

Stained Glass Windows

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: Our lives can be compared to stained glass windows

Scripture: Psalms 34:18

Memory Verse: The Lord is close to the brokenhearted - Psalm 34:18

The Children's Sermon

Imagine you have a favorite toy, but one day, it breaks. You might feel sad, right? But what if I told you that sometimes, when things break, they can still be beautiful, or even become more special? This is a little like our lives. Sometimes, we feel broken inside because of things that happen to us or mistakes we make. But there is beauty in that brokenness, just like there is beauty in a toy that's been fixed with care.

Each one of us has parts of our lives that feel broken. Maybe you had a fight with a friend, or you didn't do well on a test even though you studied really hard. When we look at these broken pieces, we might feel sad or upset. But guess what? We can learn from them and become stronger, kinder people. It's like putting the pieces back together in a new way that makes us even more special.

We can take the brokenness of our lives and try to see the beauty in it that God sees. Sometimes, we might wish for everything to be perfect and for all the bad things to just go away. But even in tough times, there's something good that can come out of it. It's like finding a rainbow after a storm. God helps us see the rainbow in our brokenness.

In our troubles, we can fail to see how this problem can be meant for us. We might even ask God, "Why is this happening to me?" But every challenge we face is a chance to grow and learn. It's like when you're learning to ride a bike. Falling off is part of learning how to stay on. Our problems can teach us how to be stronger and more loving.

There are times we feel like we are scattered, broken, and anything but a beautiful piece of art for God. But remember, even the most beautiful mosaics are made of broken pieces. Each one of us is like a piece of a big, beautiful picture that God is making. Even when we feel lost or broken, we're still a part of something wonderful.

All of us are both beautiful and broken. It's okay to have both happy and sad feelings. It's okay to make mistakes because that's how we learn. Just like a puzzle, every piece is important, even if it's a little bent or chipped. We're called to live lives where the Creator can work through us, yet where we try to make sense of our brokenness.

Now, let's talk about how we can see the beauty in our brokenness. First, we can talk to God about our feelings. Just like you talk to your mom or dad when you're upset, you can talk to God too. He listens to us all the time.

Second, we can help others who might feel broken inside. Maybe you have a friend who's sad or someone at school who sits alone at lunch. By being kind to them, you're showing them the beauty in their brokenness, just like someone might do for you.

Third, remember to be thankful for the good things in your life. Even when things seem tough, there's always something to be thankful for, like your family, friends, or even your favorite ice cream. Being thankful helps us see the beauty in our lives.

Heavenly Father, help us to trust you and know that you love us and want only the best for our lives. Help us to live our lives in a way that helps others want to know you better. When we feel broken, remind us that there's beauty in our brokenness, and you're always there to help us put the pieces back together.

Bible Memory Verse

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted - Psalm 34:18

You Will Need:

- Colored tissue paper
- Clear contact paper
- Black construction paper

Get Ready:

- Cut the black construction paper into frames resembling a window.
- Cut the colored tissue paper into small pieces that will fit inside the window frames.
- Cut two pieces of clear contact paper that are slightly larger than the window frames.

Do This:

1. Peel the backing off one piece of the clear contact paper and place it sticky side up on the table. Place the black construction paper frame on top.
2. Let the children place the colored tissue paper pieces onto the clear contact paper, inside the frame, to create their own 'stained glass' design.
3. Once they are satisfied with their design, peel the backing off the second piece of clear contact paper and place it sticky side down on top of their design, sealing the tissue paper in place.

4. Display their creations on a window to show how we all can shine beautifully when the light shines through us, just like the stained glass, reminding us that God is close to us, especially when we are sad or heartbroken.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Clear contact paper
- Tissue paper in various colors, cut into squares
- Black construction paper
- Scissors
- Psalms 34:18 printed on a paper

Get Ready:

1. Cut the black construction paper into frames, making sure they have an open center.
2. Cut two pieces of clear contact paper that are slightly larger than the black frames.
3. Prepare the tissue paper squares by cutting them into small, manageable pieces for little hands.

