

Stone Soup

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: Working together is God's plan.

Scripture: Romans 8:28-29

Memory Verse: And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

The Children's Sermon

Today, we're going to talk about a very special story called "Stone Soup." Imagine this: a traveler comes to a village, carrying nothing but an empty pot. The villagers didn't want to share their food with him because they thought they didn't have enough. So, what did the traveler do? He filled his pot with water, dropped a big stone in it, and started to boil it. Curious, the villagers came to see what he was doing. He told them he was making "stone soup," which would be delicious if only it had a little bit of garnish. One by one, the villagers started bringing ingredients from their homes - a carrot here, a potato there, until they had a big, delicious pot of soup made from a stone! Or so it seemed.

This story of "Stone Soup" teaches us something very important. It shows us that when everyone adds a little bit of what they have, they can create something wonderful that everyone can enjoy. It's a bit like our church here. We call it our Stone Soup Church Sermon. Each of us is like an ingredient in the soup. Some of us might be carrots, some might be potatoes, and others might be onions. But when we all come together, we make something special - our church family.

Now, let's think about how we can be good ingredients in our Stone Soup Church. First, we can share. Just like the villagers shared their food for the soup, we can share our things, our time, and our love with each other. Sharing makes our church family stronger and happier.

Second, we can help. There are many ways to help in our church. Maybe you can help by setting up chairs, or maybe you can help by being a friend to someone who is feeling sad. Every little bit of help makes our Stone Soup Church better.

Third, we can listen. Listening is very important. When we listen to each other, we learn new things, and we understand how to be better friends. Listening is like adding salt to the soup - it makes everything better.

Now, let's imagine our church is making its own stone soup. What can you add to the soup? Maybe you're good at drawing and can make beautiful pictures for our church. Or maybe you have a great singing voice and can add sweet music to our services. Or perhaps you're really good at making people laugh and can add joy to our church family. Every single one of you has something special to add to our Stone Soup Church.

But remember, our Stone Soup Church isn't just for us. It's for everyone in our community. Just like the soup in the story was shared with all the villagers, we share the warmth and love of our church with everyone around us. We invite them to join us, to be part of our family, and to add their own special ingredients to our soup.

Let's not forget to say thank you. Thanking each other is like the warmth that comes from eating the soup. It makes us feel good inside. So, let's always remember to thank our friends, our family, and God for all the wonderful things they give us.

In the end, the Stone Soup wasn't just about the soup. It was about bringing people together, sharing what they had, and creating something beautiful that they could all enjoy. And that's exactly what we're doing here in our Stone Soup Church. We're coming together, sharing our talents, our love, and our faith, and creating a beautiful church family that warms our hearts and puts smiles on our faces.

Let's pray together: Dear God, thank you for teaching us about sharing, helping, and listening through the story of Stone Soup. Help us to remember that we are all important ingredients in our Stone Soup Church. Guide us to use our talents and love to make our church family strong and warm. Amen.

So, next time you're at church or even at home, think about what you can add to our Stone Soup. Remember, every little bit helps, and together, we can make something truly amazing. Thank you for being such an important part of our Stone Soup Church.

Bible Memory Verse

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

You Will Need:

- Colored construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers
- Stickers

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into shapes of puzzle pieces, enough for each child to have one.
- Write one word of the memory verse on each puzzle piece.

Do This:

1. Give each child a puzzle piece with a word from the verse and ask them to decorate it with markers and stickers.
2. Once they are done decorating, help the children work together to assemble the puzzle in the correct order to form the memory verse.
3. After the puzzle is complete, recite the verse together several times as a group, emphasizing how working together helped them achieve their goal, just like God's plan for us.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large puzzle (about 10-12 big pieces) with a picture that can be related to the theme (e.g., children playing together, a garden with different plants working together to make a beautiful scene).
- A simple children's Bible or a storybook that includes the theme of working together or Romans 8:28-29.
- Coloring pages with scenes of animals or people working together, and crayons.

