

# What's Mine Is Yours

## UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

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

**Scripture:** Acts 4:32

**Memory Verse:** All the believers were one in heart and mind. - Acts 4:32

## 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

### **All the believers were one in heart and mind. - Acts 4:32**

You Will Need:

- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Glue sticks

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into heart shapes, one for each child.
- Set up a table with markers, crayons, scissors, and glue sticks.

Do This:

1. Give each child a heart-shaped piece of construction paper and ask them to write 'All the believers were one in heart and mind. - Acts 4:32' on one side of the heart.
2. On the other side of the heart, have them draw or write ways they can unite with others in their community or church.
3. Once everyone is done, create a 'Unity Wall' by gluing all the hearts together on a larger poster or wall space, demonstrating how when we come together, we create something beautiful.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large poster board and markers
- Play money or fake coins
- A collection of small items (toys, school supplies, etc.)
- A "Needs Board" - a space on the wall or a large sheet of paper to post needs
- Sticky notes and pens

Get Ready:

- Write Acts 4:32 on the poster board and decorate it with markers. Place it where all students can see.
- Set up a "market" area where the small items are displayed with price tags in play money.
- Prepare the "Needs Board" by titling it and hanging it on the wall.
- Distribute an equal amount of play money to each student.

Do this:

1. **Introduction to Sharing**: Start by reading Acts 4:32 together and discuss the concept of sharing everything we have to meet others' needs. Highlight how the early Christians lived this verse in their community.
2. **Identify Needs**: Have each student think of something they need help with or could use (not necessarily material) and write it on a sticky note. Encourage them to think beyond toys or games, perhaps help with a subject in school, a chore at home, or a friend to play with. They should then stick their notes on the "Needs Board".
3. **Market Activity**: Students visit the market area. They can purchase items with their play money, but with a twist: they should buy items not for themselves, but considering what others might need or enjoy, based on the needs posted on the board.
4. **Meeting Needs**: After the market activity, each student presents what they bought and guesses who on the "Needs Board" could benefit from it. This encourages empathy and thoughtfulness.
5. **Reflection and Sharing**: In a circle, students share why they chose the items for their peers, and then distribute their purchases accordingly. Discuss how it felt to think about and act on someone else's needs instead of their own.
6. **Real-Life Application**: Challenge each student to do one act of sharing or kindness in the coming week based on the needs they heard about today. They can offer their time, share a snack, or help with a task. Encourage them to share their experiences the following week.

## Snack Activity: Sharing Loaves and Fishes

You'll Need:

- Sliced bread (whole grain for health!)
- Canned tuna or chicken (to represent the fish)
- Sliced cheese
- Cookie cutters in fish and loaf shapes
- Plates and napkins
- Toaster or oven (with adult supervision)

Get Ready: Read Acts 4:32 together and discuss what it means to share everything we have with one another. Talk about how the early Christians lived this out and how we can do the same.

Do this:

1. Use the cookie cutters to cut out fish and loaf shapes from the slices of bread. Each child should make at least two of each shape.
2. Open the cans of tuna or chicken and spread them on half of the bread shapes. Place a slice of cheese on top of the tuna/chicken and then cover with the other bread shape, creating a sandwich.
3. Toast the sandwiches in a toaster or oven until the cheese melts (make sure there's an adult to help with this part).
4. Once the sandwiches are ready, sit in a circle and have each child share one thing they are grateful for. Then, share the sandwiches among yourselves, emphasizing the act of sharing just as the early Christians shared everything they had.
5. Discuss how it felt to share and eat together, relating the experience back to Acts 4:32 and the importance of community and sharing in our lives.

## Game Activity: Sharing Stones

You'll Need:

- A bag of smooth stones (enough for each child to have one)
- Permanent markers
- A large basket or container

Get Ready: Place the basket in the center of the room and distribute the stones and markers to each child.

Do this:

1. Read Acts 4:32 together as a class, focusing on the theme of sharing everything they had. Discuss what this might look like in their lives.
2. Ask each child to think of something they can share or a way they can help others in their community. It could be a toy, time spent helping someone, or a kind gesture.
3. Have each child write or draw that thing on their stone with the markers. Once everyone is done, one by one, have them explain their stone to the group and place it in the basket.
4. After all the stones are collected, discuss how the basket of stones represents the community of believers in Acts 4:32, sharing everything they had. Conclude by praying together, asking God to help each child share generously like the early church.

## Craft Activity: Unity in Giving: Acts 4:32 Community

### Puzzle

You'll Need:

- Large poster board or cardboard
- Markers or paint
- Scissors

Get Ready: Cut the poster board or cardboard into puzzle pieces, one for each child in the class.

Do this:

1. Read Acts 4:32 together as a class, discussing how the early believers shared everything they had. Emphasize the unity and generosity among them.
2. Give each child a puzzle piece. Ask them to write or draw something they can share with others to meet needs, inspired by the scripture. This could be a talent, time, kindness, or material things.
3. Once everyone is done, work together as a class to assemble the puzzle. As each piece is connected, let the child explain what they wrote or drew.
4. When the puzzle is complete, discuss how each unique contribution is essential for building a community that reflects the unity and generosity of the early believers. Display the completed puzzle in the classroom as a reminder of their commitment to share and meet each other's needs.

## Prayer Activity: Sharing Hearts

You'll Need:

- A large poster board
- Markers or colored pencils
- Sticky notes

Get Ready: Write Acts 4:32 at the top of the poster board and draw a large heart in the center.

Do this:



1. Begin with a discussion on Acts 4:32, focusing on the early believers sharing everything they had. Ask the children how they feel when they share and when others share with them.
2. Encourage each child to think of something they can share with others (it could be a toy, time, help, or even a smile) and write it on a sticky note. Then, have them stick their notes around the heart on the poster board.
3. Lead a prayer where each child asks God to help them share what they wrote on their sticky note with someone this week. Close the prayer by asking God to make their hearts generous like the believers in Acts 4:32.