

Seashells

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Seeing beauty in others

Scripture: John 9

Memory Verse: While I am in the world, I am the light of the world. - John 9:5

The Children's Sermon

I remember the stories from Sunday School when I was a little kid... about how Jesus stopped what he was doing to help broken people... The blind man he healed or the man who couldn't walk or the man who had sores on his body; Yep, Jesus stops to pick up broken people; I'm SO GLAD Jesus is not a bad friend. Jesus sees something beautiful in each of us, and He knows just where He can use us. And He especially likes the broken ones, cause we've been stepped on and thrown back so many times, we're just happy He could see something pretty in us.

Let's Pray: Lord, We know God made us all, and even though we aren't perfect, there's something beautiful in each of us that You can see; Teach us to have eyes like Jesus; Eyes that look beyond the broken parts to find something in everybody that is beautiful. Slow us down so that we take the time to look, stop, and pick up the beautiful people and shells scattered in our path.

Now, let's talk more about how Jesus helps those who are hurt or feel left out. One day, Jesus was walking with his friends, and they saw a man who could not see. This man was blind from when he was born. People walked by him every day, maybe not even

saying hello. But Jesus stopped. He always had time for people who needed help. This story is called Jesus heals the blind man.

Jesus didn't just walk by; he saw the man and wanted to help. He knew that everyone deserves love and kindness, no matter what. Jesus then did something amazing. He made mud, put it on the man's eyes, and told him to go wash in a pool. When the man did what Jesus said, he could see for the first time! Imagine how happy he must have been. This shows us that Jesus has the power to change things. He can turn sad things into happy things.

But why did Jesus use mud? Well, sometimes Jesus does things in ways we don't expect. It's like when we're making a picture. We might use different colors or shapes to make something beautiful. Jesus uses different ways to show his love and make our lives better.

Remember, Jesus heals the blind man, not just to show he could do miracles, but to teach us something very important. He wants us to know that everyone matters. No one is too small or too unimportant for him. He looks at us and sees what we can be, not just what we are right now.

And you know what? Just like Jesus helped the blind man, he wants to help us too. Sometimes we might feel sad, or we have problems that seem too big. But Jesus is always there. He listens when we talk to him, and he can help make things better. We just have to trust him and follow what he says, just like the blind man did.

Jesus also teaches us to be helpers. When we see someone who is sad or needs a friend, we can be like Jesus. We can stop, look, and help. Maybe we can share our toys,

give a hug, or just listen. It's not always about doing big things. Small acts of kindness show Jesus's love too.

And remember, it's okay to be different. Jesus didn't choose people who were perfect. He chose people who were different, people who made mistakes, and people who were not always chosen by others. He made them his friends and showed them they were special. So, if you ever feel left out or think you're not good enough, remember Jesus heals the blind man and he sees something beautiful in you too.

Let's try to be like Jesus. Let's be kind, let's help others, and let's see the good in people. Even when someone seems different, remember, Jesus loves them, and we should too.

So, what can we do this week to be like Jesus? Maybe we can help at home without being asked. Or we can play with someone at school who is often alone. Every time we do something kind, we are showing Jesus's love to the world.

Let's finish with a prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us and for showing us how to love others. Help us to see the good in everyone, just like you do. Give us the courage to help and to be kind, even when it's hard. We want to be like you, Jesus, loving and caring for all. Amen.

Remember, kids, Jesus loves each of us, no matter what. He's always ready to help, just like he helped the blind man. Let's go out and share that love with everyone we meet.

Bible Memory Verse

While I am in the world, I am the light of the world. - John 9:5

You Will Need:

- Colored construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Crayons or markers
- Stickers or glitter (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut out large simple shapes (like circles or stars) from the construction paper ahead of time.
- Set up a table with all the materials spread out so each child can reach them easily.

Do This:

1. Tell the children they are going to make their own 'Worlds of Light' to remind them that Jesus is the light of the world, just like in John 9:5. Explain that they can use the materials to create a picture that shows beauty and light.
2. Encourage the children to think of people or things that bring light and beauty into their lives and represent them on their construction paper using the crayons, markers, and other materials. They could draw friends, family, the sun, stars, or anything that makes them think of beauty and light.
3. Once everyone has finished their artwork, gather the children in a circle and let them share their 'Worlds of Light'. Ask them to explain what they drew and how it reminds them of Jesus being the light of the world. Finish by reciting the memory verse together.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A blindfold
- Various textured items (e.g., a soft teddy bear, a smooth stone, a piece of rough sandpaper, a fluffy feather)
- Printed pictures of diverse people showing different emotions
- Sticky notes and markers
- A large poster board with the title "Seeing Beauty in Others" at the top

Get Ready:

- Lay out the textured items on a table.
- Hang the poster board on a wall accessible to the children.
- Place the printed pictures on another table, with sticky notes and markers nearby.

