

Support Your Team!

LOWER ELEMENTARY 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:

- Colored paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into heart shapes, one for each child.

-Write the memory verse on a large piece of poster board and display it where all the children can see.

Do This:

1. Give each child a heart-shaped piece of colored paper and markers or crayons.

Explain that the heart represents our love for Jesus and our courage to stand up for Him.

2. Ask the children to write the memory verse on one side of the heart and on the other side, draw or write a way they can stand up for Jesus in their own lives.

3. Have a sharing circle where each child can show their heart and share what they wrote or drew. Encourage them to talk about times they can be brave and acknowledge Jesus in front of others.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Printable "Courage Cards" with different scenarios where standing up for Christ might be needed (e.g., someone being teased for praying, choosing to do the right thing even when it's hard).
- A small box or container labeled "Courage Box."
- A "Courage Cape" made from a piece of fabric or a large towel.
- Bible verses from Matthew 10 printed out and cut into strips.

Get Ready:

- Print out the "Courage Cards" and cut them into individual cards.
- Place the Bible verse strips into the "Courage Box."
- Set the "Courage Cape" aside for the activity.

Do this:

1. Start by explaining that in Matthew 10, Jesus tells His disciples that following Him might be tough, but He will be with them. Just like the disciples, we can stand up for Jesus and show courage.
2. Pass around the "Courage Box" and have each child draw a Bible verse strip. Read it together and talk briefly about how this verse shows that God helps us be brave.
3. Next, have the children sit in a circle and place the "Courage Cards" in the middle. One by one, let each child pick a card, read the scenario (or have it read to them), and then discuss as a group how they could stand up for Christ in that situation. After discussing, the child who picked the card gets to wear the "Courage Cape" and act out what they would do based on the group's suggestions.
4. Conclude by reminding them that standing up for Christ means showing love, making good choices, and being brave because Jesus is always with us, just like He promised in Matthew 10. Encourage them to take a "Courage Card" home to remind them of what they learned.

Snack Activity: Courage Cookies

You'll Need:

- Sugar cookies (pre-baked, one for each child)
- Icing in various colors
- Sprinkles
- Small candies
- Plastic knives or spreaders
- Paper plates

Get Ready: Before class, set up a decorating station with all the materials laid out on a table. Make sure there are enough cookies and decorating supplies for each child.

Do this:

1. Start by telling the children that today they're going to learn about standing up for Christ, just like the disciples did in Matthew 10. Explain that sometimes it can be hard, but Jesus gives us the courage to speak about Him to others.
2. Give each child a sugar cookie on a paper plate. Tell them that the cookie represents themselves, and the decorations they choose will represent the courage and words they can share about Jesus.
3. Encourage the children to decorate their cookies with icing, sprinkles, and candies. As they decorate, ask them to think about ways they can stand up for Christ in their lives, like being kind to others, telling their friends about Jesus, or helping someone in need.
4. After everyone has decorated their cookies, gather the children and say a short prayer, asking God to give them courage to stand up for Christ just like the disciples. Then, enjoy the cookies together!

Game Activity: Courageous Messengers Hopscotch

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- A small stone or bean bag
- A large, open concrete area

Get Ready: Use the sidewalk chalk to draw a large hopscotch grid on the concrete area. Instead of numbers in each square, write attributes that help us stand up for Christ, such as 'Brave', 'Kind', 'Truthful', 'Loving', 'Faithful', 'Prayerful', 'Joyful', and 'Peaceful'.

Do this:

1. Each player takes a turn by tossing their stone or bean bag onto one of the hopscotch squares. Before they hop through the squares, they must say one way they can show the attribute where their stone landed this week. For example, if the stone lands on 'Kind', they might say, 'I can be kind by helping my friend with their homework.'
2. The player then hops through the squares, skipping the one their stone is on, and returns. They pick up the stone on their way back.
3. After everyone has had a turn, gather the children and discuss how standing up for Christ might sometimes be difficult, but we can always ask God to help us be brave, kind, and truthful, just like the disciples in Matthew 10. Encourage the children to practice the attribute they landed on during the week.

Craft Activity: Brave Believers Badge

You'll Need:

- Cardstock or heavy paper
- Markers or crayons
- Safety pins or yarn
- Stickers or glitter (optional)

Get Ready: Cut the cardstock into small badge or shield shapes, one for each child.

Do this:

1. Read Matthew 10:32-33 together, discussing how Jesus wants us to be brave and stand up for Him, just like how a knight stands up for what's right.
2. Have each child decorate their 'Brave Believer Badge' with markers, crayons, and stickers. Encourage them to write 'I stand up for Christ' or simply 'Brave for Jesus' on their badge.

3. If using safety pins, help the children attach the pin to the back of their badge. If using yarn, punch two holes at the top of the badge and thread the yarn through to create a necklace. This way, they can wear their badge proudly as a reminder to stand up for Christ in their daily lives.

Prayer Activity: Brave Believers Prayer Path

You'll Need:

- A roll of wide paper (like butcher paper)
- Markers or crayons
- Small stones or pebbles

Get Ready: Before class, unroll a long piece of paper on the floor to create a 'path'. Write different scenarios where standing up for Christ might be challenging for kids (e.g., 'A friend is making fun of someone.', 'Someone says believing in Jesus is silly.') along the path at various points.

Do this:

1. Gather the children around the start of the 'Brave Believers Prayer Path'. Explain that following Jesus and standing up for Him can sometimes feel like walking a special path where we need courage and love.
2. Have the children walk along the path one at a time, reading the scenarios aloud when they reach them. After reading a scenario, encourage the child to place a stone on the spot and say a short prayer asking Jesus for bravery and the right words to stand up for Him in that situation.
3. When all the children have walked the path and prayed, gather them at the end. Remind them that Jesus tells us in Matthew 10 that it's important to stand up for Him,

and He is always with us, giving us strength. Finish with a group prayer asking for courage to be brave believers who stand up for Christ every day.