

Appearances

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Outside Appearances Are Not Important

Scripture: Isaiah 53:2-3

Memory Verse: He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. - Isaiah 53:2

The Children's Sermon

Hey there, friends! Today, we're going to talk about something really interesting: Jesus' appearance. Now, when we think about Jesus, we often wonder what He looked like. Was He tall or short? What color were His eyes? Did He have long hair? But you know what? The Bible doesn't tell us much about Jesus' appearance. And there's a good reason for that.

The people who wrote about Jesus in the Bible wanted us to focus on something way more important than His looks. They wanted us to pay attention to His inner beauty - the kind and loving things He said and did, and His message of love and forgiveness. That's what really matters.

And that's Jesus' message to us, too. He doesn't want us to worry about what's on the outside—like the color of our skin, the clothes we wear, how short or tall we are, or how much money we have. Nope, Jesus wants us to focus on the inside stuff, the heart stuff.

So, let's talk about what focusing on the inside means. It means being kind, loving others, helping people who need it, and being a good friend. When we do these things, we're showing the world what Jesus is like. We're showing them Jesus' love through our actions.

Now, you might wonder, "How can I show Jesus' love?" Well, it's in the little things. Like sharing your toys, standing up for a friend, or saying kind words. Every time you do something good, you're giving people a little glimpse of Jesus' heart.

But here's something super cool: when we focus on showing love, we start to see people the way Jesus does. We won't care so much about what someone looks like on the outside because we'll be too busy loving them for who they are on the inside. And guess what? That makes us feel happy and full of joy, too!

Now, I want to tell you a story about a time Jesus showed love. There was a man who couldn't see, and back then, people thought if you had something like that, you did something wrong. But Jesus didn't see him that way. Jesus saw his heart and knew he needed love and healing. So, Jesus healed him, showing everyone around that it's not about what's on the outside but what's on the inside that counts.

This story teaches us that Jesus' appearance isn't about how He looked. It's about His actions, His love, and how He saw people's hearts. And that's how He wants us to see people, too.

So, my challenge for you this week is to do one thing every day that shows Jesus' love. It could be a smile, a hug, a kind word, or even just listening to someone who needs a

friend. And remember, it's not about getting anything in return; it's about showing that love because that's what Jesus did.

Dear Lord, help us not to focus on the outer appearance of ourselves and others like the world does. Instead, help us to concentrate on how we look from the inside so that others will see You through us. Help us to see people the way You do and to love them with Your love. Amen.

Bible Memory Verse

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. - Isaiah 53:2

You Will Need:

- Plain white paper
- Colored pencils or markers
- Stickers of various beautiful things (flowers, stars, etc.)

Get Ready:

- Gather all the materials on a table where the children can easily reach them.
- Draw a simple outline of a person on each sheet of plain white paper before the class.

Do This:

1. Give each child a sheet of paper with the outline of a person and a set of colored pencils or markers. Ask them to color the person in any way they like but not to use the stickers yet.

2. After they have finished coloring, talk about how the person they've colored might not look special or beautiful to everyone, just like the verse says about Jesus. Explain that Jesus' appearance wasn't what made Him important; it was His love and sacrifice.
3. Now, give them the stickers and ask them to decorate around the person with beautiful stickers, explaining that even though Jesus might not have looked special, He created and loves all the beautiful things in the world. This will help them understand that what's on the outside isn't what's most important.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A variety of seeds (e.g., sunflower, pumpkin, apple, and a bean)
- Small pots or cups filled with soil
- Watering can or cup for water
- Pictures of the plants/flowers/fruits that these seeds will grow into
- Printed verses of Isaiah 53:2-3
- Coloring materials (crayons or colored pencils)
- Plain paper

Get Ready:

- Prepare a small table or space where the kids can work with the seeds and soil.
- Have the pictures of the plants/flowers/fruits ready and hidden from view.
- Print out Isaiah 53:2-3 on paper, large enough for the kids to see and read together.
- Set up a coloring station with the plain paper and coloring materials.

Do this:

1. **Planting Seeds:** Begin by showing the children the variety of seeds. Ask them to guess what each seed might grow into. Discuss how small and plain the seeds look and

how we can't tell just by looking at them what beautiful or useful plant they might become. Then, help each child plant a seed in a small pot or cup filled with soil, explaining that just like these seeds, people can't always see our potential from the outside.

2. **Connecting Scripture:** Show the children the printed verses of Isaiah 53:2-3 and read it together. Explain that just like the seeds, Jesus wasn't recognized for who He was on the outside. Many people didn't see Him for the Savior He was because they were only looking at His outside appearance. Emphasize that what's inside and our actions are much more important than how we look on the outside.

