

Big Words: Redemption

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Redemption

Scripture: Ephesians 1:7

Memory Verse: In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace. - Ephesians 1:7

The Children's Sermon

Hey there, friends! Today, we're going to talk about something really important and special. It's about how Christ bought us. That's right, us! The Bible tells us that we are not our own because we have been bought with a price. So, what does that mean? It means that Jesus did something amazing for us because He loves us so much.

You see, we had a big problem. We owed something that we couldn't pay off on our own. What we owed was our life because the Bible says the wages of sin is death. Sin is when we do things that go against what God wants. And all of us have sinned, which means we were separated from God. But God wanted us to be close to Him again.

So, what did God do? He made an exchange. Jesus gave up His life for ours. He died on the cross to pay for our sins. This is what we call "Redemption through His blood."

Jesus' blood was the price to bring us back to God. Isn't that amazing? Jesus loves us so much that He was willing to give up His life for us.

Now, let's talk more about this "Redemption through His blood." Imagine you have a very precious toy, but one day, you lose it. You look everywhere, but you can't find it.

Then, your best friend gives you their favorite toy, so you won't be sad anymore. That's a bit like what Jesus did for us. He gave us something very precious—His life—so we could be happy and be with God forever.

Because of Jesus, we don't have to be separated from God anymore. We can talk to God, be with Him, and know that He loves us. This is all because of "Redemption through His blood." Jesus' blood made us clean from all the wrong things we've done. So, we can be friends with God again.

But, how do we accept this amazing gift? It's simple! We just need to believe in Jesus, say sorry for the wrong things we've done, and ask Him to be a part of our life. When we do that, we become a part of God's big family. And being in God's family is the best thing ever!

Now, I want us to remember something very important. "Redemption through His blood" is not just something we talk about; it's something we live. It means we try to be kind, loving, and helpful to others, just like Jesus was. It means we share this amazing news with our friends and family, so they can be a part of God's family too.

Let's memorize today's verse together. It's about how much Jesus loves us and what He did for us. Knowing this verse can help us remember how special we are to God and how we can always count on Him because of "Redemption through His blood."

In closing, I want you all to know that you are very loved. Jesus did something extraordinary for each of us. He gave His life so we could have the best life with God. Let's be thankful for "Redemption through His blood" and live every day showing love to others, just like Jesus showed love to us.

So, friends, let's go out there and live our lives full of love, kindness, and joy, knowing we are part of God's big, loving family because of "Redemption through His blood." And remember, whenever you feel alone or scared, you can talk to God. He's always listening because you are very special to Him, thanks to Jesus.

Thank you for listening today. Let's pray together and thank God for His amazing gift of "Redemption through His blood." And let's ask Him to help us live in a way that shows how grateful we are for what Jesus did for us. Amen.

Alright, kids, that's it for today. Remember, you are loved, you are special, and you are part of God's family because of "Redemption through His blood." Have a wonderful day, and don't forget to share this amazing news with everyone you meet!

Bible Memory Verse

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace. - Ephesians 1:7

You Will Need:

- Red, white, and gold construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers
- Stickers or glitter (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the red construction paper into strips to represent 'His blood.'

- Cut the white construction paper into heart shapes to symbolize 'forgiveness of sins.'
- Cut the gold construction paper into small stars or circles to represent 'the riches of His grace.'

Do This:

1. Start by explaining the memory verse to the children. Make sure they understand that 'redemption' means Jesus paid for our sins so we can be forgiven and have a special relationship with God.
2. Have each child take a strip of red paper and glue it onto a white heart. While they do this, talk about how Jesus' blood was shed for us so that our sins could be forgiven.
3. Next, let the children decorate their hearts with gold stars or circles. Explain that these represent the wonderful gift of grace that God gives us when we are forgiven.
4. Encourage the children to write the memory verse on the back of their heart with markers. They can also decorate with stickers or glitter if desired.
5. Once everyone is done, gather the children and have them share their hearts. Use this opportunity to reinforce the lesson that through Jesus, we are redeemed and forgiven, and that's a very special gift from God.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Red construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Glue sticks
- "Redemption Coupons" template (paper coupons that say things like "Forgiven", "Loved", "Valued" - you can create these ahead of time)

- A "Redemption Box" (a simple box decorated with a cross and the word "REDEMPTION" on it)

Get Ready:

- Cut out several heart shapes from the red construction paper.
- Prepare the "Redemption Coupons" by writing different words of affirmation and redemption on them (e.g., Forgiven, Loved, Free, Valued).
- Decorate the "Redemption Box" and place it in a visible area of the classroom.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Ephesians 1:7 to the class: "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace." Explain that redemption means being forgiven and loved by God, no matter what.
2. Give each child a red paper heart and markers or crayons. Ask them to think about times they've needed forgiveness or felt loved. Have them draw or write those thoughts on their hearts.
3. Introduce the "Redemption Coupons" and explain each one (Forgiven, Loved, Free, Valued). Let each child choose a coupon that speaks to them the most at that moment.
4. Invite the children to glue their chosen "Redemption Coupon" onto their red heart. Once they've done this, have them place their hearts into the "Redemption Box" as a symbolic act of accepting God's forgiveness and love.
5. Close with a group prayer, thanking God for His gift of redemption and asking for help to forgive and love others as He does us.

