

Watch That Slingshot

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Being responsible for our actions.

Scripture: Proverbs 28:13

Memory Verse: Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy. - Proverbs 28:13

The Children's Sermon

Today, we're going to talk about a very important lesson. It's a story that teaches us a lot about making mistakes, telling the truth, and trying to fix what we've done wrong. This lesson is all about Confession and Mercy.

I'm going to tell you about someone named Opie. Opie did something he didn't mean to do. He accidentally killed a mama bird, which was very sad. But instead of hiding what happened or pretending it didn't happen, Opie did something very brave. He told the truth about what he did. He confessed. And then, he tried to make things right by taking care of the baby birds himself. He showed that he was sorry by his actions.

Confession is when we tell someone about something wrong we did. It's like when you accidentally break a friend's toy and then you tell them about it. It's not easy to do, but it's very important. Mercy is when someone forgives you for what you did wrong. It's like when your friend says, "It's okay, I know it was an accident." Mercy feels really good because it means you're forgiven.

Let's talk more about why confession and mercy are so important. Imagine if Opie didn't tell anyone about the mama bird. He might have felt really bad inside for a long time. When we keep our mistakes a secret, they can make us feel heavy and sad. But when we confess, it's like letting out a big sigh. We might still feel sorry, but we also start to feel a bit lighter because we're not carrying the secret all by ourselves.

Now, let's think about mercy. When Opie confessed, he was given the chance to make things right. That's a part of mercy. When we show mercy to others, we give them a chance to fix their mistakes. It's like if you're playing a game and someone messes up, but you say, "It's okay, let's just try again." That's showing mercy. It makes everyone feel better and gives us all a chance to do better next time.

Confession and mercy also help us to be better friends. When we tell the truth and forgive each other, our friendships get stronger. We learn to trust each other more because we know we can be honest about our mistakes and still be friends. It's like building a bridge between two people. Every time we confess and show mercy, we add another piece to the bridge, making it stronger and longer.

In the Bible, Jesus talks a lot about confession and mercy. He tells us that when we confess our mistakes to God, God will always show us mercy. God's mercy is like a big, warm hug that tells us everything is going to be okay. And just like God shows us mercy, He wants us to show mercy to others too. Jesus even taught us to pray, "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." This means we're asking God to show us mercy and help us to show mercy to others.

So, what can we do to practice confession and mercy in our lives? First, when we make a mistake, we should try to be brave like Opie and tell the truth. It might be scary, but

remember, confession is the first step to feeling better. Second, when someone tells us they're sorry for something they did, we should try to be understanding and show them mercy. We can say, "It's okay, I forgive you," and help them feel better too.

Remember, nobody is perfect. We all make mistakes sometimes. But what's important is how we handle those mistakes. Confession and mercy are like tools that help us fix things when they go wrong. They help us to be better friends, better family members, and better people.

Let's say a prayer together. Dear Lord, thank you for teaching us about confession and mercy. Help us to be brave when we need to confess and kind when we need to show mercy. Thank you for always showing us mercy and helping us to do the same for others. Amen.

So, kids, let's remember the story of Opie and the baby birds. Let's remember how important it is to tell the truth, to say sorry, and to forgive each other. Confession and mercy are very special gifts that we can share with everyone around us. And when we do, we make the world a little bit brighter, a little bit kinder, and a lot more filled with love.

Bible Memory Verse

Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy. - Proverbs 28:13

You Will Need:

-Colored construction paper

-Scissors

- Markers or crayons
- Stickers (optional)
- Glue sticks

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into heart shapes, one for each child.
- Set up a table with markers, crayons, scissors, stickers, and glue sticks.

Do This:

1. Give each child a heart-shaped piece of construction paper and ask them to think about a time they made a mistake or did something wrong.
2. Encourage them to write or draw that mistake on one side of the heart. If they're uncomfortable writing it down, they can draw a symbol or mark instead.
3. On the other side of the heart, have them write or draw a picture of saying sorry or making it right. They can also decorate this side with stickers.
4. Explain that just like flipping the heart over, when we confess and say sorry for our mistakes, we can find mercy and start fresh. This is a reminder that everyone makes mistakes, but being responsible means admitting them and trying to make things right.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A clear jar or container
- A bag of small pebbles or marbles
- Sticky notes and pens
- A Bible

Get Ready:

