

# Key Ingredients

## UPPER 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:

- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Glue sticks
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into large heart shapes, one for each child.
- Write 'Romans 8:28' on the top of each heart shape.

Do This:

1. Have each child decorate their heart with markers, crayons, and stickers. Encourage them to think about the things they love as they decorate.
2. Ask the children to write or draw on the back of the heart how they see God working for good in different situations in their lives, such as at home, school, or with friends.

3. Share in a circle, allowing each child to talk about what they've written or drawn on their heart. Conclude by reminding them that God is always working for our good, in every situation, just like Romans 8:28 says.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large puzzle (20-30 pieces) with a picture that can be related to teamwork or a Bible story.
- Paper and markers.
- Bible verses printed on paper (including Romans 8:28-29).

Get Ready:

- Before the class, write Romans 8:28-29 on a piece of paper large enough for all to see and place it at the front of the room.
- Prepare the puzzle by mixing the pieces in a box.
- Write out some discussion questions based on Romans 8:28-29.

Do this:

1. **\*\*Puzzle Challenge\*\***: Divide the class into small groups and give each group a set of puzzle pieces. Explain that they have a limited time to complete the puzzle. The catch is, some pieces are with other groups, and they must figure out which group has the pieces they need without directly asking for them. This encourages communication and teamwork, reflecting on how God works things out for good when we work together according to His purpose.
2. **\*\*Scripture Art\*\***: After the puzzle activity, have each student choose a phrase or word from Romans 8:28-29 that stands out to them. Give them paper and markers to

create an art piece based on that phrase or word. Encourage creativity and allow them to explain their art and how it relates to the scripture and the puzzle activity.

3. **Reflection and Sharing**: Gather the students and have a discussion about how the puzzle activity and their art relate to Romans 8:28-29. Ask guided questions like, "How does working together help us see God's plan?" and "How can we be more like Jesus in working together with others?" Conclude by reading Romans 8:28-29 together and emphasizing that God has a purpose for each of us, and together, we can fulfill His plan.

## Snack Activity: Together We Bake: Unity Cookies

You'll Need:

- 1 package of sugar cookie mix (plus required ingredients listed on the package such as butter and egg)
- Food coloring (4 different colors)
- Mixing bowls
- Cookie cutters (cross or heart shapes)
- Parchment paper
- Oven and cookie sheets

Get Ready: Preheat the oven according to the cookie mix package instructions. Line the cookie sheets with parchment paper.

Do this:

1. Prepare the sugar cookie mix according to the package instructions. Divide the dough into four equal parts, placing each part into a separate mixing bowl.

2. Add a different food coloring to each bowl of dough. Mix well until each part of the dough is uniformly colored. This represents how God brings together individuals of different strengths and talents to work for the good of His plan, as mentioned in Romans 8:28-29.
3. Invite the children to take a small piece from each colored dough and combine them to form a single cookie. They can use their hands to gently blend the colors without mixing them completely, creating a marbled effect. Then, use the cookie cutters to cut out shapes from the marbled dough.
4. Place the cookies on the prepared sheets and bake according to the package instructions. As the cookies bake, discuss how Romans 8:28-29 teaches us that God works through all things for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose, just like the individual pieces of dough come together to make a beautiful and delicious cookie.
5. Once the cookies are done and have cooled, enjoy them together as a reminder that working together in unity is part of God's plan for us.

## Game Activity: Purpose Puzzle Race

You'll Need:

- Puzzle pieces (either from a puzzle set or homemade with cardboard, each piece representing a verse or phrase from Romans 8:28-29)
- Envelopes to hold the puzzle pieces for each team
- Timer or stopwatch

Get Ready: Before the activity, write or print out Romans 8:28-29 on several large pieces of cardboard or heavy paper. Then, cut these into puzzle pieces, ensuring there's one complete set for each team. Place each set into an envelope. Decide on a starting point and a 'puzzle assembly' area for each team.

Do this:

1. Divide the children into teams, giving each team an envelope containing the disassembled puzzle of Romans 8:28-29. Explain that the goal is to work together to find the pieces and assemble the puzzle correctly.
2. On 'Go,' teams race to their designated 'puzzle assembly' area to start putting their puzzle together. They can choose to have runners to fetch puzzle pieces one at a time from a designated 'puzzle piece pick-up' area or have the whole team search together.
3. The first team to correctly assemble their puzzle and recite Romans 8:28-29 together wins. After the race, discuss how working together helped them achieve their goal and how this relates to God's plan for us to work together for good, as mentioned in Romans 8:28-29.

## Craft Activity: Puzzle Pieces of Purpose

You'll Need:

- A large piece of poster board
- Markers or paint
- Scissors

Get Ready: Prepare by cutting the poster board into puzzle pieces, one for each child plus a few extra. Make sure the pieces can fit back together.

Do this:

1. Read Romans 8:28-29 together as a class. Discuss how God works through all things for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose, shaping us to be more like Jesus.



2. Give each child a puzzle piece. Ask them to write or draw something on their piece that represents how they see God working in their lives or how they can work together with others for a good purpose.
3. Once everyone is done, work together as a class to fit all the pieces back together on a flat surface. As you do, talk about how each of us is a part of God's bigger picture and plan, and how working together helps reveal God's purpose for us all.

## Prayer Activity: God's Masterpiece: Working Together in His Plan

You'll Need:

- A large puzzle (about 100 pieces, preferably with an image that can be related to teamwork or community)
- Paper and pens for each child
- A Bible or printed copies of Romans 8:28-29

Get Ready: Before the class, set up a table with the puzzle pieces mixed up on it. Make sure you have enough space for all the children to work around it. Write Romans 8:28-29 on a large piece of paper or a whiteboard where everyone can see it.

Do this:

1. Begin with a discussion about Romans 8:28-29, focusing on how God works for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. Emphasize that just like each puzzle piece has a specific place and purpose, each of us has a unique role in God's plan.

2. Divide the children into small teams and challenge them to complete the puzzle together. As they work on the puzzle, encourage them to think about how each piece is necessary, just like each person in God's family is important.

3. Once the puzzle is completed, lead a reflection time. Ask the children to write down on their paper how they can work together with others for good, according to God's purpose, similar to how they worked together to complete the puzzle. Conclude with a group prayer, asking God to help them see their role in His plan and to work together with others in love.