

The Lost Child

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: God's love for us never ends.

Scripture: Romans 8:38-39

Memory Verse: For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

The Children's Sermon

Boys and girls, today I want to tell you a story about a little sheep named Woolly. Woolly loved to play in the meadow, jump over rocks, and chase butterflies. But sometimes, Woolly got so caught up in playing that he wandered far away from his shepherd. Each time Woolly wandered away, he would get scared and lonely. He thought his shepherd would be mad at him and not want him back. But do you know what? Every time, the shepherd would go out, find Woolly, and bring him back with a big hug. The shepherd's love for Woolly was strong and unshakable.

Sometimes we act like this, boys and girls, with God. We wander away from God by not going to Sunday services, or not reading our Bible or not praying, or we do things we know will not please God. Then, we get it in our heads that God is angry with us and doesn't love us anymore. But that is a lie. God always receives us back and wants to spend time with us. Nothing we have done or will do is big enough to cause God to stop loving us. He loves you despite everything bad that you ever have done. That's called unshakable love.

Now, let me tell you more about unshakable love. Imagine you have a favorite toy that you carry everywhere. One day, you accidentally leave it in the mud and it gets all dirty. When you find it, do you stop loving it because it's dirty? No! You clean it up, give it a big hug, and keep loving it just the same. That's how God loves us. Even when we make mistakes or get a little lost, God's love is unshakable. He cleans us up, gives us a big hug, and keeps loving us.

Sometimes, we might think, "But I've been really naughty, and I didn't listen to my mom or dad, or I was mean to my brother or sister. Surely, God doesn't love me now." But guess what? God's love doesn't work like that. His love isn't like a light switch that turns off when we do something bad. God's love is more like the sun, always shining on us, even when we can't see it through the clouds.

And you know, boys and girls, God wants us to share that unshakable love with others. When your friend is sad or someone is being left out, showing them love and kindness is like being a little shepherd, bringing them back to the warmth of God's love.

God's unshakable love is so big and so deep that it can fill our hearts to the brim and even overflow to others. It's like when you blow bubbles, and they float all around, spreading joy. God's love in our hearts can spread to others in the same way, through kind words, helping hands, and warm smiles.

Remember the story of the Prodigal Son? He left home, made bad choices, and thought his father wouldn't want him back. But when he returned, his father ran to him, hugged him, and threw a big party to celebrate. That's a picture of God's unshakable love for us. No matter how far we think we've gone, God is always ready to welcome us back with open arms and a joyful heart.

So, boys and girls, let's make a promise together. Let's promise to remember God's unshakable love for us, even when we mess up or feel alone. And let's promise to share that love with others, to be little shepherds of God's love in the world.

Let's finish with a prayer: Dear God, thank You for Your unshakable love that never gives up on us. Help us to always remember how much You love us and to share that love with everyone around us. Amen.

So, remember, boys and girls, no matter where you go, what you do, or how you feel, God's unshakable love is always with you, bigger and stronger than anything. And just like Woolly the sheep, even if we wander off, God, our shepherd, is always there to find us, bring us back, and remind us of His never-ending, unshakable love.

Bible Memory Verse

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

You Will Need:

- Colored paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into heart shapes, one for each child.
- Write 'Nothing Can Separate Us From God's Love' on a poster board and hang it where all the children can see.

Do This:

1. Give each child a heart-shaped piece of colored paper and markers or crayons.
2. Ask them to write or draw something they love or feel thankful for on one side of the heart.
3. On the other side, have them write 'God's Love is Forever' and decorate around it. Explain that just like the heart is one piece, God's love for us is whole and unchanging, no matter what we face in life.
4. Gather the hearts and create a garland to hang in the classroom, reminding the children of God's everlasting love.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large roll of paper (enough to create a path on the floor)
- Markers or crayons
- Tape
- Small stones or pebbles
- Heart stickers
- A printed copy of Romans 8:38-39 for reference

Get Ready:

1. Before class, cut a long strip of paper from the roll to create a "path" that can lay on the floor of your classroom. This path should be long enough for the children to walk on.

2. Write "God's Love" at the start of the path and "Never Ends" at the end of the path with markers.
3. Along the path, draw several symbols that represent challenges or fears (like a sad face, a storm cloud, a question mark, etc.).
4. Tape the path to the floor securely so it doesn't move as the children walk on it.
5. Have the heart stickers and small stones or pebbles nearby.

