

Stainless Steel

UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Jesus was without sin.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:21

Memory Verse: God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. - 2 Corinthians 5:21

The Children's Sermon

You'll Need:

-Black or dark nail polish, gauze or makeup pad soaked in nail polish remover, ziplock bag

I have a question for you. Who is Jesus? (Kids might say God's son, etc.) That's right. You know who Jesus is, but the other day when I asked a group of kids if Jesus ever sinned... Boy was I surprised at the answer! Did Jesus ever sin? NO. That's right! Jesus is holy and perfect like his Father. You know when God created the world, He created who? That's right Adam and Eve and everything was perfect. There was no sin. But God loved us and he created us with a choice. He didn't say, "YOU HAVE TO LOVE ME!" Adam and Eve chose not to obey God and through them sin entered the world. Ever since then, we all sin. That means you and me. But God did not say, " YOU HAVE TO!". Instead He said, "I love you." And He gave us Jesus to pay the price for our sins.

Let me give you an example. Let's see what a mess I can make. (Paint your thumb.) Let's say this nail polish is sin. See how it stains my nail. Now let's say this white cloth is Jesus. Jesus, who is perfectly clean and sinless. Now watch. (Remove the paint with

the cloth.) Now look. The stain is on the cloth, just like Jesus took our stain on himself. Your parents or grandparents can't pay for your sins. Why not? They have sins of their own. God's sinless and perfect son took on your sins and paid the price for you. Now you have a choice. To love Him and accept His gift, or not. Note: Put the nail polish soaked cloth in the ziplock bag to keep it moist until you need it.

Now, let's talk more about Jesus as Sin-Bearer. Imagine you're playing in the mud, and you get all dirty. You can't clean yourself with more mud, right? You need clean water. Jesus is like that clean water. Our hearts get dirty with sin, and Jesus cleans us up.

Sometimes, we try to clean our sins by being good, but it's like trying to wipe mud off with a muddy hand. It doesn't work. We need Jesus because He's the only one who can make us clean from sin. Just like the cloth took the nail polish off my thumb, Jesus takes our sins away when we ask Him to.

Jesus as Sin-Bearer means He carries our sins away from us. It's like if you had a heavy backpack full of rocks, and it was too heavy for you to carry. Jesus comes and takes the backpack from you. He carries it so you don't have to. That's what He did when He died on the cross. He took all of our sins—the lies, the unkind words, the bad thoughts—and He carried them for us.

But why would Jesus do this? Why would He take our sins and make us clean? Because He loves us so much. He wants us to be close to Him. Sin keeps us away from Jesus, but He made a way to bring us back. Just like a bridge helps you get across a river, Jesus helps us get back to God.

Now, you might wonder, how do we let Jesus take our sins? It's simple. We just need to talk to Him. Tell Jesus you're sorry for your sins and ask Him to be your Sin-Bearer. It's like saying, "Jesus, I can't clean this mess myself. I need You to help me." And guess what? He will! He's always ready to clean our hearts and make us new.

Remember, even after Jesus cleans our hearts, we might still make mistakes. But the good news is, Jesus is always there to help us. He's like the best friend who never gives up on you. You can always go to Him and ask for help to do better.

So, let's think about how we can live knowing Jesus as our Sin-Bearer. We can be kind to others, share, and help those in need. When we live like Jesus, we show others how amazing His love is. We become little lights that shine bright for Him.

And if you ever feel like you're not good enough or you've made too big of a mistake, remember the nail polish and the cloth. Just like the cloth took away the nail polish, Jesus can take away any sin, no matter how big. All you have to do is ask Him.

To end, let's say a little prayer together. You can repeat after me if you want: "Dear Jesus, thank you for being our Sin-Bearer. Thank you for loving us so much that You took our sins away. Help us to live in a way that shows Your love to others. We love You, Jesus. Amen."

Bible Memory Verse

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. - 2 Corinthians 5:21

You Will Need:

- Blank white t-shirts (one per child)
- Fabric markers or fabric paints
- Stencils of crosses, hearts, and other Christian symbols

Get Ready:

- Gather all materials and set up a work area that can get a little messy.
- Create a simple example t-shirt beforehand to inspire the children.

Do This:

1. Start by explaining the memory verse, emphasizing how Jesus took our sins upon Himself so we could be made right with God. Use the t-shirt as a metaphor for us being blank slates that Jesus transforms.
2. Allow each child to select a t-shirt and the stencils they want to use. Encourage them to think about what the verse means to them and how they can express that through their design.
3. As they work on their t-shirts, engage them in a discussion about what righteousness means and how we can strive to live righteously through faith in Jesus. Encourage sharing thoughts and reflections on the verse.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- White and black construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Glue sticks
- A large cross made from cardboard or poster board

- Sticky notes

Get Ready:

- Cut the white construction paper into strips.
- Prepare the large cross and place it at the front of the classroom.

