

The Good And Perfect Gift

UPPER 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, who does not change like shifting shadows. - 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, who does not change like shifting shadows. - James 1:17

You Will Need:

- Construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Glue
- Stickers or glitter (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into cloud and sun shapes beforehand.
- Set up a table with all the materials spread out for easy access.

Do This:

1. Have each child choose a cloud and a sun shape. Explain that the cloud represents God's unchanging nature and the sun represents the good and perfect gifts He gives us.
2. Ask the children to write the memory verse on the sun shape using markers or crayons. They can decorate their sun with stickers or glitter to make it shine.
3. Instruct the children to glue the sun shape to the bottom of the cloud shape, creating a visual representation that every good and perfect gift (the sun) comes from above (the cloud), symbolizing God (the Father of the heavenly lights). This craft will help them remember that God's good gifts are unchanging, just like Him.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Small gift boxes or envelopes
- Paper and pens
- Bible or printed copies of James 1:17-18
- Decorative materials (stickers, markers, glitter, etc.)

Get Ready:

- Prepare a small gift box or envelope for each child.
- Write or print James 1:17-18 on a piece of paper and place it inside each box or envelope.
- Set up a crafting station with decorative materials.

Do this:

1. Begin with a group discussion about gifts they've received and how those made them feel. Transition to explaining that God gives us gifts every day, not just physical ones but also spiritual gifts, talents, and the beauty of nature.
2. Hand out the gift boxes or envelopes to each child and have them open them to find the verse from James 1:17-18. Read the verse together as a group, and discuss the kinds of good and perfect gifts God gives us.
3. Encourage the children to think of a gift they've received from God recently (it could be a talent, a friend, a beautiful day, etc.). Have them write or draw this gift on a piece of paper. Then, using the decorative materials, allow them to decorate their gift box or envelope as a way of saying "thank you" to God for His gifts.
4. Conclude with a prayer, thanking God for His unchanging nature and the good gifts He gives us. Encourage the children to place their decorated box or envelope somewhere they'll see it daily as a reminder of God's gifts.

Snack Activity: Heavenly Gifts Fruit Parfaits

You'll Need:

- Various fruits (strawberries, blueberries, bananas, etc.)
- Vanilla yogurt
- Granola
- Clear plastic cups
- Plastic knives
- Cutting boards

Get Ready: Wash all fruits and set up a clean workstation with cutting boards and plastic knives for each child.

Do this:

1. Discuss James 1:17-18, emphasizing how every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father. Relate this to the variety of fruits we have, each a gift to us.
2. Allow each child to select their preferred fruits and carefully cut them into small pieces on their cutting boards.
3. Layer the fruits, yogurt, and granola in the clear cups to create a parfait. As they layer, encourage them to think of different blessings they've received and to say a small prayer of thanks for each one.
4. Once everyone has finished, come together to share what each person is thankful for and enjoy the parfaits as a reminder of God's good gifts to us.

Game Activity: Heavenly Gifts Hopscotch

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- A small stone or beanbag
- Printed verses from James 1:17-18

Get Ready: Use the sidewalk chalk to draw a traditional hopscotch grid on the pavement. Number each square from 1 to 10. Write one word from James 1:17-18 in each square in order, so that hopping through the squares in sequence will help the children memorize the verse.

Do this:

1. Have each child take turns tossing the stone or beanbag onto square one. If they miss, they wait until their next turn. If they land on the square, they must recite James 1:17 up to the word that corresponds with the square they landed on.

2. The child then hops through the squares, skipping the one with their stone or beanbag, while reciting James 1:17-18 as far as they can. If they make it through without stepping on a line or losing balance, they pick up their marker on the way back and pass the stone to the next player.
3. The game continues with each child attempting to complete the hopscotch while reciting the verses. The aim is to memorize James 1:17-18 by the end of the game, understanding that every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Craft Activity: Heavenly Gifts Lantern

You'll Need:

- Mason jar or any clear jar
- Tissue paper (various colors)
- Mod Podge or white glue
- Paintbrush
- LED tea light
- Permanent markers
- Scissors
- Printed verse James 1:17-18

Get Ready: Cut the tissue paper into small squares or shapes. Print out James 1:17-18 on a piece of paper, making sure it's small enough to fit on your jar.

Do this:

1. Use the paintbrush to apply a thin layer of Mod Podge or white glue on the outside of the jar. Stick the tissue paper pieces onto the jar, overlapping them slightly to create a

stained glass effect. Cover the entire jar and then apply another layer of Mod Podge or glue over the tissue paper to seal it.

2. Once the jar is dry, use permanent markers to write 'Every good and perfect gift is from above' around the top or bottom of the jar. You can also decorate with stars, hearts, or other symbols of God's gifts.

3. Cut out the printed verse James 1:17-18 and glue it inside the jar so it can be seen through the glass. Place an LED tea light inside the jar to illuminate it. This lantern will serve as a reminder that every good gift comes from our Heavenly Father.

Prayer Activity: Heavenly Gifts Scavenger Hunt

You'll Need:

- A Bible or printed copies of James 1:17-18
- Small gift boxes or envelopes
- Pens and small pieces of paper

Get Ready: Prepare by hiding small gift boxes or envelopes around your classroom or designated area. Each box or envelope should contain a piece of paper with a word or phrase related to the gifts God gives us (e.g., love, family, nature, forgiveness). Ensure you have a Bible verse (James 1:17-18) printed or available in Bibles for each child.

Do this:

1. Start by gathering the children and reading James 1:17-18 together. Discuss what it means to receive 'every good and perfect gift' from God and how God chose to give us birth through the word of truth.
2. Explain the rules of the Heavenly Gifts Scavenger Hunt. Each child (or team of children if you prefer) will search for the hidden gift boxes or envelopes. Once found, they should gather back together.

3. After all the gifts are found, have each child or team share what their gift word or phrase is and discuss how these are gifts from God in our lives. Conclude by encouraging the children to write a short prayer on the back of their paper, thanking God for these gifts and asking for help to recognize and cherish them every day.