

Watch That Slingshot

UPPER 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:

- Construction paper
- Markers or crayons

- Scissors
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

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

Do This:

1. Ask each child to think of a time they made a mistake or did something wrong and felt the need to hide it. Encourage them to think about how it felt to keep it a secret and how it felt when they decided to tell the truth.
2. Have each child write or draw on one side of the heart about a time they concealed something and on the other side, write or draw about how they felt or what happened when they confessed.
3. Encourage the children to decorate their hearts with stickers or drawings as a symbol of the mercy and forgiveness they received. Conclude by discussing how confessing and renouncing our sins is important for finding mercy, as mentioned in Proverbs 28:13.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large piece of poster board
- Markers or colored pencils
- Sticky notes
- A Bible or printed copies of Proverbs 28:13

Get Ready:

- Write Proverbs 28:13 at the top of the poster board in large, bold letters.
- Prepare a short explanation of the verse, focusing on the importance of confessing and renouncing sins to find mercy.
- Set up a small, quiet corner with cushions or chairs for reflection.

Do this:

1. Begin with a group discussion about the verse, asking the children what they think it means to "conceal their sins" versus "confess and renounce them." Encourage them to think of examples without sharing personal or sensitive information.
2. Hand out sticky notes and markers to each child. Ask them to think about a time they made a mistake or did something wrong and how they fixed it. They should write or draw a symbol representing this on the sticky note without giving away personal details.
3. Invite the children to come up one by one to stick their note on the poster board. After everyone has placed their note, lead a group prayer asking for courage and honesty to admit mistakes and seek forgiveness.
4. Conclude by giving each child a moment in the reflection corner, encouraging them to think about the verse and how they can apply it in their lives. Offer them a chance to pray silently or write down a personal commitment to being more responsible for their actions in light of Proverbs 28:13.

Snack Activity: Confession Cookies

You'll Need:

- Sugar cookie dough (store-bought or homemade)
- Edible markers or food coloring pens
- Parchment paper
- Cookie cutters (optional)

- Oven and baking sheets

Get Ready: Preheat the oven according to the cookie dough package instructions or your homemade recipe. Line the baking sheets with parchment paper.

Do this:

1. Roll out the cookie dough on a flat, clean surface. If using cookie cutters, press them into the dough to create shapes. If not, you can simply cut the dough into squares or circles.
2. Place the cut dough pieces on the prepared baking sheets. Bake according to the dough instructions or until the cookies are lightly golden brown. Allow them to cool completely.
3. Discuss Proverbs 28:13 ('Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.') with the children. Explain how being honest and taking responsibility for our actions is important.
4. Have each child think of a time they made a mistake and learned from it. Using the edible markers, they will write a word or draw a symbol on their cookie that represents their story of confession and learning.
5. Share the cookies! As each child eats their 'Confession Cookie,' they share their story with the group, focusing on the importance of confession, responsibility, and seeking forgiveness.

Game Activity: Path to Honesty

You'll Need:

- Chalk or tape for outdoor/indoor use
- Small bean bags or stones

- Printed verses from Proverbs 28:13 and other related scriptures on large sheets of paper

Get Ready: Use the chalk or tape to create a large hopscotch grid on the ground. Each square should have a number from 1 to 10. Place the printed verses next to random squares on the grid.

Do this:

1. Explain Proverbs 28:13 to the children, emphasizing the importance of confessing and renouncing sins to find mercy. Discuss what it means to be responsible for our actions.
2. Have each child stand at the start of the hopscotch grid. They will throw their bean bag or stone to land on any square.
3. The child then hops through the grid, skipping the square with their bean bag or stone. If they land on a square next to a scripture, they must stop and read it aloud to everyone before continuing. If they successfully reach the end, they share a time they had to be responsible for their actions or a mistake.
4. The game continues with each child taking turns. The focus is on sharing and understanding the value of honesty and responsibility in light of scripture.

Craft Activity: Confession and Forgiveness Stones

You'll Need:

- Smooth stones (one per child)
- Washable markers or paint
- Paper towels
- A bowl of water

Get Ready: Gather enough smooth stones so each child has one. Set up a cleaning station with a bowl of water and paper towels. Prepare markers or paints on a table.

Do this:

1. Read Proverbs 28:13 together as a class. Discuss what it means to confess and forsake our sins and how it leads to mercy.
2. Ask each child to think of a time they did something wrong and didn't admit it. Have them write or draw that mistake on their stone with markers or paint.
3. Explain that the water bowl represents God's forgiveness. Invite each child to wash their stone in the water, symbolizing confession and receiving mercy. As they wash their stone, encourage them to say a silent prayer asking for forgiveness.
4. After the stone is clean, discuss how it feels to be forgiven and the importance of admitting our mistakes. Encourage them to keep their stone as a reminder of God's mercy and forgiveness.