

Taking Care Of God's House

LOWER ELEMENTARY 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. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares 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. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the Lord Almighty. - Haggai 2:9

You Will Need:

-Colored construction paper

- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers related to houses or churches

Get Ready:

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

Do This:

1. Give each child a paper house or church shape and ask them to decorate it using markers, crayons, and stickers. Explain that just like they are making these paper houses beautiful, we should also help take care of God's house, which can be our church or the place where we feel God's presence.
2. While they are decorating, talk to them about the importance of God's house and how we can show respect and care for it, such as by cleaning up after ourselves and being kind and welcoming to others there.
3. After they finish decorating, gather the children in a circle and have them share their decorated houses. Encourage them to recite the memory verse together. Explain that the 'glory' in the verse means how beautiful and wonderful God's house is, and how it's our job to help keep it that way.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Large cardboard boxes (or small ones to create a mini model)
- Markers, crayons, and paint
- Construction paper

- Glue and tape
- Bible

Get Ready:

1. Create a simple outline of a temple or church on the cardboard boxes using a marker. This will be God's house for the activity.
2. Cut out door and window shapes from the construction paper for decoration.
3. Set up a reading area with the Bible open to Haggai 2:9.

Do this:

1. ****Read Haggai 2:9 Together****: Start by gathering the children around the reading area. Read Haggai 2:9 aloud, emphasizing the importance of God's house and how it's a place of peace and glory. Explain that just like our homes need care, God's house does too.
2. ****Decorate God's House****: Move to the cardboard boxes and explain that this will be their project to take care of God's house. Allow the children to use markers, crayons, paint, and construction paper to decorate the temple or church. Encourage them to think about what makes a place welcoming and peaceful.
3. ****Share and Reflect****: Once the decorating is done, have each child share one thing they did to take care of God's house and why it's important. Conclude by reminding them that taking care of God's house, whether it's a church, temple, or within our hearts, shows our love and respect for Him.

Snack Activity: Building God's House Snack Craft

You'll Need:

- Graham crackers
- Vanilla frosting

- Assorted candies (for decoration)
- Small paper plates
- Plastic knives

Get Ready: Gather all your materials on a clean table. Make sure each child has a small paper plate and a plastic knife.

Do this:

1. Explain that just like we need to take care of our homes, we also need to take care of God's house, which can be our church, our bodies, and how we treat each other because God's glory is in us. Haggai 2:9 tells us 'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the LORD Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the LORD Almighty. This means that we should strive to make God's house beautiful and filled with peace.
2. Use the graham crackers as the base and walls to build a small model of a house on the paper plate. They can break the graham crackers into smaller pieces to make doors and windows.
3. Spread vanilla frosting on the graham crackers to 'glue' them together. The frosting can also be used to attach candies for decoration, representing the beauty and glory of God's house. Encourage the children to be creative in decorating their houses, reminding them that taking care of God's house means making it a place where everyone feels welcome and at peace.
4. Once everyone has finished building and decorating their houses, have a short discussion about the importance of taking care of God's house, encouraging the children to share ideas on how they can do this in their daily lives.

Game Activity: Temple Builders Hopscotch

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- A small stone or beanbag
- A picture of a temple or church (for reference)

Get Ready: Use the sidewalk chalk to draw a hopscotch grid on the ground. Instead of numbers in each square, write words that relate to taking care of God's house, such as 'Clean', 'Respect', 'Share', 'Pray', 'Love', 'Give', and 'Help'. At the start of the hopscotch, draw a simple church or temple.

Do this:

1. Have the children line up behind the start of the hopscotch. Explain that just like we take steps to care for our own homes, we also take steps to care for God's house. Each word represents a way we can show our love and respect for God's house.
2. The first child tosses the stone or beanbag to land on one of the squares. They then hop through the hopscotch, skipping the square with their stone or beanbag. When they reach the end, they turn around, hop back, and pick up the stone while standing on one foot. Before they can finish, they must say how they can help take care of God's house related to the word where their stone landed.
3. Encourage creativity in their answers, and remind them of Haggai 2:9, explaining that the glory of the future house of God will be greater than the former, and in this place, God will give peace. This teaches us the importance of contributing to the care and love of God's house.

After everyone has had a turn, gather the children and discuss how each action they mentioned can make a difference in taking care of God's house and how it can bring peace and glory to it, just like in Haggai 2:9.

Craft Activity: Building God's House

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Stickers or glitter for decoration

Get Ready: Cut the construction paper into shapes that resemble parts of a house: squares for walls, rectangles for the roof, door shapes, and window shapes.

Do this:

1. Read Haggai 2:9 together: 'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the Lord Almighty. 'And in this place, I will grant peace,' declares the Lord Almighty. Discuss what it means to take care of God's house and how we can make it a place of peace and glory.
2. Using the pre-cut shapes, have the children glue the pieces onto a larger piece of construction paper to 'build' a house. Encourage them to think of this as building God's house and how each piece is important.
3. Once the house is built, let them decorate it with markers, stickers, or glitter. As they decorate, remind them that taking care of God's house means making it a welcoming, beautiful place for everyone. Finish by writing 'Haggai 2:9' and 'God's House' on their artwork.

Prayer Activity: Building Blocks Prayer

You'll Need:

- A set of building blocks or Lego
- Paper
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready: Write 'Haggai 2:9' and 'God's House' on a piece of paper and display it where all the kids can see.

Do this:

1. Read Haggai 2:9 together: 'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the Lord Almighty. 'And in this place, I will grant peace,' declares the Lord Almighty.
2. Explain that just like we take care of our homes, we should also help take care of God's house, which can be our church, our hearts, and how we treat each other because God's presence is everywhere.
3. Give each child some building blocks. Ask them to build something they think represents God's house. It could be a church, a heart, or anything that shows love and care.
4. As they build, encourage them to think about ways they can help take care of God's house, like cleaning up, being kind, and helping others.
5. Once everyone is done building, have a short prayer time. Ask the children to say a prayer about how they can help take care of God's house based on their creation. Encourage them to pray for strength and ideas to make God's house a place of peace and glory.