

# What's Mine Is Yours

## LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

**Theme:** Meeting needs by sharing what we have with one another.

**Scripture:** Acts 4:32

**Memory Verse:** Acts 4:32 - 'All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.'

## The Children's Sermon

Christian stewardship is a big word, isn't it? But it's not too hard to understand. It means taking good care of everything God has given us and using it to help others. It's like if you have a toy that someone else would love to play with, you share it. Or if you have extra snacks and you see someone without, you offer some to them. That's being a good steward.

God loves it when we share and take care of His gifts. He doesn't just give us things for ourselves. He gives us things so we can share them. Imagine if everyone shared what they had. The world would be a happier place, right? That's what Christian stewardship is all about. Making the world happier by sharing what we have.

Now, you might wonder, "How can I practice Christian stewardship?" It's simple! Start by looking around you. Do you have toys, clothes, or books you don't use anymore? Maybe there's someone who would be really happy to have them. You can give those things away instead of keeping them in a box.

Christian stewardship also means taking care of the planet. God made the beautiful world around us, and He wants us to take care of it. That means not littering, recycling when we can, and being kind to animals. Every little bit helps. When we take care of the earth, we are showing God that we are thankful for His creation.

Another part of Christian stewardship is helping people. There are many ways to help. You can be kind to someone who is sad. You can help your parents at home without being asked. You can even join in activities that help people in need, like food drives or cleaning up a park. When you help others, you are showing God's love.

Remember, Christian stewardship isn't just for grown-ups. Kids can be great stewards too! Even small acts of kindness and sharing can make a big difference. It's about doing what you can, with what you have, where you are. God sees every good thing you do, and He is happy when you use His gifts to help others.

Let's talk about time. Time is also a gift from God. We can use our time to practice Christian stewardship too. Spending time with someone who is lonely, reading a book to a younger sibling, or helping out at home are all ways to use your time wisely. God loves it when we use our time to do good things and help others.

Money is something else we can use to practice Christian stewardship. If you get an allowance or money as a gift, you can save some to give to people who need it more than we do. There are many organizations and churches that help people in need. Giving even a little bit of your money can help a lot.

Practicing Christian stewardship is a way to say thank you to God for all the blessings He gives us. It's like a big, beautiful circle. God gives to us, we share with others, and

then God blesses us even more for sharing. And the best part? We make the world a better place, filled with love and kindness.

So, let's remember to be good stewards of everything God gives us. Let's share our things, take care of the planet, help people, use our time wisely, and give from our money. That's how we show God's love to the world. And that's what Christian stewardship is all about.

Isn't it wonderful to think about how we can make a difference? Every one of us, no matter how small, can practice Christian stewardship. Let's start today! What is one thing you can do to be a good steward? Keep that in mind as you go through your week. Remember, every little act of kindness and sharing makes the world a brighter place.

Prayer: Dear God, help us to remember to be good stewards of everything you give us. Show us ways to share, help, and love others just like Jesus did. Thank you for all our blessings. Amen.

## Bible Memory Verse

**Acts 4:32 - 'All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.'**

You Will Need:

- Colored paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Glue

-Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into heart shapes, one for each child.
- Write 'Acts 4:32' on each heart with a marker or crayon.

Do This:

1. Give each child a heart-shaped paper and markers or crayons. Explain that the heart represents 'one in heart and mind' from our memory verse.
2. Ask the children to draw or write things they can share with others on their heart. This could be toys, time, love, or help.
3. Once they are done, let them use glue and stickers to decorate their hearts. Then, create a 'Sharing Wall' where all the hearts are displayed together. Explain that just like the believers in Acts 4:32, we can share what we have with others to meet their needs.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A big jar of cookies (enough for each child to have at least two)
- Blanket or large cloth
- Basket
- Paper hearts (one for each child)

Get Ready:

- Place the jar of cookies on a table at the front of the room.
- Spread the blanket on the floor in the center of the room.
- Put the basket on the blanket and place the paper hearts inside it.

