

Key Ingredients

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

People are like these ingredients. The verse in 1 Corinthians says we are all separate and necessary. Even though all those ingredients are good things, there is very little you can do with them alone. But when you mix them with other ingredients you can make many wonderful things. We are like this too. When we work together it brings out our greatest potential. God wants us to work together for him. Like the verse from Romans says, "God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them". God blends all of us in this church together to be fabulous!

Sometimes we may feel like we are only a small part of this church of people and don't make much of a difference. I need you to remember the baking soda in the cake and how that small ingredient makes such a huge difference. On the other hand, maybe sometimes you fail to appreciate others and think they are bland or unpleasant like the flour, or oil or raw eggs. Think of the cake without those ingredients. We are all key ingredients! Let's pray.

Prayer: Dear Lord, Thank you for giving us a purpose and blending us together. We know that you will make us tremendous. Help us all to be willing to work together for you, Lord. Amen.

Now, let's think about Church Unity. It's like being part of a big family. In a family, everyone has their own job. Maybe your job is to set the table, while your brother takes out the trash. Everyone's job is important. Church Unity means we all do our part in God's big family.

Imagine if one day, you decided not to set the table because you thought it wasn't important. Dinner time would be a mess! Everyone would be looking for forks and spoons, and no one could enjoy their meal properly. That's how it is in our church family too. If one of us doesn't do our part, things get messy. We need each other to make everything work right.

Church Unity is also about getting along, like sharing your toys or playing games together. Sometimes, we might not want to share, or we might want to play a different game. But when we decide to share and play together, we have so much more fun. It's the same in our church. When we share our talents and work together, we can do great things for God.

Let's talk about a fun game. Think about building a big puzzle. Each piece is different, but every single one is needed to complete the picture. If even one piece is missing, the puzzle isn't complete. We are like those puzzle pieces in our church. Each of us is different, but God uses all of us to complete His beautiful picture of Church Unity.

Sometimes, we might feel like we're too small or not important, like the baking soda in our cake. But remember, without baking soda, the cake won't rise. It might seem small, but it has a big job. You might feel small, but you have a big job too. You can smile, give a hug, or say kind words. Those small things can make a big difference in someone's day and in our church.

Church Unity is also about helping each other. Imagine if you saw someone trying to carry something really heavy. What if you could help them? When you both carry it together, it becomes much easier. That's how we help each other in our church. Sometimes, someone might be sad or having a hard time. When we help them, pray for them, or just listen, we make their load lighter. We show Church Unity by caring for each other.

And guess what? When we work together, we show everyone what God's love looks like. It's like a big, bright light that shines out from our church. People can see how we love each other and work together, and it makes them want to be part of our family too.

So, let's remember, Church Unity is like making a cake, playing together, building a puzzle, and helping each other. It's about doing our part, sharing, caring, and showing God's love. Every one of us is important, and together, we can do amazing things for God.

Let's pray again: Dear God, help us to remember how important Church Unity is. Help us to do our part, share with others, and care for each other. Thank you for making us all special and needed in your big family. Amen.

Remember, kids, every time you come to church or help someone, you're a part of something big and beautiful. You're a part of God's family, working together in Church Unity.

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 paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into various shapes (circles, squares, triangles).
- Write one word of the memory verse on each shape.

Do This:

1. Mix all the shapes on a table and ask the children to find the pieces and arrange them to form the memory verse.
2. Once the verse is correctly arranged, have them glue the shapes onto a larger piece of paper to create a colorful mosaic of the verse.
3. Encourage the children to decorate around the verse with markers or crayons, illustrating what the verse means to them or how they can work together with others to do good.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large puzzle (about 24 pieces, with a picture that reflects teamwork, like animals working together)
- Paper and crayons
- A Bible or printed copy of Romans 8:28-29

Get Ready:

1. Before class, prepare a short, simple explanation of Romans 8:28-29, focusing on how God has a plan for us to work together for good.
2. Set up a table or floor space where all the children can comfortably gather around the puzzle.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Romans 8:28-29 together, explaining that God wants us to work together because it's part of His good plan for us.
2. Show the children the puzzle and explain that just like how each puzzle piece is different but works together to complete a beautiful picture, we too, though different, can work together to do great things.
3. Divide the children into small teams and give them each a portion of the puzzle pieces. Encourage them to work together to figure out where their pieces go in the puzzle. As they work, remind them that working together is part of God's plan, just like Romans 8:28-29 says.
4. Once the puzzle is complete, gather the children around and discuss how they felt working together and what they learned about teamwork.

5. For a creative reflection, give the children paper and crayons and ask them to draw a picture of what working together as a team looks like to them. Share these drawings in a closing circle, allowing each child to explain their drawing and how it relates to what they've learned about God's plan for us to work together.

Snack Activity: Teamwork Trail Mix

You'll Need:

- A variety of snack items (pretzels, cereal, chocolate chips, dried fruit, marshmallows)
- Large bowls
- Measuring cups or scoops

Get Ready: Gather all your snack items and place them in large bowls on a table. Make sure you have enough measuring cups or scoops for each child.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that just like in Romans 8:28-29, God uses everything together for good, we will work together to make a special snack. Each snack item is good on its own, but when we mix them, they become even better!
2. Let each child take turns adding their chosen snack item into a large mixing bowl. Encourage them to talk about why they chose that item and how it might taste good with the other items.
3. Once everyone has added their ingredients, mix the trail mix together. As you do, remind the children that when we work together, we can create something wonderful, just like God's plan for us.

Game Activity: Teamwork Treasure Quest

You'll Need:

- A list of simple tasks written on pieces of paper
- A box or container to serve as the 'treasure chest'
- Small treats or treasures to fill the chest with

Get Ready: Write down tasks on pieces of paper that require two or more children to work together to complete. These tasks can be things like 'Sing a song together', 'Build a tower with blocks together', or 'Help each other complete a simple puzzle'. Place these tasks in a central location and hide the treasure chest somewhere in the room.

Do this:

1. Divide the children into small teams and explain that they are on a quest to find the hidden treasure. However, to get the clues that lead to the treasure, they must work together to complete tasks.
2. When a team completes a task together, they receive a clue that brings them closer to finding the treasure. Make sure the clues require the children to continue working together to figure them out.
3. The game ends when one of the teams finds the treasure chest. Encourage the children to share the treasures with each other, emphasizing that working together has led them to the reward. Discuss how Romans 8:28-29 teaches us that God works all things for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose, and how working together is part of God's plan for us.

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.
2. As they work, discuss how each of us is unique and has different talents, but together, we can create something beautiful.
3. Once everyone is done, work together to assemble the puzzle. As you do, emphasize how each piece is necessary, just like each of us is important to God's plan. Talk about how working together helps us to 'be conformed to the image of His Son,' as mentioned in Romans 8:29.

Prayer Activity: Teamwork Prayer Chain

You'll Need:

- Strips of colorful paper
- Markers or crayons
- Stapler or tape

Get Ready: Write Romans 8:28-29 on a whiteboard or large piece of paper where all the children can see it. Explain that God has a special plan for us to work together, just like pieces in a puzzle.

Do this:

1. Ask each child to choose a strip of paper and write a short prayer or draw a picture about working together with friends, family, or in their community. Encourage them to think about how this shows God's plan.
2. Once everyone has written or drawn their prayer, help them link their strips together with a stapler or tape to form a chain. Explain that each link in the chain represents a prayer and shows how we are stronger when we work together, just like the scripture says.
3. Hang the prayer chain in your classroom or a common area as a visual reminder of God's plan for us to work together and support each other.