Get Ready:

- Pre-read the Bible verse or storybook to familiarize yourself with the story and how it connects to the theme of working together.

- Set up a comfortable area for the children to sit for story time and another area for the puzzle activity and coloring.

Do this:

1. Start with a brief story time using the children's Bible or storybook. Explain that God wants us all to work together, just like in the story. Keep it simple, focusing on the message that working together is part of God's plan for everyone.

2. Move on to the puzzle activity. Lay out the puzzle pieces and encourage the children to work together to complete it. As they work on the puzzle, gently guide them to see how each piece is different but all are needed to complete the picture, drawing a parallel to how each of us is unique but we all can work together to do something beautiful.

3. Finish with a coloring activity. Hand out the coloring pages and crayons, and encourage the children to color together. You can suggest that they share crayons and help each other to complete their pictures, reinforcing the theme of working together.

Snack Activity: Teamwork Fruit Boat

You'll Need:

- A variety of fruits (e.g., grapes, strawberries, bananas, apples)
- Toothpicks
- Paper (to make sails)

Get Ready: Wash all the fruits and cut them into bite-sized pieces if necessary. Prepare small sails by cutting paper into triangles and attaching them to toothpicks.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that just like how different fruits can come together to make a delicious fruit boat, God wants us all to work together as part of His plan. Share Romans 8:28-29, simplifying it to: 'God has a good plan for us, and He wants us to help each other and work together.'
2. Let each child choose their favorite fruits and take turns adding pieces to a large platter, creating the base of the boat. Encourage them to work together to decide the shape of their boat.
3. Once the base is complete, help them insert the sails (toothpicks with paper) into their fruit boat. Discuss how each sail helps the boat move forward, just like how each of us can help and support each other according to God's plan.

Game Activity: Teamwork Treasure Hunt

You'll Need:

- Small, safe objects to use as 'treasures' (e.g., colorful plastic balls, toy figures, blocks)
- A basket or box for each team
- Pictures of the treasures (for non-readers)

Get Ready: Hide the treasures around the play area before the children arrive, ensuring they are visible and reachable for small children. Divide the pictures of the treasures among the baskets or boxes, one set for each team.

Do this:

1. Divide the children into small teams, ensuring each team has children of varying ages to promote helping each other.
 2. Give each team a basket or box with pictures of the treasures they need to find.
- Explain that God wants us to work together, just like Romans 8:28-29 teaches us, to find all the treasures.

3. Let the teams search for the treasures. Encourage them to work together by sharing what the treasures look like, helping the younger ones understand, and taking turns picking up the treasures. The game ends when all teams have found their set of treasures.

Craft Activity: Building Together: God's Plan Puzzle

You'll Need:

- Construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors (use with adult supervision)

Get Ready: Before the class, an adult should cut the construction paper into puzzle pieces (1 piece for each child in the class, making sure all pieces can fit together to form a large rectangle).

Do this:

1. Give each child a puzzle piece and markers or crayons. Have them draw or write something they love about working with friends or family.
2. Once everyone is done, work together as a class to fit all the puzzle pieces together on a table or the floor, showing how we all fit into God's plan when we work together.
3. Discuss Romans 8:28-29 and how God has a purpose for us working together, just like the pieces of the puzzle come together to complete the picture.

Prayer Activity: Together We Pray

You'll Need:

- A large piece of paper or poster board

- Crayons or markers
- Stickers with happy faces

Get Ready: Write 'Working Together is God's Plan' at the top of the poster board and draw a big heart underneath it.

Do this:

1. Gather the children around the poster board and explain that working together is part of God's plan, just like in Romans 8:28-29, where it says God works for the good of those who love Him.
2. Ask each child to think of one way they can work together with their friends or family and draw it inside the big heart. Help the younger children with their drawing or let them choose a sticker to place on the poster instead.
3. Once everyone has added to the poster, hold hands in a circle around it. Lead them in a simple prayer, thanking God for our friends and family and asking for help to work together in love.