

The Good And Perfect Gift

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: Every day we are blessed with gifts from God the Heavenly Father.

Scripture: James 1:17-18

Memory Verse: Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights. - James 1:17

The Children's Sermon

Let's gather around, kids! Today, we're going to talk about something really special. It's about the best gifts from God. Now, when we think of gifts, we might think of birthdays or Christmas, right? But today, we're going to talk about a gift that's even better than the biggest box under the Christmas tree. This gift is Jesus!

Jesus is a gift from God to all of us. He came to our world to teach us how to love and to be kind to one another. He showed us how to be good friends, how to share, and how to forgive people when they make mistakes. Because, let's be honest, we all make mistakes sometimes, don't we? But Jesus teaches us that it's okay, and we can always try again. That's another one of the gifts from God - forgiveness and new beginnings.

Every morning when we wake up, it's like God is giving us a brand new day. It's a fresh start, a do-over. Did you maybe have a bad day yesterday? Well, guess what? Today is a new day, and you can make it better! That's a wonderful gift from God. It's like when you're drawing, and you mess up a little. You can flip the page and start a new drawing. Every day is a new page in our life's book.

Now, let's talk about how we can show that we're thankful for these gifts from God. One way is by being kind to others. When you see someone who needs help, you can be there for them. Maybe a friend is sad, and you can cheer them up. Or maybe someone dropped their books, and you can help pick them up. These little acts of kindness are ways we say "thank you" to God for His gifts.

Another way to show we're thankful for the gifts from God is by taking care of the world around us. God made this beautiful world, with its mountains, rivers, animals, and plants. We can take care of it by not littering, by recycling, and by being kind to animals. When we take care of the world, we're taking care of one of God's gifts.

Now, let's not forget about the gift of family and friends. God puts people in our lives to love us, help us, and teach us. Our parents, brothers, sisters, friends, and teachers are all gifts from God. We can show we're thankful for them by telling them we love them, by listening to them, and by helping them when they need it.

Sometimes, we might get gifts that we can't see or touch, like courage or patience. Maybe you're scared to try something new, like riding a bike without training wheels. But then, you find the courage to try, and before you know it, you're zooming around! That courage is a gift from God. Or maybe you're waiting for your turn to play a game, and you're really, really excited. But you wait patiently, and that patience is also a gift from God.

Every good thing in our lives is a gift from God. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control - these are all amazing gifts from God. And the best part? We can share these gifts with others! When we're kind, patient, and loving, we're sharing God's gifts.

So, let's pray and thank God for all these wonderful gifts. Let's ask Him to help us be more like Jesus, to be thankful for each new day, and to remember that every day is a chance for a "do-over." Let's pray to show others that Jesus lives through us by the way we act and the things we do.

Dear God, thank you for the special gift of Jesus. Help us to be more like him and to be thankful for each new day. Help us remember that each day is a chance for a "do-over", a way to correct what we did wrong, and a way to show others that Jesus lives through us. Amen.

Bible Memory Verse

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights. - James 1:17

You Will Need:

- Construction paper
- Crayons or markers
- Stickers of stars or glitter

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into large star shapes.
- Write the memory verse on each star with a marker.

Do This:

1. Give each child a star-shaped piece of construction paper with the memory verse written on it.

2. Ask the children to decorate their stars with crayons, markers, and stickers to make them bright and beautiful, just like the heavenly lights.
3. Once they are done, gather the children in a circle and let them show their stars. Talk about how every good thing we have is a gift from God, just like the beautiful stars they've created.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large box
- Gift wrapping paper
- Small toys or treats (ensure they are age-appropriate and safe for small children)
- Simple pictures of the sun, food, friends, and family

Get Ready:

1. Wrap the box with the gift wrapping paper and place the small toys or treats inside.
2. Cut out the pictures of the sun, food, friends, and family, and place them around your story area.

Do this:

1. Gather the children and explain that every good gift comes from God, like the sun that shines, the food we eat, our friends, and our families.
2. Show the children the pictures one by one, discussing briefly how each is a gift from God (e.g., "The sun gives us light and keeps us warm," "We have food to keep us strong and healthy," "Friends and family love us and play with us").
3. Tell the children that God also gives us special surprises and blessings every day. Then, bring out the wrapped box. Let each child take turns opening the box to find a small toy or treat inside, reinforcing the idea that God loves to give us good gifts.