1. Write Proverbs 28:13 on a large piece of paper and place it where all the children can see it.
2. Prepare a short, simple explanation of the verse: "When we do something wrong and hide it, it's like carrying a heavy backpack. But when we tell the truth, it's like taking the backpack off!"
3. Set the jar and the bag of pebbles or marbles on a table where children can easily reach them.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Proverbs 28:13 together and discuss what it means to be responsible for our actions and the importance of confessing when we do something wrong.
2. Ask each child to think of a time they did something wrong and kept it a secret. Instead of sharing it out loud, have them write it or draw it on a sticky note quietly.
3. After they've written or drawn their secret, let them fold the sticky note and drop it into the jar. For each note they put in, they also add a pebble or marble, representing the weight of keeping secrets and doing wrong.
4. Once everyone has added their notes and pebbles, talk about how it feels to carry the weight of secrets. Then, pray together, asking God to help everyone be brave and responsible by admitting when they do something wrong.
5. Finally, empty the jar of the notes and pebbles together, symbolizing the relief and freedom that comes from confessing our wrongs and making things right. Explain that just like the jar is now empty and lighter, our hearts feel lighter when we are honest and take responsibility for our actions.

Snack Activity: Confession Cookies

You'll Need:

- Sugar cookie dough (store-bought or homemade)

- Edible markers or small candies
- Parchment paper

Get Ready: Preheat your oven according to the cookie dough package instructions. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Do this:

1. Roll out your cookie dough on a flat surface. Using cookie cutters, cut out cookie shapes and place them on the prepared baking sheet.
2. Bake the cookies according to the package or recipe instructions. Let them cool completely.
3. Explain to the children that Proverbs 28:13 talks about confessing and forsaking our sins to find mercy. Discuss what it means to be responsible for our actions.
4. Invite the children to think of a time they made a mistake and how they fixed it. Using the edible markers or small candies, they can decorate their cookies to represent their story of taking responsibility for their actions.
5. As they eat their cookies, remind them that just like the cookies needed their care to become delicious treats, taking responsibility helps us grow and be better.

Game Activity: Truth and Consequences Hopscotch

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- A small stone or beanbag
- A hopscotch grid drawn on the ground

Get Ready: Draw a hopscotch grid on the sidewalk or any suitable outdoor area. Label each square with a number from 1 to 10. Write 'Truth' on the squares with odd numbers and 'Consequences' on the squares with even numbers.

Do this:

1. Each player takes a turn tossing their stone or beanbag onto the first square. Before hopping through the squares, they must say a truth about a time they were responsible for their actions or a consequence of not being responsible.
2. The player then hops through the squares, skipping the one with their stone or beanbag, and returns. They must hop on one foot for the squares labeled 'Truth' and on two feet for the squares labeled 'Consequences'.
3. If a player steps on a line, misses a square, or loses balance, they share a way they can improve being responsible for their actions. Then, it's the next player's turn. The game continues until everyone has had multiple turns, encouraging discussion about being responsible for our actions based on Proverbs 28:13.

Craft Activity: The Responsibility Tree

You'll Need:

- A large sheet of construction paper (preferably green or brown)
- Markers or crayons
- Sticky notes or small pieces of paper
- Glue or tape

Get Ready: Draw a large tree with branches on the construction paper. This will be your 'Responsibility Tree.' Make sure there's enough room on the branches to stick notes.

Do this:

1. Read Proverbs 28:13 together: 'Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.' Discuss what it means to be responsible for our actions and how confessing our mistakes is part of being responsible.
2. Ask each child to think of a time they made a mistake and how they fixed it. They will write or draw this on a sticky note or piece of paper. If they're comfortable, they can share their story with the class.
3. Stick their notes on the 'Responsibility Tree' as leaves. Explain that just like a tree grows stronger and healthier when it's taken care of, we grow stronger in character when we take responsibility for our actions.

Prayer Activity: Prayer Garden of Responsibility

You'll Need:

- A large poster board or paper
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers or small paper flowers

Get Ready: Draw a simple garden scene on the poster board with sections labeled 'Confess', 'Pray', and 'Grow'.

Do this:

1. Read Proverbs 28:13 together: 'Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.' Discuss what it means to be responsible for our actions and how confessing our wrongs is the first step to making things right.

2. In the 'Confess' section, have each child think of a time they made a mistake and didn't own up to it. They can draw or write it down quietly. Assure them it's between them and God.

3. Move to the 'Pray' section. Encourage the children to ask God for forgiveness and for the courage to admit their mistakes. They can draw a flower or place a sticker in this section as a symbol of their prayer.

4. Finally, in the 'Grow' section, discuss how making things right helps us grow. Have each child draw a picture or write how they will act responsibly in the future. Conclude with a group prayer asking for God's help to be honest and responsible.