

Taking Care Of God's House

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: Taking care of God's house

Scripture: Haggai 2:9

Memory Verse: 'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the Lord Almighty. -Haggai 2:9

The Children's Sermon

Taking care of our homes is something we all do with our families. We clean up, fix things that break, and replace stuff when it gets old. We like our home to look nice, especially when friends come over. But did you know there's another very special house we should take care of? That's right, it's the House of God, or the church.

Just like our own homes, the House of God needs to be taken care of in two ways. First, we need to look after the building. We want it to be clean and welcoming for anyone who visits. That means we might help pick up things left on the floor, dust, or even help set up chairs. It's like when we tidy up our room before a friend comes over.

Second, we need to take care of the people in the House of God. Imagine if you went to a big party at a famous person's house. You'd expect people to say hi, offer you snacks, and show you around, right? We should do the same in the House of God. Everyone who comes in should feel loved and welcomed.

But caring for the House of God isn't just about the building and the people inside. It's also about the people outside. We should invite as many people as we can to join us. If

we run out of space, we'll just have to make more room! Imagine if we could welcome as many visitors as a big, famous castle!

Now, let's think about how we can do all this. One way is by being friendly to everyone who comes to the House of God. We can smile, say hello, and ask if they need help finding something. It's like being a good friend at school.

We can also help keep the House of God clean. Maybe we can join a group that helps tidy up before or after services. Or we could help decorate for special holidays. It's like when we help at home by doing chores.

Another important thing we can do is share. We can share our toys, our snacks, and even our time with others in the House of God. Sharing shows we care and makes the House of God a happy place.

We should also listen and learn. When we go to the House of God, we hear stories from the Bible and learn about Jesus. We can share these stories with our friends and family, inviting them to come with us next time.

Remember, taking care of the House of God means being kind and helpful. It's about making sure everyone feels welcome and loved. It's like being part of a big family where everyone looks out for each other.

But why is the House of God so special? It's a place where we come together to learn about God's love for us. It's where we pray, sing, and celebrate together. By taking care of it, we show God that we love Him and are thankful for all He does for us.

So, next time you're at the House of God, look around. See if there's anything you can do to help. Maybe there's a piece of trash you can pick up or someone new you can say hello to. Every little bit helps make the House of God a better place.

And don't forget, taking care of the House of God isn't just a job for grown-ups. Kids can do a lot to help, too. Whether it's being kind to others, helping to clean up, or sharing what we learn, we all have a part to play.

Dear Lord, thank you for the House of God. Help us to take good care of it, just like we do with our own homes. Help us to be kind and welcoming to everyone, both inside and outside the House of God. Amen.

Taking care of the House of God is a big job, but it's also a fun and rewarding one. It's a way to show our love for God and for each other. So let's all do our part to make the House of God the best place it can be!

Bible Memory Verse

'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the Lord Almighty. -Haggai 2:9

You Will Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Glue sticks
- Stickers or glitter
- Scissors (for teacher use only)

Get Ready:

- Cut out shapes of houses from the construction paper before class.
- Set up a table with all the materials spread out for easy access.

Do This:

1. Give each child a paper house shape and explain that we are making God's house beautiful, just like in our memory verse.
2. Encourage the children to decorate their house shapes with stickers, glitter, and other materials to make them 'glorious'.
3. As they work, talk to them about how we can help take care of God's house by keeping it clean, being respectful when we are there, and helping out.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Large cardboard box (to represent God's house)
- Washable markers
- Various craft supplies (stickers, fabric scraps, etc.)
- Cleaning supplies (small brooms, cloths)

Get Ready:

- Set up the large cardboard box in an open area and decorate it slightly to look like a house.
- Prepare a small "mess" around the house with paper scraps and safe, non-toxic items that need to be "cleaned up."
- Place markers, craft supplies, and cleaning supplies in accessible containers near the house.

Do this:

1. Read a simplified version of Haggai 2:9 to the children, explaining that we're going to make God's house (the box) the most beautiful and well-cared-for place.
2. Encourage the children to decorate God's house with markers and craft supplies, fostering a discussion about how taking care of God's house shows respect and love for God.
3. After decorating, guide the children in "cleaning up" around God's house using the small brooms and cloths, reinforcing the idea that taking care of our surroundings is part of taking care of God's house.

Snack Activity: Temple Treats

You'll Need:

- Graham crackers
- Cream cheese or peanut butter (allergy-friendly options can be used)
- Assorted fruits (blueberries, sliced strawberries, banana slices)

Get Ready: Spread a clean tablecloth on the table where the activity will take place.

Make sure each child has a small plate, a spreading knife (plastic knives work well for younger children), and a napkin.

Do this:

1. Explain that the temple in the Bible was God's house, and we should take care of it just like we take care of our churches today. Haggai 2:9 talks about the glory of this future house. We're going to build our own little edible temples to remind us of this.
2. Give each child a graham cracker to use as the base of their temple. They can spread cream cheese or peanut butter on the graham cracker as the 'glue'.
3. Let the children use the assorted fruits to decorate their temple. Blueberries can be stones, sliced strawberries can be roof tiles, and banana slices can be windows.

Encourage them to think about how each part of their temple can be beautiful and taken care of, just like God's house.

Game Activity: Temple Builders

You'll Need:

- Blocks or Lego
- Pictures of temples or churches (for inspiration)
- A simple illustration of Haggai 2:9

Get Ready: Set up a small area on the floor with the blocks or Lego. Display the pictures of temples or churches around the play area for inspiration. Show the children the illustration of Haggai 2:9 and explain that just like people in the Bible built God's house, they too can build a house for God.

Do this:

1. Invite the children to use the blocks or Lego to build their version of God's house.

Encourage them to think about what makes a house special for God, like being a place where people can pray, learn about God, and be together.

2. As they build, talk to them about how taking care of God's house and making it beautiful is important, just like Haggai said in the Bible. Explain that God's house is not just the building but also the people in it who care and love each other.

3. After everyone has finished building, have a small 'show and tell' where each child can explain their creation. Finish by gathering the children to say a simple prayer together, thanking God for His house and asking for help to take care of it.

Craft Activity: Building God's House

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Glue sticks
- Stickers or markers

Get Ready: Cut the construction paper into shapes of bricks, roofs, doors, and windows.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that just like we take care of our homes, we also need to take care of God's house, which can be our church, our bodies, and the world around us.
2. Give each child a piece of construction paper as their 'foundation'. Ask them to use the brick shapes to build a house on the foundation.
3. Once the house is built, they can decorate it with roof, door, and window shapes. Encourage them to use stickers or markers to add details like trees, flowers, or animals, showing how we can make God's house beautiful.

Prayer Activity: Building God's House Together

You'll Need:

- Construction paper
- Crayons or markers
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready: Cut the construction paper into brick shapes ahead of time.

Do this:

1. Read a simple version or summary of Haggai 2:9 to the children, explaining that God's house is a special place and we should help take care of it.
2. Tell the children they are going to help build God's house by decorating their own 'bricks' with crayons or stickers. Encourage them to think about what makes a place special to God, like love, kindness, and taking care of each other.
3. Once they have decorated their bricks, help them place their bricks in a line or stack them gently to 'build' a wall. As they do, encourage them to say a simple prayer like 'Help us take care of Your house, God.'