

The Lost Child

UPPER 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:

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

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into strips before class.
- Write each word of Romans 8:38-39 on separate strips of paper.

Do This:

1. Mix up the strips of paper with the words of the verse on them and distribute them among the children. Ask them to work together to arrange the strips in order to form the complete verse correctly.
2. Once the verse is correctly arranged, have the children glue the strips onto a larger piece of construction paper in the correct order to create a 'Verse Puzzle'. Encourage them to decorate around the verse with markers or crayons, illustrating what the verse means to them.
3. Punch holes at the top of the completed Verse Puzzle and thread string or yarn through, allowing the children to hang their artwork at home as a reminder of God's inseparable love.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large poster or whiteboard
- Sticky notes or small pieces of paper
- Markers or pens
- Tape or magnets (if using a whiteboard)
- A Bible or printed copies of Romans 8:38-39

Get Ready:

- Write Romans 8:38-39 at the top of the poster or whiteboard for everyone to see.

- Prepare sticky notes or small pieces of paper and ensure there are enough markers or pens for each child.
- Create a "Nothing Can Separate Us" banner or sign to place above or near your display area.

Do this:

1. Begin by reading Romans 8:38-39 aloud with the group. Discuss what these verses mean, emphasizing that God's love is unstoppable, unchangeable, and eternal.
2. Ask each child to think of a situation or thing (e.g., fear, distance, sadness) they believe could separate them from God's love. Have them write or draw it on a sticky note or piece of paper.
3. One by one, let the children come up and stick their note on the poster or whiteboard. After they place their note, challenge them to say, "But even this cannot separate me from God's love," reinforcing the message of Romans 8:38-39.
4. After everyone has placed their note, lead a group discussion on how these things might make us feel separated from God's love, but according to Romans 8:38-39, nothing can actually separate us from His love.
5. Conclude with a prayer, asking God to help each child remember that His love is always with them, no matter what they face.

Snack Activity: Endless Love Trail Mix

You'll Need:

- A variety of nuts (representing different challenges we face)
- Pretzel twists (to symbolize the twists and turns in our lives)
- Chocolate chips (to remind us of the sweet love of God)
- Marshmallows (to represent the comfort God gives us)
- A large mixing bowl

- A spoon for mixing
- Small bags or containers for each child

Get Ready: Read Romans 8:38-39 together as a class to understand how nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Do this:

1. Start by discussing the different ingredients and what they represent in our lives and how they relate to Romans 8:38-39. Allow each child to share a personal story or thought if they feel comfortable.
2. Have each child take turns adding an ingredient to the mixing bowl. As they add their ingredient, encourage them to say one thing they believe cannot separate them from God's love.
3. Once all ingredients are added, mix the trail mix together while talking about how, just like the mix, our lives are made up of different experiences, but God's love is always present and unchanging. Each child then scoops some trail mix into their bag or container to take home, reminding them of God's endless love.

Game Activity: Unbreakable Bond Tag

You'll Need:

- A large, open playing area
- Boundary markers (cones, ropes, or chalk)
- A soft ball or beanbag
- Printed verses of Romans 8:38-39 on individual cards

Get Ready: Mark a large playing area with clear boundaries using cones, ropes, or chalk. Distribute the printed verses of Romans 8:38-39 around the playing area, ensuring they are visible and accessible.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that the game is a representation of God's unbreakable love for us, as described in Romans 8:38-39. Each player will try to tag others by gently tossing the ball or beanbag at them. Whoever gets tagged must freeze and recite Romans 8:38-39 to be 'unfrozen' and rejoin the game.
2. Select one player to be 'It' first. This player will hold the ball or beanbag and try to tag others by gently tossing it at them. If a player is tagged, they must stand still, pick up a verse card, and recite it to continue playing.
3. Play continues with players tagging and reciting verses. Every few minutes, switch who is 'It' to give everyone a chance. The game emphasizes that nothing can separate us from God's love, not even being 'frozen' in the game. Encourage the children to help each other remember the verse and understand its meaning through the activity.

Craft Activity: Unbreakable Love: A Romans 8:38-39

Craft

You'll Need:

- A large piece of poster board or construction paper
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Stickers or decorative items (optional)
- A Bible

Get Ready: Read Romans 8:38-39 together and discuss what it means to be convinced that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Do this:

1. On the poster board, draw a large heart to symbolize God's love. Inside the heart, write Romans 8:38-39 using markers, crayons, or colored pencils.
2. Around the heart, have each child write or draw pictures of things they think could separate them from God's love (like fear, doubt, or situations). Discuss why these things cannot actually separate us from God's love.
3. Decorate the heart and the area around it with stickers or other decorative items to celebrate the unbreakable love of God. Encourage creativity and personal expression.
4. Once complete, share the creations with the group and talk about how remembering this verse can help us when we feel alone or scared.

Prayer Activity: Unbreakable Love: A Prayer Journey

You'll Need:

- A Bible or printed copy of Romans 8:38-39
- A large poster board
- Markers or colored pencils

Get Ready: Write Romans 8:38-39 at the top of the poster board in large, decorative letters. Below the scripture, draw a large heart.

Do this:

1. Begin by reading Romans 8:38-39 aloud together. Discuss what these verses mean about God's love for us.

2. Ask each child to think of a time when they felt loved unconditionally by someone or when they needed to be reminded that nothing could separate them from God's love.

Have them write or draw this instance inside the large heart on the poster board.

3. Once everyone has added to the heart, gather around the poster board. Lead a prayer thanking God for His unbreakable love and asking for help to remember that nothing can separate us from His love, not even our fears, doubts, or the hardest times.

Conclude by asking God to help us show this unbreakable love to others.