

Jesus Dwelling Among Us

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Jesus came from heaven to live on earth.

Scripture: John 1:14

Memory Verse: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. - John 1:14

The Children's Sermon

Today we hear about Jesus coming to "dwell among us." John 1 tells us "The Word (which is Jesus) became flesh and made his dwelling among us." You know what's really cool about this? When Jesus came to dwell among us, he lived just like the people of his time did. He lived in the same type of housing, he went to school, he ate the same food they did, he had a job. He lived just like the people he was with. If he were to come today, he might move into the house next to yours, drive a car like your family has, cut the grass. He lived and acted just like you and I do.

Do you know what's really cool about this? Jesus really could have had whatever he wanted. He could have come and lived in a really big house, eaten all the best food, and had the best toys—But he didn't. He chose to live just like you and I, so that we would be able to get to know him.

Now, let's think more about Jesus dwelling among us. Imagine Jesus playing soccer with you at recess, or sitting next to you in class. He would have done his homework, helped his friends, and listened to his teachers. Jesus made himself a part of our everyday life so we could understand that he knows what it feels like to be us. He knows when we are happy, sad, or scared because he has felt all those things too.

When Jesus dwelled among us, he showed us how to love and care for others. He helped people who were sick, he was kind to everyone, and he taught us to share. Imagine if Jesus was your neighbor. Maybe he would help you learn how to ride your bike, share his snacks with you, or help you when you fell and scraped your knee. Jesus dwelling among us means he showed us how to be good friends and neighbors.

Jesus also spent a lot of time talking to people about God. He told them that God loves us so much and wants to be close to us. Jesus dwelling among us was God's way of showing us this love up close. It's like when your mom or dad gives you a big hug when you're feeling sad. God sent Jesus to give us a big, warm hug and to teach us about God's love.

But Jesus dwelling among us wasn't always easy for him. He had to deal with people who didn't understand him or were mean to him. Yet, he always responded with love. This teaches us that even when things are tough, we can choose to be kind and loving. It's like when someone takes the last piece of your favorite pizza, and instead of getting mad, you decide to smile and say, "That's okay!"

Jesus also liked to tell stories, called parables, to help people understand important lessons. These stories were about everyday things like seeds, sheep, and coins, but they had a special meaning about life and God's love. Jesus dwelling among us was about sharing these stories so we could learn and grow.

And guess what? Even though Jesus isn't walking around with us today like back then, he is still dwelling among us in a different way. When we pray, read the Bible, or help

others, Jesus is right there with us. It's like he's holding our hand, guiding us through life.

Jesus dwelling among us is a big, wonderful mystery that shows us how much God loves us. It's like the best surprise ever - finding out that God's own Son came to live just like us, to be with us, and to show us the way to love each other and God.

So, next time you're playing with your friends, helping at home, or talking to God, remember Jesus dwelling among us. Think about how he lived, what he taught, and how he loved. And know that he's right there with you, cheering you on, loving you, and helping you every step of the way.

And that's the amazing story of Jesus dwelling among us. It's a story of love, friendship, and God's big hug to all of us. Let's carry that love in our hearts and share it with everyone we meet, just like Jesus did.

Bible Memory Verse

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. - John 1:14

You Will Need:

- Colored construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers of stars and other heavenly bodies

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into large star shapes beforehand.
- Set up a table with all the materials spread out for easy access.

Do This:

1. Give each child a star-shaped piece of construction paper and ask them to decorate it with markers, crayons, and stickers. Explain that the star represents heaven, a beautiful and perfect place.
2. While they are decorating, talk to them about how Jesus left the beauty and perfection of heaven to come live on earth with us, just like the verse says. This shows how much He loves us.
3. Once they are done decorating, help them write the memory verse on their star. Encourage them to hang their star in their room to remember that Jesus came from heaven to live on earth because of His great love for us.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Blue and white construction paper
- Cotton balls
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- String or yarn
- Hole puncher

Get Ready:

- Cut out a large cloud shape from the blue construction paper for each child.

- Cut out a small rectangle from the white construction paper to represent Jesus.
- Prepare a reading area where you can comfortably read John 1:14 to the children.

