

# Stone Soup

## LOWER ELEMENTARY 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 various shapes (circles, squares, triangles, etc.) beforehand.
- Set up a table with all the materials spread out for easy access.

Do This:

1. Ask the children to sit around the table and explain that just like each piece of paper is different, each of us is unique and God has a special plan for all of us. Today, we're going to create a big picture to see how we all fit together in God's plan.
2. Encourage each child to pick different shapes and colors of paper to represent themselves. They can use markers and stickers to decorate their shapes and write their names or draw something they love doing.
3. Once everyone has their shapes ready, work together to glue the pieces on a large poster board, creating a big, beautiful picture. Explain that this is how God works in our lives, bringing us together to accomplish something wonderful that shows His love.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large puzzle (about 24 pieces, with each piece being large enough for a Bible verse to be written on the back)
- Markers
- Sticky notes
- A Bible

Get Ready:

1. Before class, write one word of Romans 8:28-29 on the back of each puzzle piece. Make sure the words are in order so that when the puzzle is completed, the scripture can be read from start to finish.
2. Hide the puzzle pieces around your classroom.
3. Write clues on sticky notes that hint at where the puzzle pieces are hidden (make sure the clues encourage teamwork, e.g., "You'll need to form a human chain to reach the piece hidden under the table").

Do this:

1. Start by telling the children they're going on a treasure hunt to find a special message from God. Explain that they'll need to work together to find and assemble the puzzle. Read Romans 8:28-29 from the Bible to give them a hint of what they're piecing together.
2. Hand out the clues to the children, making sure they understand they need to work as a team to find the puzzle pieces. Encourage them to help each other and share ideas on where the pieces might be hidden based on the clues.
3. Once all the pieces are found, have the children work together to assemble the puzzle on a flat surface. As they place each piece, they'll reveal the words of Romans 8:28-29 written on the back. Once the puzzle is complete, read the scripture aloud together.
4. Wrap up by discussing how working together helped them achieve their goal and how this relates to God's plan for us to work together in love and unity, just like Romans 8:28-29 teaches us.

## Snack Activity: Teamwork Trail Mix

You'll Need:

- A variety of snack items (pretzels, cereal, dried fruits, mini marshmallows, chocolate chips)
- Small bowls or cups
- A large mixing bowl

Get Ready: Gather all your snack items and place each one in separate small bowls or cups. Make sure you have enough variety so each child can choose at least one item to contribute to the mix.

Do this:

1. Read Romans 8:28-29 together and discuss how God has a plan for us to work together for good, just like we are going to work together to make our snack.
2. Let each child pick one snack item from the small bowls or cups to add to the large mixing bowl. As they choose their item, encourage them to say one thing they are good at or enjoy doing that helps others.
3. Once all the items have been added to the large mixing bowl, gently mix them together. Share how each unique item represents our unique talents and gifts, and when we work together, we create something wonderful, just like our teamwork trail mix.

## Game Activity: Teamwork Treasure Hunt

You'll Need:

- A list of easy-to-find items or pictures related to the theme of working together (e.g., puzzle pieces, pairs of matching items, images of people helping each other)
- Small bags or containers for collecting items
- A timer

Get Ready: Hide the items or pictures around your classroom or outdoor area before the children arrive. Make sure there are enough items so that each child can find something, but also encourage the idea that working together will make the hunt more successful.

Do this:

1. Divide the children into small teams, making sure each team has a mix of ages and abilities. Explain that they will be going on a treasure hunt to find items that represent working together, just like in Romans 8:28-29, where it talks about how God works everything together for good.
2. Give each team a bag or container. Set a timer for the hunt (10-15 minutes should be enough). Tell them that the goal is not just to find as many items as possible but to work together as a team to find them. Encourage them to help each other and share what they find.
3. When the timer goes off, gather the children back together and have each team share what they found and how they worked together to find the items. Discuss how working together helped them and how this relates to God's plan for us to work together for good, just like in the scripture.

## Craft Activity: God's Puzzle Plan

You'll Need:

- A blank puzzle (about 20 pieces or make your own from cardboard)
- Markers or crayons
- A Bible

Get Ready: Read Romans 8:28-29 together and talk about how God has a plan for us to work together, just like pieces in a puzzle.

Do this:

1. Give each child a puzzle piece and ask them to draw something they are good at or something they can do to help others. It could be a talent, a hobby, or a simple act of kindness.
2. Once everyone has finished their drawing, work together as a group to assemble the puzzle. As you place each piece, let the child explain their drawing and how it can help others.
3. After the puzzle is complete, discuss how each unique piece was necessary to complete the picture, just like how each of us is important and works together in God's plan.

## Prayer Activity: God's Plan Puzzle Prayer

You'll Need:

- Puzzle pieces (one for each child)
- Markers
- A large poster board

Get Ready: Before the class, write Romans 8:28-29 on the poster board and draw puzzle piece outlines to match the number of pieces you have.

Do this:

1. Give each child a puzzle piece and a marker. Ask them to write or draw something they love doing with others (e.g., playing, helping, sharing).
2. Share Romans 8:28-29 with the class, explaining that God wants us to work together in love, just like pieces in a puzzle.



3. Have each child come up and place their puzzle piece on the matching outline on the poster board. As they do, encourage them to say a short prayer asking God to help them work well with others, following His plan.