

Big Sin – Little Sin

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Jesus died for our sin

Scripture: Romans 3:23

Memory Verse: For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. – Romans 3:23

The Children's Sermon

In Old Testament times, according to Leviticus 6:24-30, when people did things the Lord told them not to do, they had to kill a goat or a lamb as a sin offering. And they had to do this over and over, day after day. Hebrews 7:27 tells us that when Jesus died, he offered his sacrifice once and for all time. So let's look at our examples again...wouldn't you agree that ...a LIE, big or small is still a LIE ... and stealing something small or LARGE is still stealing and according to the 10 Commandments that's WRONG ! ! !. So any sin is the same. They're not BIG or small... they're SINS! And Jesus would still have to DIE to overcome that SIN.

So, what is sin? Sin is when we do something that God says we shouldn't do. It's like when your parents tell you not to eat cookies before dinner, but you sneak one anyway. That's doing something you know you're not supposed to do. And just like your parents want you to say sorry when you break the rules, God wants us to say sorry for our sins too. That's where Sin Offering and Forgiveness come in.

Long ago, people had to give a sin offering, like a goat or a lamb, to say sorry to God. They couldn't just say "I'm sorry" and be done. They had to show they were sorry by giving up something important to them. But here's the amazing part: when Jesus

came, he became the ultimate Sin Offering. He said, "I will be the last lamb you'll ever need to offer because I'm going to take care of all the sins, big and small, once and for all." And that's exactly what he did.

When Jesus died on the cross, he did it for every single person in the world. He did it for me, for you, for everyone. That means, because of Jesus, we don't have to offer lambs or goats anymore. We have something much better. We have Forgiveness through Jesus.

But what do we do when we sin now? The Bible tells us in 1 John 1:7-10 that if we're sorry for the things we do, we can confess our sins and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from those sins and He will be our Helper in God's presence. It's like having the best friend who is always there to help you clean up your messes, no matter what.

Now, you might wonder, "How do I confess?" It's simple. You just talk to God. You can say, "God, I'm really sorry I lied to my friend," or "God, I'm sorry I took something that wasn't mine." It's like telling your parents you're sorry. God already knows what you did, but He wants to hear it from you. And the most wonderful part? He forgives you every single time.

Remember, Sin Offering and Forgiveness aren't just old stories in the Bible. They're lessons for us today. Jesus being our Sin Offering means we can have Forgiveness anytime we mess up. It's a gift that keeps on giving.

So, let's say you're playing with your friend, and you accidentally break their toy. You feel bad, right? You say sorry to your friend, and maybe you even help fix the toy. That's

a bit like what Jesus does for us. We break things, like rules or promises, and Jesus helps fix it by forgiving us.

But, just because Jesus forgives us doesn't mean we should keep doing things we know are wrong. Imagine if you kept breaking your friend's toys on purpose because you knew they'd forgive you. That wouldn't be very nice, would it? In the same way, we should try our best to follow God's rules because we love Him, not because we're scared of getting in trouble.

Thank you, dear Heavenly Father, for being faithful to forgive us of our sins and for sending Jesus as a sacrifice for our sins and to be our Helper. Amen.

So, kids, next time you're about to do something you know you shouldn't, remember the story of the Sin Offering and Forgiveness. Remember how much Jesus loves you and how He's always ready to forgive. And don't forget to say sorry, not just to God, but to anyone you might have hurt with your actions.

Sin Offering and Forgiveness are big words, but they're really about something very simple: love. God's love for us is so big that He made the ultimate sacrifice. And our love for God shows when we say sorry and try to do better. It's a beautiful thing, and it's something we can all be thankful for every day.

Bible Memory Verse

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. - Romans

3:23

You Will Need:

-Colored paper

-Scissors

-Markers

Get Ready:

-Cut the colored paper into heart shapes, one for each child.

-Write 'Romans 3:23' on each heart with the markers.

Do This:

1. Give each child a heart and ask them to decorate it with markers, writing things they are thankful for that Jesus has done for them.

2. Explain that just like the heart, we are not perfect and make mistakes, but Jesus loves us so much He died for our sins.

3. Have the children share their hearts with the group, talking about why they are thankful for Jesus. This helps them remember that even though we all make mistakes, Jesus' love and sacrifice cover us all.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Red and white heart-shaped cutouts (one of each color for every child)

- Markers or crayons

- Glue sticks

- A large cross made from cardboard or poster board

- Sticky tack or tape to attach hearts to the cross

Get Ready:

- Write "Romans 3:23" on the white heart cutouts ahead of time.

- On the red heart cutouts, write "Jesus died for our sins."
- Set up a crafting area with markers/crayons and glue sticks for each child.
- Place the large cross at the front of the room where everyone can see and reach it.