Do this:

1. Peel the backing off one piece of the contact paper and place it sticky side up on the table. Place the black frame on top of the contact paper.
2. Read Psalms 34:18 to the children: "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Explain that just like a stained glass window, our lives are made of different pieces - happy times (bright colors) and sad times (darker colors), but God is with us through it all, making our lives beautiful.
3. Let the children stick the tissue paper pieces inside the frame on the sticky contact paper, encouraging them to use different colors to fill in the space.

4. Once they are done decorating, place the second piece of contact paper sticky side down on top of their creation to seal the tissue paper pieces.
5. Trim any excess contact paper around the edges.
6. Display their stained glass creations on a window to let the light shine through, demonstrating how our lives can shine beautifully when God is part of it.

Snack Activity: Stained Glass Jello Windows

You'll Need:

- Different colors of Jello (red, blue, green, yellow)
- 1 large clear container or individual clear cups
- Boiling water (for adult use only)
- Whipped cream (optional)

Get Ready: Choose a Bible verse to share with the children, such as Psalms 34:18, explaining how God is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Just like a stained glass window is made of broken pieces that create a beautiful picture, our lives can also be beautiful when God is with us.

Do this:

1. Prepare the Jello according to the package instructions in separate bowls, using different colors. This step is for adults only, as it involves boiling water. Let the Jello set by cooling it in the refrigerator.
2. Once the Jello is firm, cut it into cubes. Help the children place the Jello cubes into the clear container or cups, mixing the colors to create a 'stained glass' effect.
3. If desired, top the stained glass Jello with whipped cream to represent the 'frame' of the stained glass window. Share the snack as you discuss how our lives, with God's help, can be as colorful and beautiful as a stained glass window.

Game Activity: Stained Glass Hop

You'll Need:

- Colorful sidewalk chalk
- A safe, paved outdoor area
- Simple images of stained glass windows (for inspiration)

Get Ready: Before the activity, draw large, simple stained glass window designs on the pavement with the sidewalk chalk. Each 'window' should be big enough for a child to stand in and should have different shapes (circles, squares, triangles) filled with various colors.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that just like the stained glass windows, we are all unique and beautiful in God's eyes, based on Psalms 34:18. Tell them that when we come together, we create something even more beautiful, like a church's stained glass.
2. Have the children start at one end of the 'stained glass path'. Play some music and have them hop from one window to another, making sure they only step into the shapes you call out (e.g., 'Hop into a blue square!').
3. When the music stops, everyone freezes. Use this moment to point out the beautiful 'window' they are standing in and remind them that God loves them in their uniqueness. Then start the music again for another round.

Craft Activity: Stained Glass Hearts

You'll Need:

- Tissue paper in various colors, cut into small squares

- Clear contact paper
- Black construction paper
- Scissors

Get Ready: Cut out a heart frame from the black construction paper for each child. Cut two pieces of clear contact paper that are slightly larger than the heart frame.

Do this:

1. Peel the backing off one piece of the clear contact paper and place it sticky side up on the table. Have the children stick the tissue paper squares onto the clear contact paper, covering it completely with a beautiful, colorful design.
2. Place the black heart frame on top of the tissue-covered contact paper.
3. Peel the backing off the second piece of clear contact paper and place it sticky side down on top of the heart, sealing the tissue paper in between. Trim any excess contact paper around the edges. Hang the stained glass hearts on a window to let the light shine through, reminding the children that just like the stained glass, our lives can shine with God's love when we are kind and loving.

Prayer Activity: Stained Glass Hearts

You'll Need:

- Tissue paper in various colors
- Clear contact paper
- Black construction paper

Get Ready: Cut the black construction paper into frames shaped like hearts. Cut the tissue paper into small squares.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that our lives are like stained glass windows. When God's love shines through us, we can show His beautiful colors to the world, just like a stained glass window. Psalms 34:18 tells us that God is close to the brokenhearted, which means even when we are sad or going through hard times, God can still shine through us.
2. Give each child a heart frame and a piece of clear contact paper that fits the frame. Peel the backing off the contact paper and have the children stick it to one side of the frame.
3. Let the children stick the tissue paper squares onto the contact paper, filling in the heart with colorful 'glass'. Once they're done, cover the tissue paper side with another piece of contact paper to seal their creation. Remind them that each piece of tissue represents the different parts of their lives, and together, they make something beautiful for God.