

Hospitality

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: A children's message on hospitality

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:9

Memory Verse: Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. - 1 Peter 4:9

The Children's Sermon

Once upon a time, in 1493, a man named Christopher Columbus and his crew landed on a beautiful island known as Guadeloupe. It was their second big trip across the sea to discover new places. Imagine their big wooden ships coming to stop near sandy beaches and green forests. They were far from home and didn't know what to expect.

The people living on the island had a special way to say "hello" and "you're welcome here" without using words. They didn't have welcome mats like we do today, and even if they did, Columbus and his crew wouldn't have understood their language. So, what did they do? They used a fruit, a very special fruit called the pineapple. If the visitors saw a pineapple at the entrance of the village, it meant they were welcome. Isn't that interesting? The pineapple was their symbol of hospitality.

This idea of using the pineapple as a sign of welcome spread far and wide. People started to carve pineapples into their doors or put pineapple decorations in their homes to show that guests were welcome. That's how the pineapple became known as a symbol of hospitality.

Now, Christopher Columbus brought the pineapple back with him from his voyage. People in England called it "pineapple" because it looked like a pine cone on the outside but was sweet and juicy like an apple on the inside. This fruit was new and exciting to them, just like discovering a new toy or game is for us.

Hospitality in Christianity is a big deal too. The Bible, which is God's special book, tells us that we should welcome others and share what we have without being grumpy about it. That means when you have friends over to play, you should let them play with your toys too. Or, if you see someone new at church or school, you can help them feel welcome by showing them around or playing with them.

Imagine if you were new somewhere and didn't know anyone. How would you feel if someone came up to you with a big smile, like they were giving you a pineapple, and made you feel welcome? That's what we're supposed to do for others. It's like being a living, breathing pineapple, showing hospitality in Christianity.

Now, let's think about our homes. Can we make them like the villages that put out a pineapple? We might not put a real pineapple by the door, but we can do things that make people feel just as welcome. Maybe we can make a nice drawing for them, share our favorite snacks, or simply tell them we're happy they're visiting.

And what about our church? Church should be a place where everyone feels like they belong, just like a family. We can be like little pineapples in church, helping new kids find where the crayons are or showing them our favorite books. We can even pray with them if they're feeling a bit lost or scared. That's showing hospitality in Christianity.

You know, Jesus was the best at showing hospitality. He welcomed everyone, even people who were very different from Him or who others didn't pay much attention to. Jesus showed us that being kind and welcoming is really important. He wants us to do the same, to be like pineapples for other people, showing them love and making them feel welcome.

So, next time you see a pineapple, remember how it's not just a tasty fruit. It's a reminder to be welcoming and kind, to share what we have, and to make others feel at home. Whether it's at your own home, at school, or in church, you can be a little pineapple, spreading hospitality in Christianity.

Let's talk to God now. Dear God, thank You for teaching us about hospitality through the story of the pineapple. Help us to be welcoming to everyone, just like Jesus was. Let us share our toys, our time, and our love with others, making them feel at home wherever we are. Amen.

So, boys and girls, let's be pineapples in our world, showing everyone the sweet, welcoming love of Jesus. Remember, hospitality in Christianity isn't just about being nice; it's about making others feel loved and included, just like Jesus does for us.

Bible Memory Verse

Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. - 1 Peter 4:9

You Will Need:

- Construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers with smiley faces or hearts

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into heart shapes, one for each child.
- Write 'Be hospitable' on each heart with a marker.

Do This:

1. Give each child a heart-shaped piece of construction paper and some markers or crayons.
2. Explain that being hospitable means being kind and welcoming to others. Ask the children to think of one way they can be hospitable to someone this week.
3. Have them draw or write their idea on the heart. Then, let them decorate their hearts with the stickers.
4. Encourage the children to share their hearts with the group, talking about how they plan to be hospitable. Finish by praying together, asking God to help them show hospitality to others.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Toy tea set or plastic cups and plates
- A variety of stuffed animals or dolls
- Simple snacks (like crackers or fruit slices)
- A picture of a house or a drawing of a door

Get Ready:

- Set up a small table or area on the floor with the toy tea set or plastic cups and plates.
- Arrange the stuffed animals or dolls around the table or in a circle on the floor.
- Place the snacks on plates to share.

- Display the picture of a house or a drawing of a door nearby.

Do this:

1. Gather the children and explain that today they will be learning about being kind and welcoming to others, just like inviting a friend into our home. Show them the picture of the house or door.
2. Invite the children to choose a stuffed animal or doll and have them "invite" their chosen guest to the tea party, encouraging them to say something welcoming like, "Would you like to come to our tea party?"
3. Once all the guests are "seated," help the children serve snacks to their stuffed animals or dolls, modeling how to share and be hospitable. Remind them that being kind and sharing with others makes everyone feel happy and welcome, just like the Bible teaches us in 1 Peter 4:9.

Snack Activity: Friendly Fruit Faces

You'll Need:

- Sliced fruits (apples, bananas, strawberries, grapes)
- Small paper plates
- Cream cheese or peanut butter (check for allergies)

Get Ready: Spread a table with a disposable tablecloth and place the fruits in the center so all children can reach them.

Do this:

1. Give each child a small paper plate and help them spread a thin layer of cream cheese or peanut butter on it.

2. Encourage the children to create faces on their plates using the sliced fruits. They can use grapes for eyes, a strawberry for a nose, and apple slices for a mouth, for example.

3. While they work, talk to them about how being kind and welcoming to others is like making a friendly face to greet them. Explain that just like we are making our fruit plates welcoming with happy faces, we can be welcoming to people by being kind and friendly, just as 1 Peter 4:9 teaches us to 'Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.'

Game Activity: Welcome Mat Hop

You'll Need:

- Colorful mats or large paper sheets
- Music player
- Stickers

Get Ready: Place the mats or paper sheets spread out on the floor, ensuring there's enough space between them for kids to hop from one to another. Each mat represents a 'home'.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that each mat is someone's home, and we are going to visit each other's homes to show hospitality, just like in 1 Peter 4:9, where we're encouraged to be hospitable.
2. Start the music and have the children hop from one mat to another. When the music stops, they should 'welcome' whoever is on their mat with a sticker, symbolizing hospitality.

3. Continue the game, stopping the music at intervals. Each time, encourage the children to welcome their new guest warmly. The aim is to teach them the joy of being hospitable and welcoming to everyone.

Prayer Activity: Welcoming Hearts Prayer

You'll Need:

- A small, soft toy or stuffed animal
- A simple snack (like crackers or fruit pieces)
- A small blanket or cloth

Get Ready: Place the toy, snack, and blanket on a table or on the floor where all the children can see and reach them.

Do this:

1. Gather the children around the table or sitting area and explain that just like we have a toy, snack, and blanket to make someone feel welcome, we can also use our hearts and prayers to welcome people.
2. Encourage each child to hold the toy and say a simple prayer, 'Dear God, help me to be welcoming and kind to everyone I meet, just like Jesus.' Then, they can pass the toy to the next child.
3. After everyone has had a turn with the toy, share the snack together as a symbol of sharing and hospitality. Wrap up by using the blanket to give the toy a 'hug,' showing that we can also give hugs, smiles, or kind words to make others feel welcome and loved.