Do this:

1. **Blindfolded Touch:** Blindfold a child and have them feel the different textured items, describing what they feel. After they've felt all the items, ask them to guess what each item is. This demonstrates that even without sight, we can "see" and appreciate the world in different ways, just like Jesus helped the blind man in John 9 to see the beauty of the world for the first time.
2. **Picture Sharing:** Remove the blindfold and invite the child to pick a picture from the table. Ask them to describe the person in the picture: what they might be feeling or doing. Emphasize that everyone has beauty and worth, just like the story in John 9 shows us that everyone is special in God's eyes.

3. ****Beauty Board:**** Give each child a sticky note and a marker. Ask them to write or draw something beautiful they see in others or something beautiful about the person in the picture they chose. Then, have them stick their notes on the "Seeing Beauty in Others" poster board. This activity encourages children to recognize and appreciate the beauty in diversity and in the unique qualities of those around them, reflecting the message of love and acceptance in John 9.

Snack Activity: Eyes of Kindness Cookies

You'll Need:

- Sugar cookies (pre-baked, one for each child)
- Icing in various colors
- Edible markers
- Small candies (like M&Ms or Skittles)
- Plastic knives or small spatulas for spreading icing

Get Ready: Before the lesson, bake or buy enough sugar cookies for each child to have one. Set up a decorating station with all the materials laid out on a clean table.

Do this:

1. Start by telling the story of John 9, focusing on how Jesus saw the man who was blind from birth and healed him, showing us that we should look for the beauty in others and help them see their worth.
2. Give each child a cookie and let them use the icing to create eyes on their cookie. Explain that the eyes they are creating should remind us to see others with kindness and love, just like Jesus does.
3. Encourage the children to use the edible markers to add details or decorations around the eyes, making each cookie unique. As they decorate, discuss how everyone

is special and beautiful in their own way, and how important it is to see that beauty in others.

4. Once everyone has finished decorating, allow the children to share their cookies with one another, explaining something beautiful they see in the other person. This act of sharing and speaking kindness will help reinforce the lesson's theme.

Game Activity: Beauty Goggles Tag

You'll Need:

- A blindfold for each child
- A large, open play area
- Stickers or washable markers

Get Ready: Before the game starts, create a safe play area by removing any obstacles. Then, explain to the children that in John 9, Jesus helped a man who was blind to see. We're going to play a game that helps us understand how to see the beauty in others, even if we can't use our eyes.

Do this:

1. Choose one child to be 'It' and give them a blindfold. This child is now wearing 'beauty goggles' which means they have to sense the beauty in others without using their sight.
2. The 'It' child counts to 10 while the others quietly find places to stand within the play area.
3. When 'It' finishes counting, they try to tag the other players. If 'It' touches a player, they must say something beautiful or kind about that person before they can be tagged. This could be a compliment about their personality, a way they are helpful, or something they are good at.

4. Once tagged, the player gives 'It' a sticker or draws a small heart on their hand with a washable marker as a symbol of the beauty seen in them. Then, the tagged player becomes 'It' and puts on the blindfold to continue the game.
5. The game continues until everyone has had a chance to be 'It' and see the beauty in others through the 'beauty goggles'.

Craft Activity: Beauty Glasses

You'll Need:

- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Glue or tape
- Decorations (stickers, glitter, etc.)

Get Ready: Cut out glasses shapes from the construction paper. Make sure they're big enough to fit comfortably on the children's faces, but don't cut out the eye holes yet.

Do this:

1. Give each child a pair of paper glasses and ask them to decorate them with markers, crayons, and other decorations. Encourage them to make them as colorful and unique as they want.
2. While they're decorating, talk to them about the story of John 9, focusing on how Jesus helped a man who was blind to see. Discuss how Jesus sees the beauty in everyone and how we can try to see people the way Jesus does.
3. After the glasses are decorated, help the children cut out the eye holes. Then, invite them to look at each other through their 'beauty glasses'. Encourage them to share

something beautiful or special they see in their friends. This activity helps them practice seeing the beauty in others, just like Jesus does.

Prayer Activity: Seeing Beauty in Others Prayer Garden

You'll Need:

- A small flower pot for each child
- Potting soil
- Flower seeds (any variety that is easy to grow)
- Colorful markers or paint
- Small stickers or decorations

Get Ready: Before the class, gather all the materials needed for the activity. Prepare a sample decorated flower pot to show the children what they'll be making. Make sure to have a space ready where the children can work without worrying about making a mess.

Do this:

1. Start by telling the story of John 9, focusing on how Jesus helped the blind man see and how we can help others see the beauty in the world and in themselves. Emphasize that just like plants need care to grow, our love and kindness can help others grow too.

2. Let each child decorate their flower pot with markers, paint, and stickers.

Encourage them to think of someone they appreciate or want to show kindness to as they decorate.

3. After decorating, help the children fill their pots with soil and plant a few seeds in each. As they plant the seeds, lead them in a prayer asking God to help them see the

beauty in others and to be kind and loving like Jesus. Encourage them to care for their plant as a reminder to care for the people around them.