

# Do You Know?

## UPPER 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
- Glue
- Stickers (optional)

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-shaped paper and ask them to decorate it with markers, crayons, and stickers. Encourage them to think about the love and salvation that Jesus brings, as mentioned in John 3:17.
2. While they work, discuss the meaning of the verse and how it applies to their lives. Ask them what it means to them that Jesus came to save, not to condemn.
3. After they finish decorating, have each child recite John 3:17. Then, create a 'Wall of Salvation' by gluing all the hearts onto a larger poster board. Display it in your classroom to remind the children of God's love and Jesus's mission on earth.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large world map or globe
- Sticky notes and pens
- A Bible or printed copies of John 3:17
- Small flashlights or glow sticks
- "Mission Cards" created from cardstock, each detailing an act of kindness or a way to share God's love

Get Ready:

- Write John 3:17 on a large poster or whiteboard for all to see.
- Prepare "Mission Cards" with simple, actionable tasks such as "Write an encouraging note to someone," "Help a family member without being asked," or "Share a favorite Bible verse with a friend."
- Place the world map or globe in a central location where all the children can see and reach it.

Do this:

1. Begin by reading John 3:17 aloud together. Discuss the meaning of the verse, emphasizing that God sent Jesus not to condemn the world, but to save it through His love and grace.
2. Turn off the lights and give each child a flashlight or glow stick, explaining that they represent the light of Jesus that we're called to share with the world. Shine the lights on the map or globe, and talk about how there are people all over the world who need to hear about Jesus' love.
3. Hand out sticky notes and pens. Ask each child to think of someone they know who could use a reminder of God's love or someone they could share the Gospel with. Have them write that person's name on a sticky note and place it on the map/globe where that person lives or where they're from.
4. Distribute the "Mission Cards" to each child. Encourage them to complete their mission during the coming week as a practical way to live out John 3:17. They can work alone, in pairs, or as a group, depending on the mission.
5. Close with a prayer, asking God to help each child share His love and light with the person they've chosen and successfully complete their mission to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

## Snack Activity: Heavenly S'mores of Salvation

You'll Need:

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

Get Ready: Write John 3:17 on a piece of paper and discuss its meaning: 'For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.' Talk about how Jesus is like a light in our lives, bringing warmth and sweetness.

Do this:

1. Each child takes a graham cracker and breaks it in half. On one half, they write 'world' using the toothpick. This represents the world before Jesus.
2. Heat the marshmallow (representing Jesus, the light of the world) over the campfire or in the microwave (with adult supervision). Place the warm marshmallow on top of the 'world' cracker half.
3. Cover with the chocolate bar (representing the sweetness and richness of salvation) and the other half of the graham cracker. As they eat their Heavenly S'mores, reflect on how Jesus came not to condemn us but to offer us salvation and a sweet relationship with Him.

## Game Activity: Saving the World with John 3:17

You'll Need:

- A large open space, preferably outdoors
- Chalk or tape (for indoor use) to mark areas
- Small bean bags or soft balls
- Printed verses from John 3:17 and other related verses on paper

Get Ready: Mark out a large circle or square in your open space. This is the 'world'. Inside this world, mark smaller areas or 'countries' with chalk or tape. Place the printed verses in different countries randomly. Each player is assigned a starting country.

Do this:

1. The game starts with a discussion on John 3:17, emphasizing that Jesus came to save the world, not to condemn it. Explain that in this game, players will act as 'messengers of salvation', spreading the message of John 3:17 across different countries.
2. On 'Go', players must hop or run to different countries within the world to collect verses. However, they can only move when the teacher shouts 'Salvation!'. If 'Condemnation' is shouted, they must freeze. This teaches the difference between salvation and condemnation.
3. The first player to collect all verses and return to their starting country wins. Conclude with a discussion on how the verses they collected relate to the message of salvation and how they can be messengers of salvation in their own lives.

## Craft Activity: Saving the World Through Love: A John 3:17 Craft

You'll Need:

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

Get Ready: Gather all materials on a large table, ensuring there are enough supplies for each child. Print out John 3:17 on a large poster or have it visible on a screen for all the children to see.

Do this:

1. Start by discussing John 3:17, emphasizing that God sent His Son not to condemn the world, but to save it through Him. Ask the children what they think this means and how they can spread love and not judgment.
2. Have each child choose their favorite colors of construction paper. They will cut out two large heart shapes from the paper. On one heart, they will write 'God sent His Son to save the world' and on the other heart, they will write a personal commitment on how they can help spread love and not judgment.
3. After writing, they will decorate their hearts with markers or crayons, adding designs, symbols, or anything that represents love and salvation to them.
4. Once the hearts are decorated, help the children use the hole punch to make a hole at the top of each heart. They will then use the string or yarn to tie the hearts together, creating a hanging decoration.
5. Encourage the children to hang their craft in a place where they will see it every day as a reminder of God's love and their commitment to spreading love in the world.

## Prayer Activity: God's Love Mission

You'll Need:

- A globe or world map
- Sticky notes
- Pens or markers

Get Ready: Write John 3:17 on a large piece of paper and display it where everyone can see.

Do this:



1. Begin by reading John 3:17 aloud together. Discuss what it means that God did not send His Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it.
2. Have each child think of a country or area of the world they feel needs to hear the message of God's love and salvation. They can choose based on recent news, missionary stories, or even places they're curious about.
3. Give each child a sticky note and a pen or marker. Ask them to write a short prayer for the people in the country they chose, asking God to help them understand His love and salvation. They should also write the name of the country on the sticky note.
4. Once everyone has written their prayers, have them come up one by one to stick their prayer on the globe or map on the location they chose. As they place their prayer, encourage them to say it out loud.
5. Conclude the activity by praying together for the nations of the world to know God's love and salvation, specifically mentioning the countries the children have chosen. Remind them that God's mission is to save, not to condemn, and that they are now part of that mission through their prayers.