

The Spork

UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: We have to choose between serving God or the world. We can't do both.

Scripture: Matthew 6:19-24

Memory Verse: No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. - Matthew 6:24

The Children's Sermon

Hey kids! Today we're going to talk about something really important. It's about choosing to do what God wants us to do instead of just doing things to make people happy or to get lots of stuff. This is called "Serving God vs. Mammon." Mammon is a fancy word that means money or things we might want a lot, like toys or video games.

You know, sometimes it's easy to get caught up in wanting lots of toys, games, or even trying to be the most popular. But, guess what? Those things don't make us truly happy in the end. What makes us really happy is knowing we're doing what God wants us to do.

Serving God means we listen to what He tells us in the Bible and try our best to do it. It's like if God had a big, wonderful plan for a super fun day, and all we have to do is follow His plan to have the best day ever. But sometimes, we get distracted by other things, like maybe a shiny toy we see in the store, and we forget about God's plan.

Now, let's talk more about Serving God vs. Mammon. Imagine you have two paths in front of you. One path is shiny and full of toys, candy, and everything you could ever

want. But this path doesn't lead to God. The other path might not look as exciting at first, but it leads to God and to doing what He wants, which is the best thing ever.

Choosing to serve God might mean sharing your toys with someone who doesn't have any, being kind to someone even when you don't feel like it, or helping your mom and dad around the house without them asking. It's not always easy, but it's so worth it because it makes God happy, and it makes us happy too.

Serving Mammon, or chasing after things and trying to be popular, might seem fun at first. But in the end, it's like eating too much candy. It seems great at the time, but then you end up with a tummy ache. Serving Mammon doesn't fill up our hearts the way serving God does.

Now, I want to tell you about a friend of mine named Amber. Amber is a super talented artist who loves to paint. Instead of selling her paintings for lots of money to buy toys, she does something really cool. She sells her art to raise money to feed people who are hungry. Amber is choosing to serve God by helping others, and that makes her really happy.

You see, when we choose to serve God, we get to be part of something bigger than ourselves. We get to help people, spread kindness, and make the world a better place. And the best part is, God sees everything we do, and He's so proud of us when we choose to serve Him.

So, kids, let's remember to focus on what really matters. Let's choose to serve God by being kind, helping others, and following what He teaches us. It's way better than

chasing after things that don't last. Serving God fills our hearts with joy and makes our lives super special.

Let's pray together and ask God to help us choose to serve Him every day. We can ask Him to show us how to share, how to be kind, and how to make the world a better place by following His plan.

Bible Memory Verse

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. - Matthew 6:24

You Will Need:

- 2 different colored sets of small items (e.g., buttons or beads)
- A large bowl
- Two smaller bowls or containers

Get Ready:

- Gather all materials and set them on a table.
- Place the large bowl in the center of the table and the two smaller bowls on opposite ends of the table.

Do This:

1. Explain that the two different colored sets of items represent two 'masters' from the verse. One color represents God and the other represents 'money' or worldly things.

2. Ask the children to try to pick up one item of each color at the same time with the same hand, and then try to place them in the corresponding smaller bowls without dropping them.
3. Discuss how difficult it was to serve two masters at the same time, relating it back to the verse and emphasizing the importance of choosing to serve God wholeheartedly.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Two large boxes or containers
- A variety of objects or pictures representing worldly possessions (toys, money, gadgets) and spiritual values (Bible, cross, heart for love, etc.)
- Labels for the boxes: one labeled "World" and the other "God"
- Matthew 6:24 printed on a large poster or board

Get Ready:

- Place the two labeled boxes at opposite ends of a table or room.
- Mix all the objects or pictures together in a central location where children can easily access them.
- Display the Matthew 6:24 poster/board where all children can see it.

Do this:

1. Begin by reading Matthew 6:24 aloud to the group. Discuss briefly what it means to serve God versus serving the world or money. Emphasize that we have to choose who we will serve because we can't serve both.
2. Challenge the children to sort through the mixed objects/pictures, deciding whether each one represents serving God or serving the world. Have them place the object/picture in the corresponding box.

3. After all items are sorted, gather the children and review the choices made. Discuss why certain items were placed in the "God" box and others in the "World" box.