Snack Activity: Heavenly Fruit Basket

You'll Need:

- A variety of fruits (e.g., bananas, grapes, apples, oranges)
- Small paper plates
- Plastic knives (for teacher use only)

Get Ready: Wash all the fruits thoroughly and place them on a table.

Do this:

1. Start by telling the children that just like these fruits, every day we receive beautiful gifts from God, our Heavenly Father. Each fruit in our basket represents a different gift like love, joy, peace, and kindness.
2. Allow each child to pick one fruit from the basket. As they make their choice, mention a gift that this fruit could represent (e.g., bananas for joy, grapes for kindness).
3. With the help of the teacher, cut the fruits into small, manageable pieces for the children. As you do, talk about how sharing these gifts with others makes them even more special, just like sharing our fruit makes snack time more fun. Place the fruit pieces on paper plates to serve as a snack for the children to enjoy together.

Game Activity: Heavenly Gifts Hop

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- A small beanbag or pebble
- An open space (preferably a driveway or a sidewalk)

Get Ready: Draw a large hopscotch grid on the ground with the sidewalk chalk. Instead of numbers in each square, write simple 'gifts' we receive from God, such as 'sun', 'family', 'food', 'friends', 'water', 'love', 'joy', and 'peace'.

Do this:

1. Have the children line up behind the start of the hopscotch grid. Explain that each square represents a gift from God, just like in James 1:17-18, reminding us that every good gift comes from Him.
2. The first child tosses the beanbag or pebble aiming to land it in one of the squares. They then hop over the square where the beanbag landed, thanking God for that specific gift as they go. For example, if the beanbag lands on 'sun', they skip that square and say, 'Thank you, God, for the sun' as they hop.
3. Once the child reaches the end, they turn around and hop back, picking up the beanbag on their way back. Then, it's the next child's turn. The game continues, allowing each child multiple turns to learn and express gratitude for the various gifts from God.

Craft Activity: Heavenly Gifts Sun Catcher

You'll Need:

- Tissue paper (various colors)
- Clear contact paper
- Paper plate
- Scissors
- String

Get Ready: Cut the center out of the paper plate to create a frame. Cut the tissue paper into small squares.

Do this:

1. Cut two pieces of clear contact paper that are slightly larger than the paper plate frame. Peel the backing off one piece and place it sticky side up on the table.
2. Let the children place the tissue paper squares onto the sticky contact paper, creating a colorful design. Explain that each piece of tissue paper represents the different gifts God gives us every day.
3. Once the design is complete, peel the backing off the second piece of contact paper and place it sticky side down on top of the tissue paper, sealing the design inside. Trim any excess contact paper around the edges.
4. Tape or glue the paper plate frame over the contact paper to create a 'window'. Punch a hole at the top and thread a string through it for hanging. As you hang the sun catcher, remind the children that just like the sun shines through their craft, God's gifts shine in our lives every day.

Prayer Activity: Heavenly Father's Gifts Prayer

You'll Need:

- Colorful paper
- Crayons or markers
- Stickers of stars, animals, or nature

Get Ready: Cut the colorful paper into small, hand-sized shapes like hearts or stars.

Do this:

1. Begin by explaining to the children that every good thing we have comes from God, just like the sun, animals, and even our families. Use simple examples like the warmth of the sun or the love of a parent.
2. Give each child a piece of the cut-out paper and some crayons or markers. Ask them to think of one thing they are thankful for that God has given them. It could be their pet, their family, or even their favorite toy.
3. After they have drawn or written (with help, if needed) their gift from God on the paper, gather the children in a circle. One by one, let them show their paper and say a simple prayer of thanks, such as 'Thank you, God, for [what they are thankful for]. Amen.' Encourage the children to say 'Amen' together after each prayer.
4. Conclude by placing all the papers in the center of the circle, and say a final prayer thanking God for all the wonderful gifts He gives us every day, reminding the children that every good gift is from our Heavenly Father.