

Commissioning Service

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Commissioning of Christian Education Leaders

Scripture: Acts 2:42

Memory Verse: They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. - Acts 2:42

The Children's Sermon

What does it mean to devote yourself to doing something? It can be a big responsibility. Do any of you have a dog or special pet? That's a big responsibility! Every day you have to walk your dog and feed her. Maybe you took a puppy class to learn how to teach her to behave, and when you go out of town, you have to find someone to take care of her for you. You may get some help and support from your family or neighbors. But you can't just wake up one day and say "I don't want to take care of a dog today", because you chose to be a dog owner and because your dog is depending upon you.

Now, these people up here aren't going to treat you like a dog, but they are promising to be your teachers this year. They are devoting themselves to be here on Sunday, to prepare the lessons, to do their best to teach you, to find substitutes when they are gone, and to care about you!

So, now the teachers are going to make their promise, and the congregation is going to promise to support them in their service, and we need to promise that we will be good students, too!

Devotion is like a special promise. It means you decide to give your time and love to something or someone. Just like when you promise to take care of your pet, or when your teachers promise to help you learn.

Imagine you have a tiny seed. You plant it in the ground. To help it grow, you need to devote your time to it. You water it, make sure it gets enough sun, and maybe even talk to it. You can't just plant it and forget about it. That's devotion - taking care of something every day because you want to see it grow and become beautiful.

Our teachers are like gardeners for our minds. They plant seeds of knowledge and help them grow. They devote their time to planning fun lessons, finding cool books for us to read, and thinking of ways to make learning exciting. They do all this because they care about us and our future.

But devotion isn't just for teachers or taking care of pets. It's something all of us can do. When we promise to be good students, we're saying we'll listen, do our homework, and be kind to our classmates. That's being devoted to being the best we can be.

Sometimes, devotion can be hard. There might be days when we don't feel like doing our homework or listening in class. But remember the pet or the tiny seed? They depend on us to keep our promise, to show our devotion by taking care of them even on tough days.

Devotion is also about helping and supporting each other. Just like our teachers support us, we can support our friends when they need help. Maybe a friend is sad or

having a hard time with a math problem. We can listen, help them, or just be there for them. That's showing devotion to our friends.

And guess what? Our families show devotion to us too. They take care of us, make sure we have food to eat, clothes to wear, and give us hugs when we need them. They are devoted to making our lives happy and safe.

Devotion is a big word, but it's not just for grown-ups. We can all show devotion in our own ways. Whether it's taking care of a pet, being a good student, helping a friend, or saying thank you to our teachers and families for all they do for us.

Let's make a promise today. Let's promise to try our best to show devotion in everything we do. To our pets, our friends, our families, and our studies. It might not always be easy, but it's important. Because when we show devotion, we make the world around us a little bit better.

And remember, devotion is like a circle. When you give it, it comes back to you. When you're devoted to being a good friend, you'll find your friends will be there for you too. When you work hard in school, your teachers will be there to support you. And when you take care of your pet, you'll get lots of tail wags and purrs in return.

So, let's all try to be devoted to making this year the best one yet. Let's learn lots, help each other, and make sure to say thank you to those who devote their time to help us grow. Because together, with devotion, we can do amazing things.

Bible Memory Verse

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. - Acts 2:42

You Will Need:

- Colored paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into large enough pieces that can be folded into small booklets.
- Write the memory verse on a large poster board and display it where all the children can see it.

Do This:

1. Ask the children to create their own 'Acts 2:42 Booklet' using the colored paper. They should fold the paper to make a booklet and decorate the cover with markers or crayons.
2. Inside the booklet, instruct them to draw or write about each of the four activities mentioned in the verse: teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. Encourage them to think of ways they can participate in these activities in their own lives.
3. Once everyone has finished their booklets, gather the children in a circle and ask volunteers to share their booklets and explain how they can apply Acts 2:42 in their daily lives.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large poster of Acts 2:42 or a big screen to display the verse
- Paper and crayons/markers
- Small tokens or stickers
- A "Commissioning Certificate" template for each child (can be simple, with space for the child's name and a line like "is commissioned as a Christian Education Leader in training")
- A small "leader's badge" for each child (can be made of paper or simple fabric badges)

Get Ready:

- Print or prepare the "Commissioning Certificate" for each child.
- Create or set up the "leader's badge" for each child.
- Set up the display of Acts 2:42 prominently in the teaching area.

