

The Good And Perfect Gift

LOWER ELEMENTARY 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:

- Colored construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into cloud shapes and gift box shapes ahead of time.
- Set up a table with all the materials spread out for easy access.

Do This:

1. Ask each child to pick a cloud and a gift box shape.
2. Have them write the memory verse on the cloud with markers or crayons.
3. Encourage them to think of a gift God has given them (it could be a talent, a family member, nature, etc.) and draw or write it on the gift box shape. They can decorate their gift box with stickers or drawings.
4. Finally, have them glue the gift box shape under the cloud to remind them that every good gift comes from God above.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Small gift boxes (1 per child)
- Various small items to put inside the boxes (stickers, erasers, small toys, etc.)
- Wrapping paper
- Ribbons
- Bibles or printed copies of James 1:17-18
- Construction paper
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready:

1. Before the class, wrap the small items in the gift boxes and tie them with ribbons.
2. Cut the construction paper into small cards.
3. Write James 1:17-18 on a large poster or whiteboard where all the children can see.

Do this:

1. Begin by reading James 1:17-18 aloud to the class. Explain that every good gift comes from God, our Heavenly Father, who loves us.

2. Give each child a wrapped gift box. Let them open their gifts and share what they received with the class. Highlight how each gift, no matter how small, is a blessing.
3. Ask the children to think of other gifts (not physical ones) they receive from God every day (e.g., love, family, nature, etc.).
4. Hand out construction paper cards and markers/crayons. Ask each child to draw or write about one gift from God they are thankful for.
5. Gather the children in a circle and have them share their cards, discussing how God blesses us every day with many gifts.
6. Close with a short prayer, thanking God for His endless gifts and asking for help to recognize and appreciate them every day.

Snack Activity: Heavenly Gift Fruit Parfaits

You'll Need:

- Various fruits (grapes, strawberries, blueberries, bananas)
- Vanilla yogurt
- Granola
- Clear cups
- Spoons

Get Ready: Wash all the fruits and cut them into bite-sized pieces. Gather all your materials on a clean table.

Do this:

1. Start by explaining that just like our fruit parfait has different layers, God gives us different gifts every day. Read James 1:17-18 together and talk about the good gifts we receive from God.

2. Begin layering your parfait. Start with a spoonful of yogurt at the bottom of your clear cup. This represents the foundation of love God gives us.
3. Add a layer of fruit, choosing your favorites. Each fruit represents a different gift from God, like family, friends, nature, and love. Discuss the gifts you see in your life as you add each fruit.
4. Sprinkle a layer of granola on top to represent the strength and support God gives us to face our day.
5. Repeat the layers until the cup is full, finishing with a layer of granola. As you enjoy your parfait, remember each bite is a reminder of God's endless gifts to us.

Game Activity: Heavenly Gifts Hopscotch

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- Small stones or bean bags
- A list of daily blessings (e.g., sunshine, friends, family, food, love)

Get Ready: Draw a hopscotch grid on the sidewalk or any safe outdoor area. Instead of numbers in each square, write simple blessings from the list (one per square).

Do this:

1. Each player chooses a stone or bean bag as their marker. The first player throws their marker onto the first square. If the marker lands fully within the designated square without touching the borders, the player proceeds.
2. The player hops through the grid, skipping the square with their marker in it. While hopping, the player mentions why they are thankful for the blessing written in each square they land on.

3. After reaching the end, the player turns around and hops back, picking up their marker on the way back. Then, it's the next player's turn. If a player steps on a line, misses a square, or loses balance, their turn ends.

The game continues, allowing each child to reflect on the blessings in their life, emphasizing that every good gift comes from God, as mentioned in James 1:17-18.

Craft Activity: Heavenly Gifts Treasure Box

You'll Need:

- A small cardboard or wooden box (like a jewelry box)
- Paints and brushes
- Glitter, stickers, and any other decorations
- Small note cards or pieces of paper
- A Bible or printed verse of James 1:17-18

Get Ready: Read James 1:17-18 together and talk about the good gifts we receive from God. Discuss how every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father.

Do this:

1. Paint your box in your favorite colors. While the paint is drying, talk about the different gifts God gives us every day, like love, family, friends, and nature.
2. Once the paint is dry, decorate your box with glitter, stickers, or drawings that remind you of God's gifts. You can draw hearts for love, trees for nature, or smiley faces for friends and family.

3. Write or draw on the small note cards about the gifts you're thankful for each day. Fold them and put them inside your treasure box. Every now and then, open your box to remember the blessings from God, our Heavenly Father.

Prayer Activity: Heavenly Gifts Scavenger Hunt

You'll Need:

- Small gift boxes or envelopes
- Pens or pencils
- Paper slips

Get Ready: Write down simple, everyday blessings on paper slips (e.g., sunshine, family, food, friends, pets) and place each slip into a gift box or envelope. Hide them around your classroom or designated area before the children arrive.

Do this:

1. Start by reading James 1:17-18 together and explain that every good gift comes from God, our Heavenly Father. Discuss what gifts they think God gives them every day.
2. Tell the children they are going on a scavenger hunt to find some of these gifts. Explain the rules: no running and each child can find only one box or envelope to ensure everyone gets a turn.
3. Once all the gifts are found, gather the children and let them open their boxes or envelopes one at a time. As each child shares their found blessing, lead the group in saying a short prayer of thanks for that specific gift. Example: 'Thank You, God, for our families and the love we share.'