3. **Reveal and Reflect:** After planting the seeds, reveal the pictures of what each seed will grow into (e.g., a beautiful sunflower, a juicy apple, etc.). Ask the children how these amazing plants could come from such small, plain seeds. Discuss how we, like seeds, have the potential to grow into something wonderful, regardless of how we look on the outside.

4. **Creative Reflection:** Move to the coloring station. Ask each child to draw a picture of themselves on the plain paper, focusing on things they like or things they are good at, rather than what they look like. Around or below their drawing, encourage them to write or dictate to you a short sentence about what makes them special that has nothing to do with their outside appearance.

5. **Closing:** Gather the children with their drawings and share. Highlight that God sees us for what we can become and loves us no matter what, just like we can't judge a seed by its covering but by the plant it grows into. Close with a prayer, asking God to help us see ourselves and others as He does, looking beyond the outside.

Snack Activity: Hidden Treasure Cakes

You'll Need:

- Mini chocolate cakes or brownies
- White icing
- Various small candies (e.g., jelly beans, small chocolate pieces)
- Plastic knives or spreaders

Get Ready: Bake or buy mini chocolate cakes or brownies ahead of time, ensuring they're cool before the activity begins.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that sometimes the most wonderful things are not visible from the outside, just like how Jesus was described in Isaiah 53:2-3. He may not have looked special to some people, but He was incredibly important and loved by God.
2. Give each child a mini cake or brownie and a small amount of white icing. Have them spread the icing on top of their cake.
3. Before they put the icing on, secretly place a small candy inside the cake. After they've decorated their cakes, let them eat their cakes to discover the hidden candy inside. Explain that the candy is like the goodness and value inside each of us and Jesus, which may not always be seen from the outside but is definitely there and very important.

Game Activity: Heart Garden Hop

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk

- A large open space (like a driveway or a sidewalk)
- Small stones or bean bags

Get Ready: Draw several large flowers on the ground, each with a heart in the center instead of the usual circle. Make sure there's enough space between them to hop. Write different qualities such as 'kind', 'honest', 'brave', 'loyal', 'joyful', etc., inside the hearts. These represent the inner beauty and qualities that are more important than outside appearances, reflecting Isaiah 53:2-3.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that just like in Isaiah 53:2-3, where it talks about a person who wasn't impressive on the outside but had a very important role, our game focuses on the importance of what's inside our hearts rather than how we look. Tell them they are going to hop from flower to flower, discovering the beautiful qualities each of us can have inside.
2. Each child takes a turn tossing a stone or bean bag to land on a flower. They then hop to that flower, read aloud the quality written in the heart, and share a time they showed that quality or saw someone else show it.
3. After everyone has had a turn, gather the children and discuss how each quality they landed on and talked about is more important than what we look like on the outside. Emphasize that God looks at the heart, not our outward appearance.

Craft Activity: The Hidden Treasure Box

You'll Need:

- A small cardboard box or a paper mache box
- Decorative items (stickers, glitter, paint, etc.)
- A printout of Isaiah 53:2-3

- Scissors and glue

Get Ready: Cut out the Isaiah 53:2-3 verse from the printout into a small size that can fit inside the box.

Do this:

1. Start by discussing Isaiah 53:2-3, explaining that sometimes the most important things (like Jesus) might not look special on the outside, but it's what's inside that truly matters.
2. Have each child decorate their box with the materials provided. Encourage them to make the outside look nice but remind them that the inside is what will hold something even more special.
3. Once the boxes are decorated, have the children fold the verse cutout and place it inside their box. Explain that this verse is like a treasure, teaching us that what's inside our hearts and our actions towards others is more important than how we look on the outside.

Prayer Activity: God Sees Our Hearts

You'll Need:

- A variety of seeds (sunflower, pumpkin, apple, etc.)
- Small pots or cups
- Soil
- Water
- Labels and markers

Get Ready: Gather all the materials on a large table where all the children can easily reach them. Make sure each child has access to a variety of seeds, a pot or cup, soil,

and water. Prepare labels for the children to write their names on and attach to their pots.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Isaiah 53:2-3 to the children, explaining that just like people didn't see anything special in Jesus from the outside, sometimes we overlook the importance of what's inside us and others.
2. Explain to the children that they will each plant a seed in their pot. The outside of the seed might not look like much, but inside, it has everything it needs to grow into a beautiful plant. This is like how God sees us; He knows our potential and loves us, no matter what we look like on the outside.
3. Have each child pick a seed, plant it in their pot filled with soil, and water it. As they do this, encourage them to say a prayer asking God to help them see and appreciate the beauty and potential in themselves and others, beyond outside appearances.
4. Once everyone has planted their seeds, discuss as a group how each seed is different but all are valuable and have the potential to grow. Relate this back to how we should view others and ourselves, valuing what's inside more than outside appearances.