Snack Activity: Redemption Cookies

You'll Need:

- 1 package of sugar cookie dough

- Red food coloring
- Small heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Parchment paper
- Rolling pin
- Baking sheets

Get Ready: Preheat your oven to the temperature listed on the sugar cookie dough package. Line your baking sheets with parchment paper.

Do this:

1. Divide the sugar cookie dough into two equal parts. Add a few drops of red food coloring to one part and knead it until the color is evenly distributed, making the dough red to represent the blood of Jesus, which was shed for our redemption.
2. Roll out both the red and plain dough on a lightly floured surface until they are about 1/4 inch thick. Using the heart-shaped cookie cutter, cut out an equal number of hearts from both the red and plain dough.
3. Explain to the children that just like these cookies are being transformed with a new color and shape, Jesus transforms our lives through His redemption. Ephesians 1:7 tells us, 'In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.'
4. Bake the cookies according to the package instructions. Allow them to cool before sharing. As the children enjoy their cookies, remind them that just like these cookies are a sweet treat, God's redemption is a sweet gift to us.

Game Activity: Redemption Path

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk

- Small stones or beanbags
- A list of simple, age-appropriate questions based on Ephesians 1:7 and the theme of redemption

Get Ready: Use the sidewalk chalk to draw a large path on the ground, similar to a hopscotch layout. Each square should be large enough for a child to stand in comfortably. Number the squares from start to finish. Write simple, redemption-themed questions on slips of paper and keep them in a bag.

Do this:

1. Have the children line up at the start of the Redemption Path. Explain that this path represents our journey with Jesus, understanding how He has redeemed us, just like Ephesians 1:7 tells us about the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.
2. The first child in line tosses a stone or beanbag onto the path. They hop to the square where it lands, but they must skip any square with a stone or beanbag in it. If they step on a line, they have to go back to the start, but they're reminded that in Jesus, we always get another chance because of His redemption.
3. When they reach the square with their stone or beanbag, they pick it up and answer a redemption-themed question from the bag. If they answer correctly, they can take another turn. If they're unsure, they get a gentle explanation to help them understand, emphasizing God's love and forgiveness, then it's the next child's turn.

The game continues until everyone has had several turns and feels more comfortable talking about the concept of redemption and Ephesians 1:7. The goal is for the children to learn that through Jesus, we are forgiven and redeemed, no matter how many times we 'step on the lines' in life.

Craft Activity: Redemption Heart Collage

You'll Need:

- Red and white construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Markers or crayons
- A piece of cardboard or heavy paper for the base

Get Ready: Cut the red construction paper into small strips or squares. These will represent our sins that Jesus redeemed us from. Cut out a large heart shape from the white construction paper. This heart represents us.

Do this:

1. Begin by explaining Ephesians 1:7, 'In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.' Discuss how Jesus' love and sacrifice cleanses us from our sins.
2. Have the children glue the red pieces onto the white heart, covering it completely. As they do this, talk about how our sins cover us and separate us from God.
3. Finally, have the children write 'Redeemed' or 'Forgiven' across the heart with markers or crayons. Explain that just like the white heart is still there under the red pieces, we are still there under our sins. And just like the word 'Redeemed' covers the red pieces, Jesus' sacrifice covers our sins and makes us clean again. Place the heart on the cardboard or heavy paper base to display.

Prayer Activity: Finding Our Way Back: A Prayer Map to Redemption

You'll Need:

- A large piece of paper or poster board
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers or stamps

Get Ready: Draw a simple map on the large paper or poster board. The map should have a starting point, a winding path with a few stops along the way, and a final destination marked 'Home with Jesus'.

Do this:

1. Read Ephesians 1:7 together: 'In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.' Discuss what redemption means (being brought back to God through Jesus' sacrifice).
2. At the starting point, have each child write or draw something they want to ask forgiveness for. This could be a fight with a sibling, not listening to parents, etc.
3. As they move along the path, at each stop, they place a sticker or stamp. Each stop represents a step towards redemption - saying sorry, praying to Jesus, helping others, and being kind. At each stop, let them say a small prayer related to the step they are on.
4. When they reach 'Home with Jesus', have them say a final prayer thanking Jesus for His sacrifice and asking for help to stay on the path of kindness and love.