

The Present Is A Gift From God

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: Worship

Scripture: Ephesians 1:18-19

Memory Verse: I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened. - Ephesians 1:18

The Children's Sermon

Today, let's talk about a very special gift we all get, but sometimes we forget how special it is. This gift is called "today." You know, we often think about yesterday, which is all the days that have already happened. And we think about tomorrow, which are the days that haven't happened yet. But today, the day we are living right now, is a very special gift from God.

Yesterday is like a history book. It's full of stories that have already been told.

Tomorrow is like a mystery book. We don't know what the stories are going to be. But today, today is like opening a present from God. That's why we call it the "present." It's a gift!

Dear Lord, we want to thank you for today. Thank you for the sunshine, for letting us pray here in church, and for being with our family and friends. We know today is a special blessing from you.

Now, let's talk about something really cool in the Bible. In Ephesians 1:18-19, it talks about "Hope and Power." These are two amazing things that God gives us. Hope is like

when you really want something good to happen, and you believe it can happen. Power is the strength to do things, even when they're hard.

God's hope and power are special. They help us do good things today. When we wake up, we can say, "God, please give me hope and power for today." And guess what? He will! Because God loves giving us what we need to make today awesome.

Sometimes, we might feel sad or worried about yesterday or tomorrow. But Ephesians 1:18-19, "Hope and Power," reminds us that God is with us today. He gives us hope to feel happy about today and power to do our best.

Let's think of today like a big, beautiful playground. God gives us this playground to explore, learn, and have fun in. But, just like in a playground, we need to be kind, share, and help each other. That's how we make today even better, not just for us, but for everyone around us.

Remember, every morning when you wake up, God has already wrapped up a brand new day for you. It's like getting a present every single day! And inside this present are more gifts - hope and power. These gifts help us to do amazing things, like being kind to a friend, helping our family, or learning something new.

So, let's make a promise to each other. Let's promise to open today with a big smile, ready to use God's gifts of hope and power. Let's promise to make today the best day we can, filled with love, kindness, and fun. And let's remember to say "thank you" to God for this wonderful gift of today.

And at the end of the day, before we go to bed, let's think about all the fun things we did, the new things we learned, and the ways we were kind. Let's thank God for giving us the strength and hope to make today great. And let's ask Him to help us do it all over again tomorrow.

Bible Memory Verse

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened. -

Ephesians 1:18

You Will Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut out large heart shapes from the construction paper ahead of time.
- Set up a table with all the materials spread out for easy access.

Do This:

1. Give each child a large heart shape and explain that this represents their heart.
2. Ask the children to decorate their heart with markers, crayons, and stickers as they wish. Encourage them to think about things that make their heart happy as they decorate.

3. Once everyone is done, gather the children and explain that just like they decorated their hearts, God wants to fill our hearts with His light and love. Remind them of the memory verse and encourage them to say it together.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A small flashlight or a battery-operated candle for each child
- Heart-shaped stickers
- A simple picture or icon that represents worship (e.g., hands raised, a cross, etc.)

Get Ready:

- Prepare a dimly lit room where the activity will take place.
- Place the heart-shaped stickers on the flashlights or candles ahead of time.
- Have the picture or icon of worship displayed prominently in the room.

Do this:

1. Gather the children and explain that we can see with our eyes, but God helps us see with our hearts how much He loves us and how powerful He is.
2. Give each child a flashlight or candle with a heart sticker on it. Tell them that the light represents God's love and power in our lives.
3. Turn off the lights in the room and have the children turn on their flashlights or candles. Lead them in a simple song or chant about God's love and power. Encourage them to look at the picture of worship and raise their lights towards it, showing that we worship God because He is loving and powerful.

Snack Activity: Heart of Worship Fruit Snacks

You'll Need:

- Sliced strawberries (hearts)
- Blueberries (prayers)
- Toothpicks

Get Ready: Wash all fruits and place them in separate bowls.

Do this:

1. Talk about Ephesians 1:18-19, explaining that God wants us to have 'the eyes of our hearts enlightened' so we can know the hope to which He has called us. The strawberries represent our hearts, and the blueberries represent our prayers going up to God.
2. Let the children use toothpicks to pick up a strawberry slice and then a blueberry, stacking them on top of each other. Explain how our hearts (strawberries) need to be filled with prayers (blueberries) to God.
3. Encourage the children to eat their fruit snacks as a form of worship, thanking God for listening to their prayers and loving them. Remind them that worship isn't just about singing but also about talking to God through prayer and thanking Him for His blessings.

Game Activity: Treasure of Hope Hopscotch

You'll Need:

- Chalk
- Small stones or beanbags
- Pictures of a heart, light, and power symbol (can be drawn or printed)

Get Ready: Draw a hopscotch grid on the sidewalk or any safe, flat surface. Instead of numbers in each square, place the pictures in this order: heart, light, power symbol, repeating until the end of the hopscotch grid.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that each picture represents something we have because we believe in Jesus. The heart is for love, the light is for hope, and the power symbol is for the great power God gives us.
2. Have each child toss a stone or beanbag to land on one of the squares.
3. The child then hops through the grid, skipping the square with their stone or beanbag, while saying 'Thank you, God, for love, hope, and power!' When they reach the end, they turn around and hop back, picking up their stone or beanbag on the way back. Encourage them to say 'Amen!' as they finish.

Craft Activity: Heart of Worship Lanterns

You'll Need:

- Clear plastic jars or cups
- Tissue paper (various colors)
- Glue and water mixture (1:1 ratio)
- Battery-operated tea lights

Get Ready: Cut the tissue paper into small squares or shapes. Mix the glue and water in a bowl to create a decoupage mixture.

Do this:

1. Have the children brush the glue mixture onto the outside of their plastic jar or cup.

2. Stick the tissue paper pieces onto the jar, overlapping them to create a stained glass effect. Encourage them to cover the entire jar.
 3. Once the jar is covered, go over it with another layer of the glue mixture to seal the tissue paper.
 4. After the jars dry, place a battery-operated tea light inside to illuminate them.
- Explain that just like the light shines through their lanterns, God's love shines in our hearts when we worship Him.