Do this:

1. Gather the children around the start of the path and read Romans 8:38-39 aloud, explaining that nothing can separate us from God's love.
2. Ask the children to think of a worry, fear, or challenge they face. For each thought, they should place a stone or pebble on one of the drawn symbols along the path as they walk it. Explain that these stones represent the hard things in life.
3. Once they reach the end of the path, have them pick a heart sticker and place it next to the "Never Ends" sign. Tell them this heart represents God's never-ending love, which is always with us, no matter what challenges we face.
4. After everyone has finished, gather the children and discuss how it felt to leave their worries on the path and be reminded of God's love at the end. Reinforce that just like the path, no matter what happens in life, God's love is always there for us, never-ending.

Snack Activity: Endless Love Fruit Loop Necklace

You'll Need:

- Fruit Loops (or any colorful cereal with holes)
- String or Yarn (cut into 24-inch pieces)
- Scissors

Get Ready: Before starting, read Romans 8:38-39 together and talk about how nothing can separate us from the love of God. Explain that just like the necklace we will make, God's love is a never-ending circle that surrounds us.

Do this:

1. Cut the string or yarn into 24-inch pieces, one for each child. Tie a small knot at one end of each string to keep the Fruit Loops from falling off.
2. Let the children thread Fruit Loops onto their string, creating a pattern or design as they wish. As they do this, remind them that each Fruit Loop represents a moment or a person in their life that God's love touches.
3. Once they have filled their string with Fruit Loops (leaving enough room to tie the ends together), help them tie the ends to form a necklace. Remind them that the circle they've created is like God's love: it has no beginning and no end, and nothing can separate us from it.

Game Activity: Eternal Love Race

You'll Need:

- A large open space (indoors or outdoors)
- Chalk (if outdoors) or tape (if indoors) to mark start and finish lines and obstacles
- Several small objects to serve as 'obstacles' (e.g., cones, pillows, toys)
- A copy of Romans 8:38-39 printed or written out

Get Ready: Mark a start and finish line in your space. Between these lines, create a simple obstacle course using the small objects as markers for where kids must hop, skip, or jump. Place the copy of Romans 8:38-39 at the finish line.

Do this:

1. Gather the children and explain that they are going to participate in the 'Eternal Love Race' to learn about how God's love for us never ends. Before starting, read Romans 8:38-39 together and discuss briefly what it means.
2. Explain the rules: Each child will take turns navigating the obstacle course. The goal is to reach the end where they will find the verse. Once they reach the verse, they must say, 'God's love for me never ends!' to complete the race.
3. Encourage the children to cheer for each other as they take their turns. After everyone has completed the course, gather the children and discuss how the obstacles in the race can be like challenges in life, but just like they reached the end of the race and were reminded of God's love, God's love is always with us, no matter what obstacles we face.

Craft Activity: Never-Ending Love Bracelets

You'll Need:

- Colorful beads
- Elastic string
- Heart-shaped beads
- Scissors
- 'Romans 8:38-39' printed on small paper strips

Get Ready: Cut the elastic string into 8-inch pieces, one for each child. Fold the 'Romans 8:38-39' paper strips into small sizes that can fit inside the heart-shaped beads if they're hollow or can be attached to the bracelet.

Do this:

1. Start by explaining Romans 8:38-39 to the children, emphasizing that nothing can separate us from God's love. Tell them they will make a bracelet to remind them of God's never-ending love.
2. Let each child thread the colorful beads onto their piece of elastic string, alternating with heart-shaped beads. As they do this, encourage them to think of different ways God shows His love to us every day.
3. Once they have filled their string with beads, help them tie the ends together securely. Attach the 'Romans 8:38-39' paper strip to the bracelet, either by inserting it into a hollow heart bead or by tying it to the bracelet. Remind them that whenever they wear the bracelet, it symbolizes that nothing can separate them from the love of God.

Prayer Activity: God's Everlasting Love Prayer Chain

You'll Need:

- Strips of colorful paper
- Markers or crayons
- Stapler or tape

Get Ready: Write Romans 8:38-39 on a whiteboard or large piece of paper where all the children can see it. Explain that this verse tells us nothing can separate us from God's love.

Do this:

1. Ask each child to think of one thing that makes them feel loved by God. It could be a sunny day, a hug from a parent, or feeling safe at night.
2. Have them write or draw that thing on a strip of paper with markers or crayons.
3. Show the children how to make a loop with their strip of paper and secure it with a stapler or tape. Then, connect each child's loop to another, making a chain. Explain

that just like these loops are connected and unbreakable, nothing can separate us from God's love for us.