

# Is It Spring Yet?

## LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

**Theme:** God's Plan

**Scripture:** Ecclesiastes 3:1

**Memory Verse:** For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. - Ecclesiastes 3:1

## The Children's Sermon

Just like God has plans for the plants and flowers to grow and blossom and be beautiful, He has plans for us to grow and blossom and be beautiful to Him. Sometimes, we will have "groundhogs" in our lives that will try to tell us when something good will happen, but a lot of times they are wrong. The Bible tells us, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heavens" and that God "made every thing beautiful in his time". We need to be patient and remember that God is the one who decides when things happen. Sometimes waiting is hard, but God has the perfect plan to help us grow and blossom the way He wants us to and become beautiful in His eyes.

God's Timing is like a big, beautiful clock that only He can see. We can't rush it or slow it down. It's just right for everything in our lives. Think about when you plant a seed in the ground. You water it and wait. You can't make the seed grow faster by pulling on it. It grows in its own time because that's how God planned it. Just like that seed, we grow and change in God's Timing.

Sometimes, we want things to happen right now. Maybe you're waiting for your birthday, or for a special trip, or to grow taller. It can feel like it's taking forever! But just like waiting for a seed to sprout, we need to trust in God's Timing. He knows when the time is just right for everything.

God's Timing is perfect because He knows everything. He knows the past, present, and future. He knows the best time for us to learn new things, meet new friends, and face new challenges. Sometimes, we might feel like we're ready for something, but God knows when we truly are.

Let's talk about a story from the Bible that shows God's Timing. There was a man named Joseph. His brothers were not kind to him and sent him far away from home. Joseph had to wait a long time for God's plan to show. But in the end, Joseph became a very important person in Egypt, and he was able to help his family. Joseph had to wait, but God's Timing made everything work out perfectly.

God's Timing is also about waiting for the right moment to do something kind or helpful. Maybe you see someone at school who is sad or needs help. God will show you the right time to go over and talk to them or help them. When we wait for God's Timing, we can make a big difference in someone's life.

Prayer is a way we can talk to God about His Timing. We can ask Him to help us be patient and to trust Him while we wait. We can also thank Him because we know His Timing is always perfect, even when we don't understand it.

Remember, waiting for God's Timing can make us stronger. Just like exercising makes your muscles strong, waiting and trusting in God makes our faith strong. We learn to trust God more and see how wonderful His plans are for us.

So, next time you're waiting for something and it seems to take forever, remember the story of Joseph and the seed in the ground. Remember that God's Timing is perfect, and He has beautiful plans for each of us. He wants us to grow, learn, and be kind to others. And in His perfect time, we'll see just how beautiful His plans are.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for all the seasons you give us. Please help us to be patient and wait for all the good and beautiful things you have planned for us. Help us to remember Joseph and the seed, and to trust in Your perfect timing. In Jesus' name, Amen.

God's Timing is like a secret recipe for the best cake. We might not understand why we have to wait or go through hard times, but in the end, everything comes together just right. And just like enjoying a delicious cake, we'll see how sweet life can be when we trust in God's Timing.

So, let's be patient, let's pray, and let's trust in God's Timing together. He's got amazing things planned for us, and He knows exactly when they should happen.

## Bible Memory Verse

**For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. - Ecclesiastes 3:1**

You Will Need:

-Colored paper

- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Glue
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into large circle shapes to represent different seasons (spring, summer, fall, winter).
- Write one part of the verse on four different pieces of paper.

Do This:

1. Have the children color and decorate each season circle according to what happens in nature during that season (flowers for spring, sun for summer, leaves for fall, snowflakes for winter).
2. Once they have decorated their circles, help them glue each part of the verse on a different season circle.
3. Discuss how God has a plan for each season and how there's a time for everything. Encourage the children to share what they enjoy about each season and how they see God's plan in the changing seasons.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large poster board
- Markers or crayons
- Sticky notes
- A Bible or printed copy of Ecclesiastes 3:1
- A small plant or seedling

Get Ready:

- Write Ecclesiastes 3:1 at the top of the poster board: "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."
- Draw a simple tree with branches on the poster board, leaving the branches empty.
- Prepare sticky notes by cutting them into leaf shapes.