Encourage them to think about how everyday decisions can reflect serving God or the world.

4. Conclude by encouraging the children to think of one way they can serve God in the coming week, inspired by the discussion and activity.

Snack Activity: Two Masters Treats

You'll Need:

- A package of Oreo cookies (or any two-colored sandwich cookies)
- A package of Nutter Butter cookies (or any peanut-shaped cookies)
- Icing in two colors (white and another color of your choice)
- Small candy pieces (like M&Ms or Skittles)
- Toothpicks
- Paper plates

Get Ready: Prepare your work area by cleaning the table and laying out all your materials on it. Place a paper plate for each child to work on.

Do this:

1. Explain Matthew 6:24, 'No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.' Discuss how this relates to choices and priorities in life.
2. Use the Oreo cookies to represent the world (with its black and white sides symbolizing different choices we face). Have the children open the cookies and choose which side they want to decorate as 'serving the world.' They can use the icing and candy pieces to decorate this side.

3. Next, use the Nutter Butter cookies to represent serving God, with its unique shape symbolizing how following God is a different path from the world. Have the children decorate these with the white icing to symbolize purity and righteousness, and explain how choosing to serve God affects our lives positively.
4. Encourage the children to discuss their decorations and what choices they can make daily to serve God rather than the world. Conclude with a prayer asking for guidance in making choices that honor God.

Game Activity: Treasure Path: Choosing God's Way

You'll Need:

- A large open space (indoor or outdoor)
- Two sets of items to represent 'treasures' (e.g., gold-colored coins for worldly treasures and colorful stones for heavenly treasures)
- Two baskets or containers
- Masking tape or cones to mark the start and finish lines

Get Ready: Before the game, create two paths using the tape or cones, each leading to a different basket at the end. One path represents the way to worldly treasures, and the other to heavenly treasures. Scatter the 'worldly' and 'heavenly' treasures along their respective paths.

Do this:

1. Divide the children into two teams. Explain that each path represents a choice between serving God (heavenly treasures) and serving the world (worldly treasures). Share Matthew 6:24, emphasizing the importance of choosing whom to serve.

2. One at a time, children will run the course, choosing a path and collecting as many treasures as they can carry to the corresponding basket at the end. They must only pick one path and stick to it, symbolizing their commitment to their choice.

3. After everyone has had a turn, gather the children and discuss the choices they made. Highlight that while worldly treasures might seem appealing, choosing God's way leads to eternal treasures. Encourage them to reflect on what it means to serve God in their daily lives.

Craft Activity: Choosing Paths: God or the World

You'll Need:

- Two large sheets of construction paper (one green, one gray)
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Glue
- A printed or written copy of Matthew 6:24

Get Ready: Cut the green construction paper into the shape of a large heart. Cut the gray construction paper into the shape of a large dollar sign (\$).

Do this:

1. Read Matthew 6:24 together. Discuss what it means to serve God versus serving money (the world).
2. On the green heart, have the children write or draw things they can do to serve God (e.g., helping others, praying, reading the Bible).
3. On the gray dollar sign, have them write or draw things that represent serving the world or materialism (e.g., focusing too much on money, being greedy, not sharing).

4. Glue the heart and the dollar sign back to back, creating a visual reminder that we have to choose whom we serve: God or the world. Hang it in a visible place as a daily reminder of this important choice.

Prayer Activity: Choosing Paths: God or the World

You'll Need:

- Two large pieces of paper or poster boards
- Markers or crayons
- Sticky notes

Get Ready: On one piece of paper, write 'Serving God' at the top, and on the other, write 'Serving the World.' Place them on opposite sides of the room.

Do this:

1. Read Matthew 6:24 together as a class. Discuss what it means to serve God and what it means to serve the world. Encourage the children to think about examples from their own lives or things they've observed.
2. Give each child a few sticky notes. Ask them to write down or draw activities, behaviors, or values that they associate with serving God on one note and those associated with serving the world on another note.
3. Have the children place their sticky notes on the corresponding poster. After everyone has placed their notes, gather around each poster and discuss the choices. Highlight how our daily decisions can reflect who we serve. Conclude with a prayer, asking God to help us choose to serve Him in our everyday actions and decisions.