Do this:

1. **Introduction**: Start by gathering the children around and read John 1:14 to them, emphasizing that Jesus came from heaven to live on earth with us. Explain that today, they'll be making a special craft to help remember this important truth.
2. **Craft Time**: Give each child a blue cloud shape and a white rectangle. Ask them to decorate the rectangle with markers or crayons to represent Jesus. They can draw a simple face and clothes. Once done, they should glue the rectangle onto the cloud, showing Jesus coming from heaven to earth.
3. **Adding Fluff**: Hand out cotton balls and glue sticks. Show the children how to pull apart the cotton balls to make them fluffy and then glue them around Jesus to make the cloud look more like it's from heaven.
4. **Finishing Touches**: Once the glue has dried, help the children use the hole puncher to make a hole at the top of the cloud. Thread a piece of string or yarn through the hole so they can hang their craft at home. As they work, remind them that Jesus loves them so much, He came from heaven to be with us on earth.
5. **Reflection**: After cleaning up, gather the children again and ask them to think about what it means that Jesus came from heaven to live on earth. Encourage them to share their thoughts and remind them that Jesus is always with us because of His great love.

Snack Activity: Heavenly Star Sandwiches

You'll Need:

- Whole grain bread
- Cream cheese (or any spreadable cheese)
- Blueberries
- Star-shaped cookie cutter
- Knife (to be used by an adult or under adult supervision)

Get Ready: Make sure your working surface is clean, and wash your hands and the blueberries.

Do this:

1. Use the star-shaped cookie cutter to cut out star shapes from your slices of whole grain bread. Explain that the star shape reminds us of the heavenly nature of Jesus, who came from heaven to live on earth, just like John 1:14 tells us.
2. Spread cream cheese on one side of half of the star-shaped bread pieces. The cream cheese can represent the purity and goodness of Jesus.
3. Place a few blueberries on top of the cream cheese. These blueberries can represent the world, and how Jesus came to be with us.
4. Cover each with another star-shaped bread piece, creating a sandwich. As you do this, remind the children that Jesus is always with us, covering and protecting us with His love.

Game Activity: Heaven to Earth Hop

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk

- A large, open concrete area
- Bible verse cards (John 1:14 written on small cards)

Get Ready: Before the kids arrive, draw a large hopscotch grid on the concrete. Instead of numbers in each square, leave them blank. Scatter the Bible verse cards around the playing area, some near the hopscotch and others further away.

Do this:

1. Gather the children and explain that Jesus came from heaven to live on earth, just like John 1:14 tells us. Today, they're going to hop from heaven to earth, collecting parts of the verse along the way.
2. Each child takes a turn tossing a small stone or beanbag to land in one of the hopscotch squares. They then hop through the grid, skipping the square with their stone, to collect a Bible verse card and return.
3. Once all the cards are collected, have the children work together to arrange the cards in the correct order of John 1:14. Celebrate their success with a group cheer or song about Jesus coming to earth.

Craft Activity: Heaven to Earth Star Mobile

You'll Need:

- Blue and white construction paper
- Yellow glitter paper
- String or yarn
- Scissors
- Glue
- Hole punch
- Markers

Get Ready: Cut out several star shapes from the yellow glitter paper. Cut out cloud shapes from the white construction paper. Prepare long strings of yarn.

Do this:

1. On one of the cloud shapes, help the children write 'John 1:14' and on another, they can write 'Jesus came from heaven to live on earth.' They can decorate other clouds with markers.
2. Punch a hole at the top of each cloud and at one point of each star.
3. Tie the strings to the clouds and stars, then attach them at varying lengths to a larger piece of the blue construction paper (this is the sky). Make sure to balance the mobile so it hangs nicely.
4. Hang the mobiles in the classroom or let the children take them home as a reminder that Jesus left heaven to live among us on earth.

Prayer Activity: Heaven to Earth Prayer Journey

You'll Need:

- Construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Glue sticks

Get Ready: Cut the construction paper into cloud shapes and earth shapes, one of each per child.

Do this:

1. Start by reading John 1:14 together: 'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from

the Father, full of grace and truth.' Explain that Jesus came from heaven (like the cloud) to live on earth (like the earth shape) to be with us.

2. Ask the children to draw or write on the cloud shape something they think heaven is like or something they are thankful to Jesus for coming from heaven to live on earth.

3. Then, on the earth shape, have them draw or write how they can show Jesus' love to others here on earth. Encourage them to think of specific actions, like helping a friend, being kind to siblings, or sharing.

4. Finally, have them glue the cloud shape above the earth shape on a piece of construction paper to represent Jesus' journey from heaven to earth. Close with a prayer thanking Jesus for coming to live among us and asking for help to show His love every day.