Do this:

1. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1 aloud to the children. Explain that just like there are different seasons in a year, God has a perfect plan and timing for everything in our lives.
2. Give each child a leaf-shaped sticky note and ask them to think about something they are looking forward to or a dream they have. Have them write or draw it on their leaf.
3. Let each child come up and stick their leaf on the tree. Explain that just like the tree changes with the seasons, our lives change too, but God is always taking care of us, and His plans for us are good.
4. Show the small plant or seedling. Talk about how a seed must be planted and go through different seasons to grow, just like we grow and change according to God's plan for us.

## Snack Activity: Seasons of Snacks

You'll Need:

- A variety of fruits (grapes, apples, oranges, bananas)
- A large plate or platter
- Small knives (for teacher or parent use only)

Get Ready: Wash all the fruits thoroughly and lay them out on a clean surface.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that just like there are different seasons in a year, there are different seasons in our lives. Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us, 'For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.' This means God has a plan for every part of our lives.
2. Use the fruits to represent different seasons - grapes for summer, apples for fall, oranges for winter, and bananas for spring. As you assign each fruit to a season, talk about how each season is necessary and has its own beauty and purpose, just like the seasons in our lives.
3. Let each child create their own 'seasonal plate' with the fruits. As they do, encourage them to think about what season they might be in their own life and remind them that God has a plan for every season. Finish by saying a prayer, asking God to help each child trust in His plan for their lives.

## Game Activity: Seasons of Life Hopscotch

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- A small stone or beanbag
- A wide, open space (like a driveway or sidewalk)

Get Ready: Draw a large hopscotch grid on the ground with the sidewalk chalk. Instead of numbers, label each square with different seasons or times mentioned in Ecclesiastes 3:1 (e.g., 'A time to plant,' 'A time to heal,' 'A time to build,' etc.). Make sure there's a start and finish line.

Do this:

1. Have the children line up at the start line. Explain that just like there are different seasons in the year, God has a special plan and time for everything in our lives.
2. The first player tosses their stone or beanbag onto the first square. They then hop through the grid, skipping the square with their stone or beanbag. If they complete the course without stepping on a line or losing balance, they pick up their stone and pass it to the next player.
3. Before each turn, the player says one thing they think God has planned for them in this season of their life (e.g., 'God plans for me to learn,' 'God plans for me to make friends,' etc.). This encourages reflection on God's plan for their lives.
4. The game continues until everyone has had a turn. After the game, gather the children and discuss how just like the game, life has different seasons, and God has a beautiful plan for each one of us, even if we don't always know what it is right away.

## Craft Activity: Seasons of Life Wheel

You'll Need:

- 2 paper plates
- A brad fastener
- Markers or crayons
- A printout of Ecclesiastes 3:1 (or a Bible)
- Scissors

Get Ready: Cut one of the paper plates into four equal sections, like a pie. Write one season (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) on each pie slice. On the second plate, write different life events that could happen in God's plan (e.g., making friends, learning something new, helping others, saying goodbye to someone). Make sure to leave space in the center of the plate to attach the pie slices.

Do this:

1. Place the pie-sliced plate on top of the whole plate. Carefully push the brad fastener through the center of both plates, so the top plate spins.
2. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1 together: 'To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.' Discuss what this means about God's plan for our lives.
3. Spin the 'Seasons of Life Wheel' and stop at each season. For each one, talk about how the events on the bottom plate can fit into God's plan for different seasons of our lives.

## Prayer Activity: God's Plan Prayer Garden

You'll Need:

- Small flower pots
- Soil
- Seeds (flowers or herbs)
- Markers or paint
- Popsicle sticks
- Paper

Get Ready: Before the activity, print or write out Ecclesiastes 3:1 on paper to share with the children. Gather all materials needed for the activity.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Ecclesiastes 3:1 together: 'To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.' Discuss briefly what this means, focusing on how God has a plan for everything, including us.

2. Have each child decorate their flower pot with markers or paint. Encourage them to think about what they want to pray for as they decorate, focusing on God's plan for their lives.

3. Fill the pots with soil and plant seeds in them. As they plant, encourage the children to say a prayer, asking God to help them understand His plan for them as their seeds grow.

4. Write their prayers or thoughts about God's plan on a piece of paper and tape it to a Popsicle stick. Place the stick in the pot as a reminder of their prayer and God's plan for them.