

Be Diligent Like Ants

UPPER 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 everyone! 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 do the work we need to do 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 a 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:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready:

- Cut out small ant shapes from black construction paper.
- Prepare an 'Ant Path' on a large piece of construction paper by drawing a winding path with markers or crayons.

Do This:

1. Have each child write the memory verse on the 'Ant Path' using markers or crayons.
2. Ask the children to glue the ant shapes along the path as if the ants are following the verse.
3. Discuss how ants work hard and are wise in their actions, and how we can learn from them to not be lazy but wise in our choices and actions.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A copy of Proverbs 6:6 for each child
- Large poster board and markers

- Small toy ants or ant stickers
- Construction paper and scissors
- Glue sticks
- A stopwatch or timer

Get Ready:

- Write Proverbs 6:6 on the poster board in large letters and decorate it with drawings of ants.
- Cut out small ant shapes from the construction paper.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Proverbs 6:6 together: "Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!"
2. Discuss what diligence means and how ants show diligence by working hard and preparing for the future. Ask the children to share examples of how they can be diligent in their own lives.
3. Hand out the toy ants or ant stickers and the construction paper ant shapes. Have each child write one way they plan to be diligent on an ant shape.
4. Set up an "Ant Hill Challenge" course in your classroom or outside area. Include tasks like stacking blocks to represent gathering food, crawling under or over obstacles to simulate an ant's journey, and a puzzle to represent problem-solving. Use the stopwatch to time each child as they complete the course, encouraging diligence and perseverance.
5. After the challenge, have the children place their ant shapes around the Proverbs 6:6 poster board as a commitment to being diligent. Discuss how being diligent in small things can lead to great accomplishments, just like the ant.

Snack Activity: Ants on a Log: The Proverbs 6:6

Edition

You'll Need:

- Celery sticks
- Peanut butter (or any nut/seed butter for allergies)
- Raisins
- Small plastic knives
- Plates

Get Ready: Wash the celery and dry it. Lay out the plates, plastic knives, and ingredients on a clean table.

Do this:

1. Read Proverbs 6:6 together: 'Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!' Discuss the importance of diligence and hard work, and how even small creatures like ants show us the value of working diligently.
2. Give each child a celery stick. Have them carefully spread peanut butter on their celery stick using the plastic knife. This step requires focus and diligence to not make a mess and to spread the peanut butter evenly.
3. Place raisins on top of the peanut butter, spaced out like ants walking in a line. This represents the ants' hard work and diligence. Each child can count their 'ants' and place them thoughtfully, practicing patience and careful planning.
4. Once everyone has made their Ants on a Log, discuss how the process of making this snack required diligence and attention to detail, just like the ants in Proverbs 6:6. End with enjoying the snack together, reflecting on how diligence can lead to sweet rewards.

Game Activity: Ants at Work: A Proverbs Path

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- Small stones or beanbags
- A timer

Get Ready: Draw a large ant trail on the ground with the sidewalk chalk. The path should twist and turn and include stations with tasks written next to them (e.g., 'Do 10 jumping jacks', 'Recite Proverbs 6:6', 'Balance a beanbag on your head for 5 seconds'). Make sure the path is long enough to keep the game interesting but manageable for the age group.

Do this:

1. Divide the children into teams. Each team starts at the beginning of the ant trail. The goal is to complete the trail and the tasks at each station as quickly as possible, demonstrating diligence and teamwork.
2. One child from each team starts on the trail. When they complete a task, they run back and tag the next team member, who then continues from where the first child left off.
3. The team that finishes the ant trail first, having completed all tasks diligently, wins. Emphasize the importance of hard work and diligence, as taught in Proverbs 6:6, throughout the game.

Craft Activity: The Diligent Ant Craft

You'll Need:

- Black, brown, and green construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers or crayons
- Googly eyes (optional)

Get Ready: Read Proverbs 6:6 together and discuss what it means to be diligent and hardworking like an ant. Prepare a small workspace for each child with all the materials needed.

Do this:

1. Cut out an ant body shape from the black construction paper. Ants have three main body parts: the head, thorax, and abdomen. Make sure to include six legs and two antennae.
2. Use the brown construction paper to cut out small pieces that will represent the food the ant gathers. These can be leaves, crumbs, or anything the children imagine.
3. On the green construction paper, draw and cut out a leaf large enough to serve as the background for the ant and its food. This represents the ant's environment.
4. Glue the ant and the food pieces onto the green leaf. Use the markers or crayons to add details or messages about diligence and hard work. If you have googly eyes, glue them onto the ant's head for a fun effect.
5. Share each creation with the class, and let the children explain how their craft reminds them to be diligent and hardworking in their own lives, just like the ant.

Prayer Activity: The Diligent Ant Prayer Quest

You'll Need:

- A Bible or Bible app

- Paper and pencils
- Small toy ants or ant stickers

Get Ready: Prepare a small obstacle course in your classroom or outdoor area, using chairs, tables, or cones. Place the toy ants or ant stickers at various points along the course.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Proverbs 6:6 together: 'Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!'
2. Explain that just like ants work hard and are diligent, God wants us to be diligent in our lives and prayers. Discuss what diligence means and how they can be diligent in school, home, and their spiritual life.
3. Give each child a piece of paper and a pencil. Ask them to write a short prayer asking God to help them be more diligent in a specific area of their life.
4. Once they've written their prayers, have the children go through the obstacle course to find the ants. At each ant they find, they should stop and say their prayer silently or aloud.
5. After completing the course and finding all the ants, gather the children and encourage them to share how they felt during the activity and how they can apply diligence in their daily lives.