

A Prophet In His Own Land

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Jesus was not honored in his home town

Scripture: Mark 6:1-13

Memory Verse: Mark 6:4, 'Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own home."

The Children's Sermon

Hey kids, today we're going to talk about something really important: Trusting in God's Power. It's like when you trust your best friend to keep a secret or when you believe your parents can fix anything. Trusting in God's Power is believing that God can do anything, even when things seem really hard or impossible.

Sometimes, people in a church can forget how powerful God is. It's like when you know a friend so well, you forget they can do amazing things. This happened to Jesus too, in his own hometown. People there didn't believe he could do miracles because they thought they knew him too well. We don't want to make that mistake. We want to remember that God is always full of surprises and can do anything.

We need to trust in God's Power, especially when we face problems. Sometimes, churches have problems, like when people don't get along or when they're scared to try new things. It's like when you're playing a game, and you're afraid to try a new move because you might lose. But just like you might ask for help from a friend or a coach, our church can ask for help from God.

Trusting in God's Power means we believe God can guide us, even when we're not sure what to do. It's like when you're lost, and you trust a map to show you the way home. God's power is like that map, but even better, because God knows exactly where we need to go.

Sometimes, we might feel too proud to ask for help. We think we can do everything on our own. But that's like trying to lift a really heavy rock by yourself when you could ask someone to help you. Trusting in God's Power means knowing it's okay to ask for help because God's power is way stronger than ours.

We also need to let go of old hurts and disagreements. It's like when you're holding onto a grudge against a friend for taking your toy, but then you miss out on all the fun of playing together. When we trust in God's Power, we believe God can help us forgive and move forward.

Being open to new ideas can be scary, like trying a new food for the first time. But just like discovering a new favorite snack, new ideas can help our church grow. Trusting in God's Power means being brave enough to try new things, knowing God is with us.

God can use the challenges we face to teach us important lessons. It's like when you're learning to ride a bike, and you fall off a few times. It might hurt, but you get back up, and soon you're riding like the wind. God helps us learn from our mistakes and get stronger.

When we trust in God's Power, amazing things can happen. It's like when you work really hard on a project, and it turns out even better than you hoped. God can do things

through us that we could never do on our own. It's like being part of a superhero team where God is the leader, and we're all working together to do good things.

Dear God, please help us remember that you have the power and grace to help us when we trust in your love and grace. Help us to be brave, to ask for help, and to try new things, knowing you're always with us. Amen.

So, kids, let's remember to keep Trusting in God's Power every day. It's like having a superpower that helps us through anything. Whether we're facing a tough time, feeling scared, or just need a little help, God's power is always there for us. Let's be like superheroes who trust in God's Power to guide us, help us, and show us how to be kind and brave.

Bible Memory Verse

Mark 6:4, 'Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own home.'"

You Will Need:

- Colored paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into house shapes before class.
- Write 'HONOR' on one side of each house shape.

Do This:

1. Give each child a house shape and ask them to decorate the 'HONOR' side with markers or crayons, illustrating ways they can show honor to Jesus and others.
2. On the blank side of the house, have them write or draw about a time they felt honored or respected by someone else.
3. Share in a circle, letting each child explain their drawings and what honor means to them.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Small wooden blocks or stones (one for each child)
- Permanent markers
- A large map of your local area or a simple drawing of a town
- Sticky notes
- Bible

Get Ready:

- Write each child's name on a sticky note.
- Place the map or drawing of the town in a visible area where all the children can see it.
- Read through Mark 6:1-13 to familiarize yourself with the story.

Do this:

1. Begin by telling the children the story of Jesus in his hometown, focusing on how the people who knew him growing up did not honor or believe in him. Emphasize that sometimes, the people closest to us might not see the good we can do.

2. Hand out a wooden block or stone to each child and ask them to think of a time they felt unappreciated or not believed in. Have them write a word or draw a symbol on the block that represents that feeling.

3. Discuss how Jesus didn't let the disbelief of his townspeople stop him from doing good. He continued on to other villages, spreading his message and helping others. Ask the children to place their block near the map or drawing of the town, symbolizing leaving behind those feelings of not being honored, just as Jesus moved on.

