, spaced out like little ants working along the log. Each raisin is an 'ant' that shows us how being diligent and working hard can lead to sweet rewards.

Through making this snack, remember that being diligent in our tasks, no matter how small, is important and wise!

Game Activity: Ants at Work: A Diligence Hopscotch

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- A small stone or beanbag
- A stopwatch (optional)

Get Ready: Use the sidewalk chalk to draw a hopscotch grid on the ground. Instead of numbers, label each square with a task an ant might do (e.g., 'Gather Food', 'Build Home', 'Care for Young', 'Defend Colony').

Do this:

1. Explain Proverbs 6:6, 'Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise.'

Discuss how ants are diligent and work hard without being told.

2. Players take turns tossing the stone or beanbag to land in one of the squares. Before they can hop through the grid to retrieve it, they must say one way they can be diligent in their daily life that relates to the task on the square where the stone landed.

3. If using a stopwatch, time each player to see who completes the hopscotch the fastest after saying how they can be diligent. Emphasize that the goal is to think of genuine ways to be diligent, not just to finish quickly.

Craft Activity: Diligent Ants Marching Craft

You'll Need:

- Black, green, and brown construction paper

- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers or crayons
- Googly eyes (optional)

Get Ready: Cut the green construction paper into leaf shapes, and the brown paper into small strips to make branches. Cut out small ant shapes from the black paper.

Do this:

1. On a piece of green construction paper, draw a scene with branches and leaves using the brown strips and green leaf shapes. Glue them onto the paper to create a background.
2. Next, take the black ant shapes and glue them in a line marching across the branches and leaves. If you have googly eyes, you can add them to the ants to bring them to life. If not, draw eyes and a smile on each ant with markers or crayons.
3. While crafting, talk about Proverbs 6:6, 'Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!' Discuss how ants work hard and always are diligent, and how we can learn from them to be diligent in our tasks and responsibilities.

Prayer Activity: Little Worker Bees Prayer Time

You'll Need:

- Paper
- Markers or crayons
- A picture of an ant

Get Ready: Print or draw a large picture of an ant and place it in the center of your teaching area.

Do this:

1. Read Proverbs 6:6 to the children: 'Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!' Explain that even though ants are small, they work very hard and are very diligent in gathering their food.
2. Ask the children to think about a time they worked hard on something, like cleaning their room, doing homework, or helping a friend. Have them draw a picture of this moment around the ant picture.
3. Gather the children in a circle around their drawings and lead them in a prayer. Ask God to help them be diligent like the ants in everything they do, to work hard even when they don't feel like it, and to always try their best in school, at home, and with friends.