Do this:

1. Start by reading 1 Corinthians 5:21 together as a class. Discuss what it means that Jesus was without sin and became sin for us.
2. Give each student a piece of white construction paper and ask them to write or draw what they think purity and sinlessness look like. They can use symbols, words, or drawings.
3. Next, hand out the black construction paper and have them write or draw examples of sin or things that separate us from God.
4. Using the scissors, have the students cut out the shapes or words they've written/drawn on the black paper.
5. Now, give each student a glue stick and ask them to glue their black paper 'sins' onto the large cross as a visual representation of Jesus taking our sins upon Himself.
6. Finally, have the students stick their white paper 'purity' next to the cross on a wall or board with sticky notes, symbolizing how we are made pure through Jesus' sacrifice.

Snack Activity: Sin-Free Sweetness

You'll Need:

- White chocolate chips
- Dark chocolate chips
- Pretzel sticks
- Parchment paper

- Microwave-safe bowls
- A spoon

Get Ready: Read 1 Corinthians 5:21 together and discuss how Jesus was without sin, making us righteous through Him. This snack represents Jesus' purity (white chocolate) and our sins (dark chocolate) that He took upon Himself.

Do this:

1. Melt the white chocolate chips in a microwave-safe bowl, stirring every 30 seconds until smooth. This represents Jesus' purity and sinlessness.
2. Dip half of each pretzel stick into the melted white chocolate, laying them on parchment paper to cool. These are 'sin-free' treats, symbolizing our state through Jesus.
3. Melt the dark chocolate chips in another bowl. Discuss how sin can seem appealing but ultimately separates us from God. Drizzle the dark chocolate over the white chocolate part of the pretzels, symbolizing Jesus taking our sins upon Himself. Allow them to cool.
4. Enjoy the snack while reflecting on the sacrifice Jesus made for us, allowing us to be seen as righteous in God's eyes.

Game Activity: Sin-Free Sprint

You'll Need:

- A large open space (indoors or outdoors)
- Cones or markers to designate the start and finish lines
- Cards with various 'sins' written on them (e.g., lying, stealing, being unkind) and several cards with 'Jesus' written on them
- A basket or container to hold the cards

Get Ready: Place the cones or markers at two ends of the playing area to mark the start and finish lines. Write down common sins on several cards and 'Jesus' on a few others. Mix all the cards and place them in a basket near the start line.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that 1 Corinthians 5:21 tells us Jesus was without sin so that we could become the righteousness of God through Him. This game will help us understand the concept of being free from sin through Jesus.
2. Have the children line up at the start line. Each child takes a turn drawing a card from the basket.
3. If a child draws a 'sin' card, they must perform a small task (like 5 jumping jacks) to 'repent' before they can start running to the finish line. If a child draws a 'Jesus' card, they can run straight to the finish line without doing the task, symbolizing Jesus' sin-free life and how He makes us righteous.
4. The first one to reach the finish line after completing their task (if any) wins the round. Play several rounds to give everyone multiple chances.
5. After the game, gather the children and discuss how Jesus being without sin helps us to be seen as righteous in God's eyes, and how we can strive to live sin-free lives with Jesus' help.

Craft Activity: The Sinless Savior Shield

You'll Need:

- A large piece of cardboard or poster board
- Markers, crayons, or paint
- Glue and glitter

- A printout of 1 Corinthians 5:21 ('God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.')

Get Ready: Cut the cardboard or poster board into a shield shape. Print out the verse 1 Corinthians 5:21 on a piece of paper.

Do this:

1. Color or paint the shield. While they work, discuss how Jesus, like a shield, protects us from sin because He was without sin.
2. Cut out the printed verse and glue it in the center of the shield. Decorate around the verse with glitter to highlight its importance.
3. Reflect on the meaning of the verse. Encourage the children to think of ways Jesus being sinless impacts their daily lives and how they can use their 'shield' to remind them of Jesus's protection and righteousness.

Prayer Activity: Becoming Righteous Through Jesus

You'll Need:

- A Bible or printed copy of 1 Corinthians 5:21
- Blank paper for each child
- Pens, pencils, or crayons

Get Ready: Prepare a quiet, comfortable space for the activity where each child can sit and reflect. Have the Bible verses printed out or marked in a Bible for easy reading.

Do this:

1. Start by reading 1 Corinthians 5:21 together. Discuss what it means that Jesus was without sin and how He became sin for us so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
2. Give each child a piece of paper and ask them to draw two pictures: one of themselves with things they struggle with (like lying, being unkind, etc.) and another picture of themselves with Jesus, covered in righteousness and free from those struggles.
3. Encourage the children to share their drawings and reflect on how Jesus' sacrifice changes us. Close with a prayer, thanking Jesus for becoming sin for us and asking for help to live as children of righteousness.