

Is It Spring Yet?

UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: God's Plan

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1

Memory Verse: Ecclesiastes 3:1 - 'To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.'

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1 - 'To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.'

You Will Need:

-4 large sheets of paper or poster board

- Colored markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Stickers or stamps with different seasonal themes (optional)

Get Ready:

- Gather all materials and set up a work area with enough space for each child to work comfortably.
- Write each of the four seasons (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) at the top of each sheet of paper or poster board.

Do This:

1. Divide the children into four groups and assign each group a season. Ask them to think about what activities or events happen in their assigned season that might relate to 'a time for every purpose under heaven.'
2. Give each group markers or crayons and let them draw or write these activities or events on their assigned season's poster. If you have seasonal stickers or stamps, let them decorate their posters with these.
3. Once all groups are done, have each group present their poster to the class, explaining how the activities or events they chose relate to the verse Ecclesiastes 3:1. Encourage them to think about how there is a right time for everything, just like there's a time for different activities in each season.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large poster board
- Markers or colored pencils
- Sticky notes

- A Bible or printed copies of Ecclesiastes 3:1
- A timer or stopwatch
- Scissors

Get Ready:

1. Write Ecclesiastes 3:1 at the top of the poster board in large, decorative letters.
2. Cut the sticky notes into different shapes, representing different seasons (e.g., leaf shapes for fall, flower shapes for spring).
3. Set up a quiet reading corner with copies of Ecclesiastes 3:1 and a few Bibles.

Do this:

1. Start with a group discussion on Ecclesiastes 3:1. Ask the children what they think it means that there is "a time for every activity under the heavens." Encourage them to share personal experiences of changes in seasons or significant times in their lives.
2. Hand out the shaped sticky notes and markers. Ask each child to write down or draw a moment in their life that was significant to them and which 'season' it represents (joy, sadness, growth, learning, etc.). They should stick these on the poster board around the Ecclesiastes 3:1 text.
3. Divide the children into small groups and give them a timer. Challenge them to think of activities that fit into different times or seasons (e.g., helping others, learning something new, playing, praying). They should perform a quick skit or pantomime for each idea before the timer runs out, guessing which season their activity fits into.
4. Conclude with a reflection time in the quiet reading corner, where children can read Ecclesiastes 3:1 again and think about what they've learned about God's plan and timing. Encourage them to pray quietly, asking God to help them understand His timing and plan for their lives.

Snack Activity: Seasons of Life Fruit Pizza

You'll Need:

- 1 package of sugar cookie dough
- 1 package of cream cheese (softened)
- 1/4 cup of powdered sugar
- Assorted sliced fruits (strawberries, kiwis, blueberries, grapes)
- A large baking sheet
- Rolling pin
- Mixing bowl
- Spatula

Get Ready: Preheat your oven to the temperature specified on the sugar cookie dough package. Roll out your cookie dough on the baking sheet into a large circle, about 1/4 inch thick, to represent the circle of life and the ongoing seasons.

Do this:

1. Bake the sugar cookie dough according to the package instructions until golden brown. Let it cool completely. This represents the foundation of life that God has planned for us, where there is a time for everything under heaven.
2. In a mixing bowl, blend the softened cream cheese with powdered sugar until smooth. Spread this mixture over the cooled cookie crust as the 'sauce'. This represents the sweetness and richness of life's seasons that God provides.
3. Arrange the sliced fruits on top of the cream cheese layer in a beautiful pattern. Each type of fruit can represent a different season in life, as mentioned in Ecclesiastes 3:1. For example, strawberries for love and summer, kiwis for growth and spring, blueberries for reflection and winter, and grapes for harvest and fall.

As you enjoy your Seasons of Life Fruit Pizza, remember that God has a plan for every season in our lives, and each has its own time and purpose.

Game Activity: Seasons of Life Relay

You'll Need:

- A large open space (preferably outdoors)
- Four signs with the seasons (Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter) written on them
- A bell or whistle
- A list of activities or events that could happen in a person's life (e.g., starting school, getting a job, retirement)

Get Ready: Place the four season signs at different corners of the playing area to represent the different seasons of life. Prepare the list of life events and make sure it's long enough for multiple rounds of play.

Do this:

1. Divide the children into four teams, and assign each team to a 'season' corner.
2. Explain that Ecclesiastes 3:1 teaches us there is a time for everything in life, and this game will help us think about the different seasons of life and the events that happen in them.
3. The teacher will call out an event from the list, and the team that thinks their season best represents the time for that event will ring the bell or blow the whistle.
4. The first team to make a sound gets to explain why they think that event fits their season. If the explanation is satisfactory, they earn a point.
5. After every event, teams rotate to the next season to help them think about life's events from different perspectives.

6. The game continues until all events have been called out. The team with the most points at the end wins.

Craft Activity: Seasons of Life Wheel

You'll Need:

- 2 large paper plates
- 1 brad fastener
- Markers or crayons
- 1 sheet of construction paper
- Scissors
- 1 printout of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (optional for reference)

Get Ready: Cut out a small window (about 2 inches wide) on one of the paper plates.

This will serve as your viewing window. On the second plate, divide it into 8 equal sections (like a pie) and write one part of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 in each section, corresponding to different seasons or times (e.g., a time to be born, a time to die, etc.).

Decorate both plates with markers or crayons.

Do this:

1. Place the plate with the verses on the table, and put the plate with the window on top of it. Align them so the window can reveal the verses one at a time. Secure the plates together at the center using the brad fastener, allowing them to rotate.
2. On the construction paper, draw symbols or pictures that represent each season or time mentioned in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. Cut these out and glue them around the outer edge of the top plate, matching each symbol with its corresponding verse.

3. Rotate the top plate to reveal each verse through the window and discuss what each season or time might look like in our lives and how it shows that there is a time and season for everything under heaven, as God plans.

Prayer Activity: Seasons of Prayer

You'll Need:

- A Bible or printed copy of Ecclesiastes 3:1
- Colored pencils or markers
- Blank paper or a journal

Get Ready: Read Ecclesiastes 3:1 together as a class. Discuss what it means that there is a time for everything under the heavens.

Do this:

1. Ask each student to think about the different 'seasons' in their life (e.g., times of joy, sadness, learning, resting). Have them draw or write these seasons on the paper or in their journal, using different colors to represent different emotions or themes.
2. Encourage the students to think about what they can pray for in each of these seasons. For example, in times of joy, they might give thanks to God; in times of sadness, they might ask for comfort.
3. Have each student choose one 'season' they are currently in or one that is particularly meaningful to them. Lead them in a group prayer, where they can offer personal prayers related to this season of their life, inspired by the understanding that God has a plan for every time in our lives.