

Support Your Team!

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: Standing up for Christ

Scripture: Matthew 10

Memory Verse: Matthew 10:32 - 'Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.'

The Children's Sermon

Today, I want to talk about something really important and a bit brave. Imagine if I walked down the street holding this big cross. What do you think this big cross tells people about me? That's right, it says I'm a Christian. But why is holding a cross and showing I'm a Christian a brave thing to do? Well, just like some people might get upset if they see someone cheering for a sports team they don't like, there are people who might get upset when they see someone showing they love Jesus. This is what we call Christian persecution. It means being treated badly because you follow Jesus.

Now, you might wonder, why would anyone be mean to someone just because they love Jesus? Well, some people might believe in different things, or sometimes, they might not understand what being a Christian is all about. They might think it's strange or different, and sometimes, people get scared or angry about things that are different. That's why being open about being a Christian can sometimes be a bit scary because of Christian persecution.

But here's the thing - being a Christian is all about love, kindness, and treating others well, just like Jesus taught us. Jesus was all about helping people, being kind, and

showing love to everyone, even those who weren't always nice to him. And that's what we're called to do too, even if it's hard sometimes because of Christian persecution.

Now, imagine if every Christian decided to hide their cross, to not show their love for Jesus because they were afraid. What do you think would happen? It would be really hard for others to learn about Jesus's love, right? That's why it's so important for us to be brave, to carry our crosses, and to show the world that being a Christian is all about love.

But how can we do that, especially when we're afraid of Christian persecution? Well, we can start small. Maybe it's saying a prayer before eating, even if we're at school or somewhere public. Or maybe it's being kind to someone who is not always nice to us, showing them the love of Jesus through our actions. It's these little things that can make a big difference.

And remember, even when things get tough, Jesus is always with us. He knows what it's like to face hard times and Christian persecution. After all, he carried his cross, knowing it would lead to him being hurt because he loved us so much. So, when we carry our little crosses, whether it's actually wearing a cross necklace or just showing love like Jesus did, we're never alone. Jesus is right there with us, helping us be brave.

It's also really important to stick together. Just like being on a sports team, being part of a church means we're part of a team. And teams support each other, especially when things get tough because of Christian persecution. We can pray for each other, help each other, and remind each other that we're all loved by Jesus, no matter what.

And guess what? When we show love, even to those who might not understand us or who might be mean to us because we're Christians, we're showing them what Jesus is all about. Sometimes, our kindness and love can help change their minds and hearts. That's pretty powerful, isn't it?

So, let's be brave together. Let's carry our crosses, not be afraid of Christian persecution, and show the world the love of Jesus. It might not always be easy, but it's so, so important. And remember, Jesus is with us every step of the way, cheering us on, loving us, and helping us be brave.

In the end, being a Christian isn't just about facing tough times or Christian persecution; it's about spreading love, kindness, and hope everywhere we go, just like Jesus did. And that's the most important and bravest thing of all. Let's be brave, carry our crosses, and show the world what being a Christian is all about.

Bible Memory Verse

Matthew 10:32 - 'Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.'

You Will Need:

- Construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers with stars or hearts

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into small card sizes, one for each child.
- Write the memory verse on each card in large, clear letters.

Do This:

1. Give each child a card with the memory verse and a set of markers or crayons.

Explain that this card is special because it has words from Jesus on it.

2. Encourage the children to decorate their cards with the markers and stickers. As they work, talk to them about what it means to acknowledge Jesus before others. For example, being kind, sharing, and telling others about Jesus.

3. Once everyone is done decorating, gather the children in a circle. Ask them to hold up their cards and say the memory verse together. Explain that when we stand up for Jesus and tell others about Him, it's like showing our beautiful cards to the world.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Colorful construction paper
- Safety scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons
- Pictures of animals (like sheep, doves)

Get Ready:

- Cut out large heart shapes from the construction paper beforehand.
- Print or cut out pictures of sheep and doves.

Do this:

1. Show the children the heart shapes and explain that these represent our love for Jesus and how we should always carry Jesus in our hearts, standing up for Him.

2. Give each child a heart shape and let them choose pictures of sheep or doves to glue onto their heart. Explain that in Matthew 10, Jesus tells us to be wise like snakes and innocent like doves, which means we should be smart in our choices but always kind and gentle.
3. Encourage the children to decorate around their animals with markers or crayons, drawing things they can do to stand up for Jesus, like sharing, being kind, or helping others.

Snack Activity: Brave Sheep Snack

You'll Need:

- Round crackers
- Cream cheese or a soft cheese spread
- Raisins
- Small pretzel sticks

Get Ready: Spread a clean, child-friendly workspace with all the materials. Make sure the cream cheese is soft enough for little hands to spread.

Do this:

1. Help each child spread cream cheese on their round cracker to make the sheep's woolly coat.
2. Encourage the children to place two raisins on the cracker for the sheep's eyes, demonstrating how we keep our eyes on Jesus and stand up for Him.
3. Finally, let them stick four pretzel sticks into the cream cheese at the bottom of the cracker to represent the sheep's legs, standing firm. Explain that just like the sheep stands on its legs, we can stand up for Christ in our lives.

Game Activity: Brave Sheep Hop

You'll Need:

- Chalk or tape
- Pictures of sheep and wolves (can be simple drawings or printed images)
- A large open space (indoors or outdoors)

Get Ready: Use the chalk or tape to draw a large grid on the ground, creating a series of squares that the children can hop into. Each square should be large enough for a child to stand in. Place the pictures of sheep in most squares and a few wolf pictures scattered among them.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that they are the brave sheep following Jesus, and they need to hop from one sheep square to another to stay safe from the wolves, which represent challenges or fears.
2. Play some music and have the children start hopping from square to square. When the music stops, they should find a sheep square to stand on.
3. Talk about how, like the game, sometimes it's not easy to stand up for what's right or to follow Jesus, but it's important to be brave and keep going, just like the brave sheep in the game.

Craft Activity: Brave Sheep Stand Up for Jesus

You'll Need:

- White paper plates
- Cotton balls
- Glue

- Black construction paper
- Googly eyes (optional)
- Marker

Get Ready: Cut out sheep head and legs shapes from the black construction paper before the activity.

Do this:

1. Give each child a paper plate and spread glue generously over it.
2. Have the children stick cotton balls onto the plate until it's fully covered, creating the sheep's fluffy body.
3. Help the children glue the head and legs onto the sheep.
4. They can either stick googly eyes or draw eyes and a mouth on the sheep's head with a marker.
5. While they craft, talk to them about how we can be like brave sheep for Jesus, standing up for what is right and following Him, just like Matthew 10 teaches us.

Prayer Activity: Brave Little Lights for Jesus

You'll Need:

- A small flashlight or battery-operated candle for each child
- Simple illustrations of everyday situations where they can stand up for Jesus (e.g., sharing, being kind, praying before meals)
- A dark room (safe and supervised)

Get Ready: Prepare the illustrations of everyday situations and ensure the flashlights or candles are working. Create a dimly lit space in your classroom where the children can safely gather.

Do this:

1. Gather the children in the dimly lit space and explain that sometimes the world can be a little dark or scary, but Jesus asks us to be brave and shine His light by being kind and standing up for what's right.
2. Show the illustrations one by one, and for each situation, ask the children how they could shine their light for Jesus in that scenario (e.g., by sharing toys, helping a friend, saying kind words).
3. After discussing each situation, let the child turn on their flashlight or candle and say a simple prayer like, 'Jesus, help me to be brave and shine Your light by (the action discussed).' Encourage them to shine their lights upward as a symbol of offering their brave actions to Jesus.