

Do You Know?

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: Gospel Message

Scripture: John 3:17

Memory Verse: God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. - John 3:17

The Children's Sermon

Why do you think I ask you to memorize Bible verses? Do you think they can help save us from being lost? I'll bet you older kids can help me out with this part. What Bible verse do you know that tells us who Jesus is and why he is important to us? That's right, John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

How about a verse that tells us why we need Jesus? Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." This means everyone makes mistakes and does things that are wrong, which is why we need Jesus.

What if we know who Jesus is and why we need him, but now we need to know what to do to be saved? Is there a verse for that? Romans 10:9 "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." This means if we say out loud that Jesus is our leader and believe that God brought him back to life, we will be saved.

So today, when you go home with your memory verse. Don't forget about it. Remember it is a life-saving verse to remember!

Let's talk more about why these verses are so important. Imagine you're on a big ship, and suddenly it starts to sink. You would need a lifeboat to save you, right? Well, Jesus is like our lifeboat. When we believe in Him and follow Him, He saves us from sinking.

Now, let's think about John 3:17 eternal life. This verse is like a big, warm hug from God. It tells us that God sent Jesus not to tell us off, but to save us. Because of Jesus, we can have eternal life, which means we can be with God forever. Isn't that amazing?

But how do we get this eternal life? It's like when you're given a present. First, you have to accept it. Believing in Jesus and what He did for us is like saying "yes" to God's gift. And when we say "yes," we get to open the gift of eternal life.

Sometimes, it might be hard to remember why this is all so important. But think about your best friend. You trust them, right? You believe they'll be there for you. Believing in Jesus is like that. We trust Him to be there for us, to guide us, and to help us when we're lost.

And just like you talk to your friend, you can talk to Jesus. You can tell Him anything, the good and the bad. This is called praying. When you pray, you're talking to your friend Jesus, who loves you very much.

Now, remember how we talked about making mistakes? Well, Jesus knows we're not perfect. That's why He's always ready to forgive us. When we say sorry to Him, He gives us a big hug and tells us it's okay. This helps us to do better next time.

So, every day, try to be a little bit more like Jesus. Be kind, help others, and talk to Jesus through prayer. And when you mess up, say sorry and remember that Jesus loves you no matter what. Let's say "yes" to Jesus together. Let's follow Him, talk to Him, and share His love with everyone. And let's always remember how special John 3:17 eternal life really is. It's our promise from God that He loves us and wants us to be with Him forever. And that's the best news ever!

Bible Memory Verse

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. - John 3:17

You Will Need:

- Colored construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into large heart shapes, one for each child.
- Write 'John 3:17' on each heart with a marker.

Do This:

1. Give each child a heart and ask them to decorate it with markers and stickers as they like. Explain that the heart represents God's love for us.

2. While they are decorating, talk to them about the meaning of the memory verse: that God sent Jesus not to punish us, but because He loves us and wants to save us.
3. After they finish decorating, help them write the memory verse on the back of the heart. Encourage them to take it home and place it somewhere they can see it every day to remember God's love and salvation.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A small flashlight or a battery-operated candle
- Simple illustrations of happy and sad faces
- A heart-shaped cutout

Get Ready:

- Make sure the flashlight or candle works.
- Prepare the illustrations of happy and sad faces, and have the heart-shaped cutout ready.

Do this:

1. Sit in a circle with the children and show them the heart-shaped cutout, explaining that it represents each one of us.
2. Turn on the flashlight or candle and say, "God sent Jesus not to make us sad or scared (show the sad face illustration), but to save us and fill our hearts with His light and love (show the happy face illustration)."
3. Pass around the heart-shaped cutout and let each child hold it while you shine the flashlight or candle on it, symbolizing Jesus' love filling our hearts. Encourage them to say, "Jesus loves me!"

Snack Activity: Heavenly Heart Cookies

You'll Need:

- Pre-made sugar cookie dough
- Heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Frosting and sprinkles

Get Ready: Preheat the oven as per the cookie dough package instructions. Roll out the cookie dough on a flat, floured surface.

Do this:

1. Help the children use the heart-shaped cookie cutter to cut out cookies. Explain that the heart shape reminds us of God's love. John 3:17 tells us that God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him. Just like these cookies are made with love, God sent Jesus because of His great love for us.
2. Bake the cookies as directed on the package. While they bake, talk about how Jesus is like a light in our lives, making us feel warm and loved.
3. Once the cookies have cooled, let the children decorate them with frosting and sprinkles. As they decorate, remind them that just like they are making these cookies special, Jesus makes our lives special by being our friend and savior.

Game Activity: Rescue Mission

You'll Need:

- Soft plush toys (animals or characters)
- A designated 'safe zone' area marked with a blanket or mat
- Simple obstacles like pillows or soft blocks

Get Ready: Place the plush toys at various distances from the 'safe zone', creating a simple obstacle course with the pillows or soft blocks.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that just like Jesus came to save us, we are going on a rescue mission to save these toys and bring them to the safe zone.
2. Each child takes a turn navigating the obstacle course to rescue a toy and bring it back to the safe zone, explaining that Jesus' love helps us overcome obstacles.
3. After all toys are rescued, gather the children in the safe zone and briefly share that Jesus came not to judge us, but to save us, and that's why we did our rescue mission.

Craft Activity: God's Love Earth

You'll Need:

- Blue and green construction paper
- Cotton balls
- Glue

Get Ready: Cut the blue paper into a circle to represent the Earth. Tear the green paper into small pieces for land.

Do this:

1. Explain John 3:17, emphasizing that God sent Jesus not to judge the world, but to save it because of His great love.
2. Have the children glue the green pieces onto the blue circle to make the Earth. Talk about how God loves everyone in the world.
3. Add cotton balls for clouds. As they do, remind them that just like the clouds cover the Earth, God's love covers us.

Prayer Activity: God's Big Love

You'll Need:

- A small flashlight or a battery-operated candle
- Heart-shaped stickers
- A simple illustration of the Earth or globe

Get Ready: Place the heart-shaped stickers around the illustration of the Earth.

Do this:

1. Gather the children in a circle and dim the lights in the room. Explain that the flashlight or candle represents Jesus's love for us and the whole world.
2. Read a simplified version of John 3:17, such as 'God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him.' Emphasize that Jesus came to show us God's big love.
3. Turn on the flashlight or candle and shine it on the Earth illustration with the heart stickers. Explain that each heart represents people all over the world that Jesus loves and came to save.
4. Encourage each child to say a simple prayer, thanking Jesus for His love and asking Him to help us share that love with others. They can say, 'Thank you, Jesus, for loving me and everyone in the world. Help me to share Your love.'
5. Conclude by singing a simple song about Jesus's love, such as 'Jesus Loves Me' or any other age-appropriate song that emphasizes God's love.