

# Do You Know?

## LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

**Theme:** Gospel Message

**Scripture:** John 3:17

**Memory Verse:** For 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

**For 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 paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored 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 or crayons, illustrating what it means to them that Jesus came to save us, not to condemn us.
2. While they work, discuss the memory verse, explaining that God sent Jesus because of His great love for us. Emphasize that Jesus is our friend and Savior.

3. After everyone has finished their heart, gather the children in a circle. Let each child share their heart and what the verse means to them. Conclude by saying the memory verse together as a group.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large world map or globe
- Small heart stickers or paper hearts with adhesive
- A flashlight
- Printed verse cards of John 3:17

Get Ready:

- Place the world map or globe in a visible area where all the children can see it.
- Prepare the printed verse cards of John 3:17, enough for each child to have one.
- Have the flashlight and heart stickers or paper hearts ready to be used.

Do this:

1. Begin by reading John 3:17 aloud to the children: "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."
2. Explain that the world is full of different places and people, and God loves everyone in it. Turn off the lights and shine the flashlight on the map or globe, moving it around to different continents and countries, illustrating how God's love reaches every corner of the earth.
3. Give each child a heart sticker or paper heart. Invite them to come up one by one and place their heart on a place in the world on the map or globe, saying, "God loves everyone here, too." This represents how God's love, through Jesus, is meant for every person, everywhere.

4. Hand out the printed verse cards of John 3:17 to each child. Ask them to keep it in a place where they can see it every day as a reminder that God sent Jesus not to condemn us, but to save us because of His great love for us.

## Snack Activity: Heavenly S'mores of Salvation

You'll Need:

- Graham crackers
- Marshmallows
- Chocolate bars
- A microwave or campfire (with adult supervision)
- Toothpicks
- Paper and markers

Get Ready: Before starting, have the kids draw or write what they think heaven looks like on paper. Discuss how John 3:17 tells us that God sent His Son not to judge the world, but to save it through Him. Explain that just like the s'more needs all its parts to be complete, we need Jesus to be saved and experience the fullness of God's love.

Do this:

1. Break a graham cracker in half. Explain that the cracker represents us - a bit plain on its own, but part of something great.
2. Add a piece of chocolate on top of one cracker half. The chocolate represents God's love - sweet and comforting.
3. Toast a marshmallow (with adult help). As it's toasting, explain that the marshmallow represents Jesus. He went through the heat for us, taking on our sins, so we could be with God forever.

4. Put the toasted marshmallow on the chocolate and cover with the other cracker half. Press gently. This complete s'more shows us what happens when we accept Jesus - we become part of God's family, a sweet and perfect combination.
5. Enjoy the s'more together, and remind the kids that just like the s'more, God's love and salvation are gifts meant to be shared. Encourage them to share the story of Jesus with others, just like they might share a delicious s'more.

## Game Activity: Rescue Mission: The Gospel Journey

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- Small stones or beanbags
- A printed or drawn picture of the Earth and a heart

Get Ready: Draw a large hopscotch grid on the ground with the sidewalk chalk. At the start, place the picture of the Earth, and at the end, place the heart. Write numbers 1 through 10 in each square of the hopscotch grid. Each number represents a step closer to understanding God's love.

Do this:

1. Gather the children and explain that just like in John 3:17, God sent His Son not to judge the world, but to save it. Our mission is to hop through the Gospel Journey, avoiding 'judgment' (stepping out of the squares) and reaching 'salvation' (the heart) to understand God's love for us.
2. Each child takes a turn tossing a stone or beanbag onto the first square. They must hop over that square and continue hopping to the end, then back, picking up the stone on their way back without losing balance. This represents avoiding judgment and embracing God's love.

3. After each child completes their turn, discuss how each step (number) on the journey can represent a part of God's plan for us, like kindness, forgiveness, and love. The game ends when all children understand that God's mission is not to judge us, but to save and love us, just like reaching the heart at the end of the hopscotch.

## Craft Activity: Saving the World with Love

You'll Need:

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

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

Do this:

1. On one side of the heart, help the children write 'John 3:17' at the top and 'God sent His Son to save the world through Him' at the bottom. Encourage them to decorate around the words with markers or crayons.
2. On the other side of the heart, ask the children to draw or write ways they can show love and kindness to others, reflecting on how Jesus loves us.
3. Punch a hole at the top of the heart and thread a piece of string or yarn through it. Tie a knot to create a hanging loop. This craft can be displayed in their room or home as a reminder that Jesus came not to judge the world, but to save it through love.

# Prayer Activity: Heavenly Messages

You'll Need:

- Colorful construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors

Get Ready: Cut the construction paper into cloud shapes ahead of time.

Do this:

1. Begin by reading John 3:17 together: 'For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.' Explain that this verse tells us Jesus came to save us and show us God's love.
2. Ask the children to think about what message they would like to share with Jesus if they could send a message to heaven. Encourage them to think about thank you messages, questions, or even drawings to show their love for Jesus.
3. Have each child pick a cloud-shaped construction paper and use the markers or crayons to write or draw their message to Jesus. Once they are done, gather the clouds and create a 'Heavenly Messages' display in your classroom. Conclude with a prayer, thanking Jesus for His love and asking Him to receive their messages with love.