

Pleasing God – Not Man

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: Seeking God's approval rather than the approval of others.

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-4

Memory Verse: We speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. - 1 Thessalonians 2:4

The Children's Sermon

A lot of people think the only way to find happiness is to get a good grade at school or a promotion at work or make lots of money. If all we do is aim to please people, we will be frustrated and disappointed. But in the Bible, it says that we should aim to please God. So that in everything we do, we should work to please God and not man. The Bible says that when we live to please God, we will have a full life ... a happy life.

Do you know that in God's eyes, you are so much more than the grade on your report card? Because of God's grace... In God's eyes, you are covered with gold stars!

Now, let's talk more about Pleasing God. Pleasing God doesn't mean we have to be perfect because nobody is perfect except God. But it means trying our best to do what God likes. It's like when you try to make a drawing for your mom or dad. You want them to be happy when they see it, right? Pleasing God is like that. We try to do things that make God happy.

One way to please God is by being kind. When you see someone sitting alone, you can go and sit with them. Or, if someone drops their books, you can help pick them up. These little acts of kindness show God that we love Him because we are loving others.

Another way to please God is by saying thank you. We can thank God for our food, our family, and our friends. When we say thank you, we show God that we see all the good things He gives us. It's like when someone gives you a present, and you say thank you. It makes them feel good. Saying thank you to God makes Him happy too.

We can also please God by listening. This means listening to our parents, teachers, and most importantly, listening to God. We listen to God by reading the Bible and praying. When we listen to what God says, we learn how to live in a way that pleases Him. It's like when you listen to your teacher's instructions and do your work well. Your teacher is happy, and you feel good too.

Pleasing God is not just for Sundays when we go to church. It's for every day. Whether we are at school, at home, or playing with friends, we can always find ways to please God. It's like having a special friend you want to make happy every day, not just on their birthday.

Sometimes, trying to please God might seem hard. We might mess up or forget. But the good thing is, God is very forgiving. When we say sorry and try again, God is pleased with our effort. It's like when you're learning to ride a bike, and you keep falling off. But you get back up and try again. Your parents are proud of you for not giving up. God feels the same way about us.

Pleasing God makes our hearts happy. It's a different kind of happiness than just getting what we want. It's a deep joy that comes from knowing we are living the way God wants us to. It's like the happiness you feel when you give someone a gift, and they really love it. Pleasing God fills us with that kind of joy.

So, remember, Pleasing God is the best way to find true happiness. It's not about being perfect or having everything we want. It's about trying our best to do what God likes, being kind, saying thank you, listening, and trying again when we mess up. And the most wonderful thing? God sees all our efforts, and He is pleased with us. Just like you are covered in gold stars in God's eyes.

Let's end with a prayer: Dear God, thank you for loving us and showing us how to live a happy life by Pleasing You. Help us to remember to be kind, to say thank you, to listen, and to try our best every day. We want to make You happy because You make us so happy. Amen.

Bible Memory Verse

We speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. - 1 Thessalonians 2:4

You Will Need:

- Colored construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Stickers or markers

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into large heart shapes, one for each child.
- Set up a crafting area with the heart shapes, scissors, glue sticks, and stickers or markers.

Do This:

1. Explain to the children that just like they have friends and family who love them, God loves them even more. We want to do things that make God happy because He has given us so much love.
2. Ask the children to think of things they can do to show they are trying to please God and not just their friends or family. This could be helping others, sharing, listening to their parents, or saying kind words.
3. Have each child decorate their heart with stickers or markers, writing or drawing the things they can do to seek God's approval. Encourage them to hang their heart in their room as a reminder to always seek God's approval first.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Heart-shaped stickers
- Large paper with a drawn path leading to a big heart (representing God's love/approval)
- Pictures of people (cartoon or simple drawings) showing different emotions (happy, sad, etc.)
- Tape or sticky putty

Get Ready:

- Prepare the large paper with the path and the big heart at the end, and place it on the wall or floor where children can easily reach.

- Tape or putty should be ready to attach pictures to the paper.

Do this:

1. Show the children the pictures of people with different emotions and explain that sometimes we try to make others happy to like us, but what's most important is making God happy.
2. Ask the children to choose a picture that shows someone trying to make others happy and let them place it at the start of the path on the large paper.
3. Give each child a heart-shaped sticker and explain that when we do things to seek God's approval, it's like taking a step closer to His big heart of love. Have them place their stickers along the path towards the big heart to symbolize seeking God's approval over others'.

Snack Activity: Heavenly Approval Fruit Boats

You'll Need:

- Bananas
- Assorted berries (strawberries, blueberries, raspberries)
- Toothpicks
- Small paper sails (optional)

Get Ready: Wash all the berries and prepare a clean workspace.

Do this:

1. Help the children peel the bananas and cut them in half lengthwise to make boats. Explain that just like the boat needs to be strong to sail, we need to be strong in seeking God's approval.

2. Let the children pick their favorite berries to put on top of their banana boat. As they choose their berries, talk about how we choose to do things that please God, not just what others think is cool or fun.
3. If using, attach a small paper sail to a toothpick and let the children place it on their boat. On the sail, you can write 'God's Approval' or simply a heart. This will remind them that our true direction and approval come from God, not from the people around us.

Game Activity: Heart Path

You'll Need:

- Large paper hearts
- Tape
- A small prize (stickers, pencils, etc.)

Get Ready: Write simple, age-appropriate tasks on each heart that reflect seeking God's approval, such as 'Say a kind word', 'Help a friend', or 'Share a toy'. Tape these hearts in a path across the room, leading to the prize.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that each heart on the path represents an action that makes God happy. Our goal is to follow the path by doing each task to find the special prize at the end.
2. Guide the children to start at the beginning of the path. Have each child perform the task on the heart they are standing in front of before moving to the next heart.
3. Once a child completes all the tasks and reaches the end of the path, celebrate their success in seeking God's approval and give them the small prize. Remind them that the best prize is knowing they've made God happy with their actions.

Craft Activity: God's Heart is the Best Approval

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Safety scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons
- Heart template (optional)

Get Ready: Pre-cut heart shapes from the construction paper for younger children, or prepare heart templates for older children to trace and cut out themselves.

Do this:

1. Talk to the children about how sometimes we want to make our friends or family happy, but it's most important to make God happy by being kind and loving. Explain that God's approval is the best approval we can have.
2. Have each child choose their favorite color of construction paper heart. On one side, they can draw or write things they can do to seek God's approval, such as helping others, praying, or sharing.
3. On the other side of the heart, have them draw or write things they like to do to make others happy. Discuss how sometimes these can be the same, but our main goal is to please God.
4. Once completed, use the glue sticks to attach a smaller heart on top of the larger one, symbolizing God's heart covering and guiding ours. Display the hearts around the room as a reminder to always seek God's approval first.

Prayer Activity: God's Thumbs Up

You'll Need:

- A small mirror
- Colorful stickers
- A simple illustration of a heart with 'God's approval' written on it

Get Ready: Prepare the heart illustrations ahead of time, making sure you have one for each child. Place a sticker on the back of each one.

Do this:

1. Gather the children and explain that sometimes we want people to like what we do, but it's most important that God is happy with our choices because He loves us the most.
2. Show the children the mirror and let them look at themselves. Ask them who they see and explain that no matter what, God is looking at our hearts and that's what matters.
3. Hand out the heart illustrations to each child and let them stick it onto their shirt or hand as a reminder that seeking God's approval is like getting a big thumbs up from Him. Encourage them to show the sticker to their parents and tell them about seeking God's approval.