

Jesus Dwelling Among Us

UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Jesus came from heaven to live on earth.

Scripture: John 1:14

Memory Verse: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. - 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 mansion, eaten all the best food, and had the best games—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 throw a football, share his snacks with you, or help you if you fell. 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

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. - John 1:14

You Will Need:

- Construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Glitter glue

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into large star shapes.
- Write the memory verse on each star with a marker.

Do This:

1. Have each child decorate their star with markers, crayons, and glitter glue to make it bright and beautiful, symbolizing the glory of Jesus.
2. While they work, discuss what it means that Jesus became human ('the Word became flesh') and lived among us. Ask the children how they see Jesus' glory in their own lives.
3. Once everyone is done, create a 'Galaxy of Glory' on a wall in your classroom by hanging up all the decorated stars. Encourage the children to share their star with the class, explaining their design choices and how it represents Jesus' glory and truth.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Large pieces of construction paper (blue, white, and brown)
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Cotton balls
- String or yarn
- Hole punch

Get Ready:

- Cut the blue construction paper into large rectangles to serve as the background, symbolizing the sky.
- Cut the brown construction paper into manger shapes.
- Prepare an area where the children can work comfortably with access to all materials.

Do this:

1. ****Create the Scene****: Each child receives a blue construction paper. They use markers or crayons to draw stars and the moon on the "sky." They glue the manger shape at the bottom of their paper to represent Jesus coming to Earth.
2. ****Incorporate the Scripture****: On white construction paper, have the children write John 1:14 in their best handwriting. They can then cut this out in a cloud shape and attach it above the manger with string or yarn, hanging it to symbolize the word of God coming down from heaven.
3. ****Add Details****: Use cotton balls to create sheep and glue them near the manger. This represents the shepherds who came to see Jesus, highlighting His humble arrival and the significance of His presence on Earth as described in John 1:14.

Snack Activity: Heavenly S'mores

You'll Need:

- Graham crackers
- Marshmallows
- Chocolate bars
- Microwave or campfire
- Skewers (if using a campfire) or microwave-safe plate

Get Ready: Gather all your materials and read John 1:14 together as a group. Discuss how Jesus, the Word, became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth, just like how we're about to combine simple ingredients to create something wonderful.

Do this:

1. Break a graham cracker in half. Place one half on your plate or hold it in your hand if you're by a campfire.
2. Place a piece of chocolate on top of the graham cracker half. This chocolate represents the sweetness and richness of Jesus' love and teachings.
3. Toast a marshmallow until it's golden brown. As you're toasting it, think about how Jesus came from heaven (the marshmallow starts off cool) to earth (heated by the fire or microwave) to be with us.
4. Carefully place the toasted marshmallow on top of the chocolate, then cover it with the other half of the graham cracker. Press gently to melt the chocolate with the warmth of the marshmallow, symbolizing how Jesus' presence brings us all together in warmth and love.
5. Enjoy your Heavenly S'more while reflecting on the gift of Jesus living among us, full of grace and truth.

Game Activity: Heaven to Earth Relay

You'll Need:

- A large open space (indoors or outdoors)
- Two sets of items to represent 'heavenly' and 'earthly' elements (e.g., white balloons for heaven, blue/green balloons for earth)
- Baskets or boxes to collect items
- A printed or written copy of John 1:14 for each team

Get Ready: Divide the children into two teams. Set up 'heaven' at one end of the play area with the 'heavenly' items and 'earth' at the other end with the 'earthly' items and baskets. Explain the significance of John 1:14, emphasizing how Jesus came from heaven to live among us on earth.

Do this:

1. At the start signal, the first player from each team races to 'heaven' to collect a 'heavenly' item and then races to 'earth' to drop it into their team's basket, symbolizing Jesus coming from heaven to earth.
2. The player then races back to tag the next team member, who does the same.
3. The game continues until all items from 'heaven' have been transferred to 'earth'. The team that completes the task first wins.
4. After the game, gather the children and discuss how Jesus' journey from heaven to earth (as described in John 1:14) shows His love and commitment to us. Encourage them to think of ways they can show love and commitment to others.

Craft Activity: The Word Became Flesh Tent

You'll Need:

- Blue construction paper
- White construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Glue stick

Get Ready: Cut the blue construction paper into a 8x10 inch rectangle. This will be the base for your tent. Cut the white construction paper into a smaller rectangle, about 6x8 inches, which will serve as the 'fabric' of the tent.

Do this:

1. Fold the white construction paper in half, bringing the 6-inch sides together to create a crease. This will be the peak of your tent.
2. On the folded white paper, draw and cut out a half-circle on the fold. This will create the opening of the tent when opened.
3. Open the white paper and write John 1:14 on the inside of the tent. Decorate around the verse with markers or crayons, illustrating what it means that Jesus came to live among us.
4. Glue the bottom edges of the white paper to the blue construction paper, forming a 3D tent. The blue paper serves as the ground, and the tent stands up, symbolizing Jesus coming down from heaven to live on earth.

Prayer Activity: Heaven to Earth: Jesus' Journey

You'll Need:

- A large world map or globe
- Blue, white, and yellow construction paper
- Scissors, glue, and markers

Get Ready: Cut out several small star shapes from the yellow paper, cloud shapes from the white paper, and a figure of a person from the blue paper to represent Jesus.

Do this:

1. Place the world map or globe in the center of your activity area. Discuss with the children how Jesus left heaven to live among us on Earth, based on John 1:14. Explain that the stars represent heaven, the clouds symbolize the sky, and the blue figure is Jesus.

2. Have each child write a short prayer on a star, thanking Jesus for coming to Earth from heaven. They can include prayers for guidance, love, and understanding.
3. Let the children take turns placing their stars around the globe/map, then attach the clouds above and the figure of Jesus near their stars. Conclude by gathering around the map/globe, holding hands, and saying a prayer together, acknowledging Jesus' journey from heaven to Earth and asking for His presence in their lives.