

Big Words: Redemption

UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Redemption

Scripture: Ephesians 1:7

Memory Verse: In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's 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, in accordance with the riches of God's grace - Ephesians 1:7

You Will Need:

- Red, white, and gold construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers
- Stickers related to themes of redemption and forgiveness (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the red construction paper into strips to represent 'blood.'
- Cut the white construction paper into shapes of clouds to represent 'forgiveness.'
- Cut the gold construction paper into coins to represent 'the riches of God's grace.'

Do This:

1. Start by discussing the memory verse with the children. Explain the meaning of redemption, forgiveness, and God's grace in simple terms.
2. Have each child take a strip of red paper, a white cloud, and a gold coin. Ask them to think about what each piece represents in relation to the verse.
3. Encourage the children to glue the red strip onto the white cloud, then attach the gold coin on top. As they do this, remind them that through Jesus' sacrifice (his blood), we receive forgiveness (white cloud) and are blessed with the riches of God's grace (gold coin).
4. Once everyone has completed their craft, gather the children to share their creations and recite the memory verse together. Encourage them to take their craft home as a reminder of God's love and grace.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large clear jar or container filled with water
- Red food coloring
- Small washable toy figures (to represent us)
- Paper and pens for each child
- A Bible

Get Ready:

- Set up a table with the jar of water in the center, the red food coloring, and toy figures nearby. Place paper and pens at each child's spot around the table.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Ephesians 1:7 together as a class. Discuss what redemption and forgiveness mean, emphasizing that it's something given to us freely through Jesus's sacrifice.
2. Ask each child to think of a time they needed forgiveness and write it down on their paper. Explain that these papers represent our mistakes and the things we need forgiveness for.
3. Have each child fold their paper and place it into the jar of clear water, explaining that the clear water represents us before we make mistakes. Notice how the papers (our mistakes) can still be seen.
4. Add several drops of red food coloring to the jar, explaining that this represents Jesus's blood, which was shed for our forgiveness and redemption. Stir the water gently.
5. As the water turns red, explain how, through Jesus, our sins are washed away, and we are made clean again. The red doesn't erase the papers but symbolizes how Jesus covers and redeems our mistakes.
6. Conclude by allowing each child to retrieve a toy figure from around the table and wash it in the red water, demonstrating how we are made clean through faith in Jesus's sacrifice. Encourage them to place their cleaned figure on a paper towel to dry as a reminder of their redemption.
7. Close with a prayer, thanking God for the gift of redemption and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Snack Activity: Redemption Rolls

You'll Need:

- 1 can of crescent roll dough
- 8 large marshmallows
- 1/4 cup of melted butter
- 1/2 cup of granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons of cinnamon

Get Ready: Preheat your oven to 375°F (190°C) and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Do this:

1. Explain that the marshmallow represents us, and the crescent roll dough represents Jesus' love and sacrifice. Just as Ephesians 1:7 says, 'In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.'
2. Dip a marshmallow in melted butter, symbolizing our cleansing through Jesus' sacrifice. Roll it in the cinnamon sugar mix, representing the sweetness of God's grace.
3. Wrap the marshmallow tightly in a piece of crescent dough, making sure to seal all edges. This represents us being covered and protected by Jesus' love. Place on the baking sheet.
4. Bake for 10-12 minutes or until golden brown. The marshmallow will melt inside the dough, symbolizing how we become a new creation in Christ. Let them cool slightly before sharing and discussing the meaning of redemption as described in Ephesians 1:7.

Game Activity: Redemption Run

You'll Need:

- A large open space (gym or outdoor field)

- Cones or markers to set boundaries and create obstacles
- Redemption tokens (could be simple items like small stones, coins, or custom-made tokens)
- A 'Redemption Box' (any box or container labeled 'Redemption Box')

Get Ready: Set up an obstacle course using cones or markers. Place redemption tokens sporadically throughout the course. Designate a start and finish line, and place the Redemption Box near the finish line.

Do this:

1. Divide the children into two teams. Explain that the course represents life's journey, where we face obstacles and challenges. The redemption tokens represent the forgiveness and redemption we have through Christ, as mentioned in Ephesians 1:7.
2. On 'Go,' the first player from each team races through the obstacle course, collecting as many redemption tokens as they can. Once they reach the end, they place their tokens in the Redemption Box and tag the next player in line.
3. The game continues until all players have completed the course. The team that collects the most redemption tokens wins. After the game, gather the children and discuss how the redemption tokens represent Christ's sacrifice for us, offering forgiveness and redemption freely, just as we collected the tokens freely throughout the game.

Craft Activity: Redemption Bracelets: Ephesians 1:7

You'll Need:

- Red, white, and purple beads
- Elastic string
- Scissors

Get Ready: Cut the elastic string into 12-inch pieces, one for each child.

Do this:

1. Start by explaining Ephesians 1:7 to the children: 'In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.'

Discuss what redemption and forgiveness mean.

2. Each child will create a bracelet to represent the concept of redemption. Have them thread red beads to represent the blood of Christ, white beads to represent forgiveness and purity, and purple beads to symbolize royalty and our identity in Christ as children of God.

3. As they craft, encourage them to think about what each color represents and how it relates to the scripture. Once finished, tie the ends of the elastic string together securely. Conclude with a group discussion on how the bracelet can serve as a daily reminder of God's grace and our redemption through Christ.