4. Finally, have each child pick up a sticky note with their name on it and place it on a different part of the map, symbolizing them spreading kindness and good deeds in new places, just like Jesus. Close with a short prayer asking for the courage to do good, even when it's hard.

Snack Activity: Unwelcome Bread

You'll Need:

- Slices of bread
- Cookie cutters (house and person shapes)
- Nutella or cream cheese
- Raisins
- Small plates
- Butter knives

Get Ready: Make sure each child has a small plate, a butter knife, and access to the Nutella or cream cheese, and raisins.

Do this:

1. Tell the children about how Jesus went to his hometown, but the people there did not honor him. Explain that sometimes, even when we try to do good, not everyone will welcome or accept it, just like Jesus experienced.
2. Give each child a slice of bread. Have them use the house-shaped cookie cutter to cut out a 'home' from their slice of bread. This represents Jesus' hometown. Then, have them use the person-shaped cookie cutter to cut out a 'person' - this represents Jesus.
3. Let the children spread Nutella or cream cheese on their bread shapes. Then, they can use raisins to create eyes and a mouth on the 'Jesus' shape. As they eat their snack, remind them that even when we are not welcomed or honored, we can still spread kindness and love, just like Jesus did.

Game Activity: Hometown Hopscotch

You'll Need:

- Chalk
- A large, open concrete area
- Small stones or bean bags

Get Ready: Draw a large hopscotch grid on the concrete. Each square represents a part of Jesus' story in Mark 6:1-13. Label them as follows: 1. Home, 2. Teaching, 3. Doubt, 4. No Honor, 5. Leaving Town, 6. Sending the 12, 7. Healing Power, 8. Home Again.

Do this:

1. Each player chooses a stone or bean bag as their marker. Players take turns tossing their marker onto square 1 (Home). If the marker lands within the boundaries of the square, the player hops through the hopscotch course, skipping the square with their marker. Before hopping, the player must say, 'Jesus is welcomed everywhere.'

2. After hopping to the end, the player picks up their marker on the way back. If a player successfully completes the course, they move to the next square on their next turn, reflecting Jesus' journey.

3. The game continues with players advancing through Jesus' story. If a player misses their square or steps on a line, they start over from square 1 on their next turn. The first player to complete the course, reaching 'Home Again,' wins, symbolizing that despite not being honored in His hometown, Jesus' message spread far and wide.

Craft Activity: Hometown Hearts

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- String or yarn

Get Ready: Cut out several heart shapes from the construction paper ahead of time. Each child will need at least 5 hearts.

Do this:

1. Start by telling the children about how Jesus was not honored in his hometown, based on Mark 6:1-13. Explain that sometimes, even when we do good things, not everyone will appreciate or accept it, just like with Jesus.

2. Have each child pick 5 hearts. On the first heart, ask them to write or draw something good they can do for others. On the second heart, have them write or draw how they think Jesus felt when he was not honored. On the third, fourth, and fifth

hearts, let them write or draw about times they felt unappreciated or not listened to and how they can respond positively.

3. Once they have finished their hearts, help them punch a hole at the top of each heart and string them together with yarn or string. They can hang their 'Hometown Hearts' chain in their room as a reminder that even when we are not honored or appreciated, we can still choose to do good and follow Jesus's example.

Prayer Activity: Welcome in Every Heart

You'll Need:

- Construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers or stamps (optional)

Get Ready: Cut the construction paper into heart shapes, one for each child.

Do this:

1. Begin by telling the story from Mark 6:1-13, focusing on how Jesus was not honored in his hometown but continued to teach and heal in other places. Explain that even when we feel unaccepted, we can share love and kindness everywhere we go.
2. Give each child a heart-shaped piece of construction paper. Ask them to think about a place where they can spread kindness, like Jesus did, even if it's not their 'hometown' or a place where they feel most comfortable.
3. Have the children draw or write that place on one side of the heart and on the other side, write a short prayer or wish for that place or for themselves to be brave like Jesus. They can decorate their hearts with stickers or stamps.
4. Close with a group prayer, asking God to help us be welcomed in every heart and to welcome others into our hearts, just as Jesus teaches us.