Do this:

1. Gather the children around the blanket and explain that the jar of cookies represents what we have, and the basket will help us share with others. Read Acts 4:32, emphasizing how the early believers shared everything they had.
2. Invite each child to come up, take two cookies from the jar, and return to the blanket. Explain that one cookie is for them to enjoy, symbolizing God's blessings to us. The second cookie is to share, representing how we can meet others' needs by sharing what we have.
3. After everyone has their cookies, ask them to pick a paper heart from the basket and think of someone they can share their second cookie with. It could be another child in the room, a sibling, or a friend. Encourage them to explain why they chose that person.
4. Conclude by reminding them that sharing, like in Acts 4:32, makes us all happier and brings us closer together, just like the early church. Enjoy the cookies together as a symbol of shared joy and community.

## Snack Activity: Sharing Loaves and Fishes

You'll Need:

- Bread (preferably in the form of small rolls or buns)
- Fish-shaped crackers
- Plates
- Napkins

Get Ready: Prepare a large table or space where the children can gather around. Place the bread and fish-shaped crackers in separate bowls.

Do this:

1. Read Acts 4:32 to the children, emphasizing how the early Christians shared everything they had with each other.
2. Explain that today, they will be sharing 'loaves' (bread rolls) and 'fishes' (fish-shaped crackers) with one another, just like the early Christians shared what they had.
3. Give each child a plate. Let them start with one bread roll and a few fish-shaped crackers. Once everyone has their initial share, encourage them to share amongst themselves, giving some of their 'loaves and fishes' to those who may want more. This activity helps them understand the joy and importance of sharing with others.

## Game Activity: Sharing Stones

You'll Need:

- A bag of colorful stones (or any small items)
- A large empty bowl
- Music player for musical chairs kind of setup

Get Ready: Place the bowl in the center of a large circle formed by the children.

Distribute an equal number of stones to each child. They should hold these stones.

Do this:

1. Play music and have the children walk around the bowl in a circle. When the music stops, each child must place one stone into the bowl.
2. Start the music again and continue the process. Each time the music stops, remind the children that by putting their stones in the bowl, they are sharing what they have, just like the early believers in Acts 4:32.
3. Once all the stones are in the bowl, discuss how the bowl is now full because everyone shared. Highlight how our communities can flourish when we meet each other's needs by sharing.

## Craft Activity: Sharing Hearts

You'll Need:

- Construction paper in various colors
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Glue sticks

Get Ready: Cut the construction paper into heart shapes, one for each child, plus extras.

Do this:

1. Read Acts 4:32 together, focusing on how the early believers shared everything they had. Explain that sharing what we have can help meet others' needs.
2. Ask each child to think of something they can share with others (it could be a toy, time, help, or kindness) and write or draw it on a heart.
3. Have the children share their hearts by presenting them to the class, explaining what they chose to share. Then, use the glue sticks to attach all the hearts to a larger piece of construction paper, creating a 'Sharing Heart Collage' to display in your Sunday School room as a reminder to share with one another.

## Prayer Activity: Sharing Hearts Prayer

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Scissors
- Markers

Get Ready: Before the activity, cut out heart shapes from the construction paper. Make sure you have enough for each child to have one.

Do this:

1. Begin by reading Acts 4:32 to the children, explaining that the early Christians shared everything they had to meet each other's needs. Emphasize the importance of sharing and helping one another.
2. Give each child a heart-shaped piece of construction paper and markers. Ask them to think of something they can share with others (it could be a toy, time, help, or even a smile) and write or draw it on their heart.
3. After everyone has finished, gather the hearts and spread them out on a table or the floor where all the children can see. Lead a prayer, asking God to help everyone share what they have with others, just like the early Christians. Encourage the children to pick up a heart (not their own) and pray this week for the sharing idea written on it.