

A Prophet In His Own Land

UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Jesus was not honored in his home town

Scripture: Mark 6:1-13

Memory Verse: He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.' - Mark 6:12

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

He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.' - Mark 6:12

You Will Need:

- Plain white t-shirts (one per child)
- Fabric markers or fabric paints
- Stencils of the world map or globe

Get Ready:

- Gather all materials and set up a workspace with enough room for each child to work on their t-shirt.
- Pre-wash the t-shirts to remove any sizing that may prevent the fabric paint or markers from adhering properly.

Do This:

1. Start the activity by discussing the memory verse and what it means to 'preach the gospel to all creation.' Ask the children why they think this is important and how they can do it in their own lives.
2. Give each child a plain white t-shirt and let them choose their fabric markers or paints. Show them the stencils of the world map or globe and explain that they will be creating a 'Preach the Gospel' t-shirt by decorating it with the map and inspirational words or designs that remind them of the memory verse.
3. Encourage the children to be creative and express what the verse means to them through their artwork. Once everyone is finished, allow the t-shirts to dry. Conclude the activity by having each child share their t-shirt and explain the design and how it relates to the memory verse.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Bibles or printed copies of Mark 6:1-13
- Costume items (robes, sandals, etc.) for role-play
- Backpacks or bags
- Small items to represent provisions (e.g., bread, fish, small water bottles - can be toys or real items)
- "Town" setup areas (chairs and tables to represent different homes in a town)
- Index cards and markers

Get Ready:

- Set up different "town" areas around the classroom or space where the activity will take place.

- Write out key phrases from the scripture on index cards (e.g., "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown," "He could not do any miracles there," "He was amazed at their lack of faith," "Take nothing for the journey except a staff").
- Prepare the costume items and provisions to be easily accessible for the children.
- Familiarize yourself with the scripture so you can guide the activity effectively.

Do this:

1. **Introduction and Role Assignment:** Start by reading Mark 6:1-13 together as a class. Assign roles to the children - some will be Jesus and the disciples, and others will be townspeople. Hand out costume items accordingly.
2. **Jesus in His Hometown:** Have the children acting as Jesus and the disciples enter the first "town" area. They should try to share the message of Mark 6:1-6 with the townspeople. The townspeople, having read their index cards, should react as described in the scripture, showing disbelief and not honoring Jesus. Discuss how Jesus and the disciples might have felt, referring back to the scripture.
3. **Sending Out the Disciples:** Jesus (the children in this role) now sends out the disciples two by two. Give each pair of disciples a backpack or bag and allow them to choose only the items specified in the scripture (e.g., no bread, no bag, no money). They should then visit the other "towns" set up around the room, trying to share their message and offer blessings.
4. **Reflection and Discussion:** After visiting all the towns, gather the children back together. Discuss what it was like trying to share a message when not everyone was receptive. Talk about the importance of faith and perseverance, using the reactions of the townspeople and the instructions Jesus gave to his disciples as discussion points.

5. **Application:** Ask the children to think of a situation in their own lives where they need to have faith and perseverance, even when others may not understand or support them. Have them write this situation on an index card, along with a prayer or affirmation inspired by the scripture, to remind them of the lesson learned through this activity.

Snack Activity: Prophet's Bread

You'll Need:

- Whole grain bread or pita bread
- Honey
- Cream cheese or any spreadable cheese
- Plastic knives for spreading
- Small bowls for honey and cheese
- Plates

Get Ready: Gather all your materials on a clean table. Make sure each child has access to the ingredients and their own plate.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that in Mark 6:1-13, Jesus was not honored in his hometown, yet he continued his mission. Discuss the importance of perseverance and faith.
2. Have each child take a piece of bread as a symbol of Jesus, the 'Bread of Life,' and spread honey over it. Explain that the honey represents the sweetness of following Jesus, even when others do not honor or accept us.

3. Next, have them add a spread of cream cheese, symbolizing the Holy Spirit's comfort and strength in difficult times. Encourage them to think of ways they can spread kindness and faith, just as they spread the cheese.

4. As they eat their 'Prophet's Bread,' encourage a discussion about how they can be faithful and spread God's love, even when it's hard or when they feel unaccepted.

Game Activity: Missionary Tag

You'll Need:

- A large open space, preferably outdoors
- Bandanas or small flags
- Index cards
- Pens or markers

Get Ready: Write key phrases from Mark 6:1-13 on index cards. These could include 'Jesus was not honored in his hometown', 'He sent them out two by two', 'Take nothing for the journey except a staff', 'Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town'. Hide these cards around the play area before the game starts.

Do this:

1. Divide the children into two teams: the Missionaries and the Townsfolk. The Missionaries are given bandanas or flags to tuck into their pockets or belts, marking them as 'sent out'.
2. The goal for the Missionaries is to find all the hidden index cards with the key phrases while avoiding being tagged by the Townsfolk. If a Missionary is tagged, they must freeze and recite a memory verse from earlier lessons or say one key phrase from the story of Mark 6:1-13 to be 'unfrozen' by another Missionary.

3. The game ends when all the cards are found. Gather everyone to discuss the phrases on the cards and how they relate to the story of Jesus not being honored in his hometown and sending out his disciples. This ties back to the scripture by emphasizing the importance of spreading the message, even when it's hard, and supporting each other in the mission.

Craft Activity: Faithful Messenger Sandals

You'll Need:

- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Ribbon or yarn
- Markers or paint
- Bible verse cards (create cards with Mark 6:1-13 printed or written on them)

Get Ready: Cut out cardboard in the shape of sandals large enough to fit the feet of the children. Prepare the Bible verse cards with verses from Mark 6:1-13.

Do this:

1. Have each child pick a pair of cardboard sandals. Explain that in Mark 6:1-13, Jesus sends out His disciples two by two and instructs them on what to take for their journey, mentioning not to wear two tunics, but sandals were allowed. This symbolizes being ready to spread the Good News.
2. Use the hole punch to make holes around the edges of the sandals for the children. They can then thread ribbon or yarn through the holes to create straps for their sandals.

3. Encourage the children to decorate their sandals with markers or paint, and to attach their Bible verse card to the sandals. Discuss how Jesus was not honored in his hometown, yet He and His disciples continued to spread His teachings. The sandals will remind them to be faithful messengers of God's word, no matter the reception.

Prayer Activity: Faithful in My Hometown

You'll Need:

- A Bible or Bible app
- Paper
- Pens or pencils
- A world map or globe

Get Ready: Read Mark 6:1-13 to familiarize yourself with the story of Jesus not being honored in his hometown and sending out the Twelve.

Do this:

1. Start by discussing the story. Focus on how Jesus was not accepted in his hometown but still continued his mission. Ask the children how they feel when their good actions or intentions are not recognized or appreciated.
2. Have each child draw a map of their 'hometown' on the paper, which can include their neighborhood, school, and places they frequently visit. Ask them to mark places where they can share kindness and the message of Jesus, just like the disciples.
3. Encourage the children to write a short prayer on the back of their map. The prayer should ask for courage and opportunities to share love and kindness in their hometown, despite any challenges or lack of recognition they might face. Conclude by sharing these prayers in small groups or with the entire class, reinforcing the idea that they are messengers of God's love, just like the disciples.