Do this:

1. ****Introduction to Acts 2:42****: Start by showing the children Acts 2:42 on the poster or screen. Read it out loud together. Explain that this verse tells us how the first Christians lived, learning about Jesus, sharing together, eating together, and praying together. Say, "Today, we're going to learn how we can be leaders, just like the people in the Bible, by learning and sharing about Jesus!"
2. ****Drawing Our Learning****: Give each child paper and crayons/markers. Ask them to draw one thing they can do to learn more about Jesus or share His love with others (it could be reading the Bible, praying, helping a friend, etc.). While they draw, walk around and discuss their ideas, reinforcing how these actions are part of being a Christian Education Leader.

3. **Commissioning Ceremony**: Once everyone has shared their drawing, it's time for the commissioning ceremony. Call each child by name, hand them their "Commissioning Certificate" and "leader's badge," and say, "You are now commissioned as a Christian Education Leader in training!" Encourage them to wear their badge proudly and remind them that their drawing is their first mission as a leader.

4. **Celebration and Commitment**: Conclude with a group prayer, asking God to help each new "leader in training" to learn and share about Jesus just like the early Christians. Hand out small tokens or stickers as a reminder of their commitment.

5. **Take-home Challenge**: Encourage the children to show their drawing to their family and explain their commitment as a Christian Education Leader in training. Ask them to try to do the action they drew at least once in the coming week.

Snack Activity: Fellowship Fruits & Cracker

Communion

You'll Need:

- A variety of fruits (grapes, apples, bananas, etc.)
- Crackers (any kind that can be easily broken)
- Plastic knives for cutting fruits
- Small plates

Get Ready: Wash all the fruits and place them on a large plate. Make sure each child has a small plate and a plastic knife.

Do this:

1. Explain Acts 2:42 to the children: 'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.' Discuss how early Christians came together to learn, share, and grow in faith, just like we do in Sunday School.
2. Invite the children to create their 'Fellowship Plate' by cutting fruits into small pieces and placing them on their plate. Explain that the fruits represent the different people in the church coming together in fellowship.
3. Break the crackers into pieces together. Say, 'Just like these crackers, the early Christians shared bread. This reminds us of how we share in Jesus' love and learn together.' Encourage the children to eat their fruits and crackers as a symbol of being part of God's family and learning about Jesus together.

Game Activity: Fellowship Hopscotch

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- A small stone or beanbag
- A large, open pavement area

Get Ready: Draw a large hopscotch grid on the pavement. Instead of numbers, write words from Acts 2:42 and roles of Christian Education Leaders (e.g., 'Teaching', 'Fellowship', 'Breaking of bread', 'Prayer', 'Guide', 'Mentor') in each box.

Do this:

1. Each player takes a turn by tossing their stone or beanbag onto a word in the hopscotch grid. If they miss, their turn is over, and the next player goes.
2. The player then hops through the grid, skipping the box with their stone or beanbag. While hopping, they say the word in each box. If the word is a role (e.g., 'Guide'), they

say a simple sentence about what that role means in Christian education (e.g., 'A guide helps us learn about Jesus.').

3. When the player reaches the end of the hopscotch grid, they turn around and hop back, picking up their stone or beanbag on the way back. They then choose another player to explain what Acts 2:42 teaches about fellowship and community in the early church.

The game continues until all words have been hopped on and explained. This game helps children learn about the early church's practices and the importance of Christian Education Leaders in guiding and teaching the community.

Craft Activity: Building the Church Together

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Markers or crayons
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- A large poster board

Get Ready: Cut the construction paper into shapes of bricks beforehand.

Do this:

1. Read Acts 2:42 together and discuss how the early Christians devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer, just like how Christian Education Leaders do today.
2. Explain that each child will use the paper bricks to build a church on the poster board. They can write or draw on their brick what they think is important about

Christian education, like learning about Jesus, praying together, or helping one another.

3. Let each child glue their brick onto the poster board. As they place their brick, encourage them to share what they wrote or drew and why it's important. This builds a visual representation of how we all work together in the church, under the guidance of our leaders, to grow in faith.

Prayer Activity: Prayer Pals for Leaders

You'll Need:

- Colorful construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors

Get Ready: Cut the construction paper into large heart shapes, one for each child plus a few extras.

Do this:

1. Read Acts 2:42 together, focusing on how the early believers devoted themselves to teaching and fellowship. Explain that Christian Education Leaders help us learn about God, just like the leaders in the early church.
2. Ask the children to think of someone who teaches them about God (this could be a Sunday School teacher, pastor, or even a parent who leads family devotions).
3. Have each child decorate a heart with markers or crayons, writing a prayer or a thank you note to their chosen Christian Education Leader on it. Encourage them to be creative and express their gratitude for the leader's dedication and teaching.
4. Collect all the hearts and plan to deliver them to the respective leaders, showing appreciation and support for their ministry.