Do this:

1. ****Introduction:**** Explain that everyone makes mistakes and does things wrong, which the Bible calls sin. Share Romans 3:23, explaining that it means everyone has sinned and needs Jesus. Show them the white heart with "Romans 3:23" written on it.
2. ****Activity:**** Give each child a white heart and a red heart. Ask them to decorate the white heart with markers or crayons, writing or drawing things they wish to say sorry for (e.g., being unkind, not listening). On the red heart, they can draw symbols of love, crosses, or anything that reminds them of Jesus.
3. ****Bringing it Together:**** Once everyone is done, gather the children and explain how Jesus dying on the cross was His way of showing the greatest love for us, taking away our sins. Invite the children to come up one by one to stick their white heart on the cross first, symbolizing their sins being given to Jesus. Then, they cover it with their red heart, symbolizing Jesus' love and sacrifice covering and forgiving their sins. Conclude by reminding them that Jesus loves them so much He died for their sins, and because of Him, we can be forgiven and loved forever.

Snack Activity: Cross Cookies

You'll Need:

- Sugar cookies (pre-baked in the shape of a cross or use regular circle cookies and cut them into cross shapes)
- White icing
- Red icing or red fruit roll-ups
- Plastic knives or spreaders

- Small plates

Get Ready: Before the activity, make sure you have enough pre-baked cookies for each child. Set up a clean table with all the materials spread out so each child can easily reach what they need.

Do this:

1. Give each child a pre-baked cross-shaped cookie and a small plate. Explain that the cookie represents Jesus, who was perfect and without sin, just like the unbroken cookie.
2. Next, have them spread white icing over the cookie to represent Jesus' purity and His righteousness. Romans 3:23 tells us, 'for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,' but Jesus was without sin.
3. Then, let them add a strip of red icing or a piece of red fruit roll-up across the cookie to symbolize Jesus' blood that was shed for us. Explain that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, so we can be forgiven and have eternal life with Him. This red mark reminds us of His great love and sacrifice.

This activity not only creates a tasty snack but also provides a tangible way to understand the significance of Jesus' sacrifice for us.

Game Activity: Cross Hop

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- A large, open concrete area (like a driveway or a school playground)
- Small stones or beanbags

Get Ready: Draw a large cross on the ground, dividing it into blocks like a hopscotch grid. Number the blocks from 1 to 10.

Do this:

1. Explain Romans 3:23, 'For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.' Discuss how this means everyone makes mistakes and needs Jesus.
2. Have each child stand at the start of the cross. They toss a stone or beanbag onto the first block.
3. The child hops over the block with the stone or beanbag, moving along the cross to the end and back, only hopping on one foot in the single blocks and two feet in the double blocks. If they step on a line or miss a block, they start over, reminding them that Jesus gives us endless chances because He died for our sins.
4. After everyone has a turn, gather the children and explain how Jesus' death on the cross gives us a path to forgiveness, just like how they hopped across the cross to reach the end. Each number on the cross can represent a step towards understanding Jesus' love and sacrifice for us.

Craft Activity: Cross of Forgiveness

You'll Need:

- White paper plate
- Red and black washable paint
- Paintbrush
- Sticky notes
- Marker

Get Ready: Write Romans 3:23 on the center of the paper plate with the marker. Make sure to leave space around the edges for painting.

Do this:

1. Discuss Romans 3:23 with the children, explaining that everyone has sinned but Jesus died for our sins so we can be forgiven. Emphasize that Jesus' love and sacrifice make forgiveness possible.
2. Have each child think of times they've done something wrong and write these on sticky notes. Then, stick these notes around the edge of the plate, around the verse.
3. Using the red paint, let the children paint a cross over the center of the plate, covering the verse. Explain that the red represents Jesus' blood that was shed for us. Allow them to use black paint to make small dots around the cross, representing our sins being washed away.
4. Once the paint dries, encourage the children to peel off the sticky notes, revealing the clean plate beneath. Discuss how this represents Jesus taking away our sins and making us clean again.

Prayer Activity: Thank You, Jesus, Prayer Chain

You'll Need:

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

Get Ready: Write Romans 3:23 on a whiteboard or large piece of paper where all the children can see it. Explain that this verse tells us everyone has sinned but Jesus died for our sins because He loves us.

Do this:

1. Give each child several strips of colorful paper. Ask them to think about the things they are thankful for because Jesus died for our sins. They can draw or write these things on the strips.
2. Share Romans 3:23 with the children, explaining that even though we all make mistakes and do things that are wrong, Jesus loves us so much He died to forgive us. This is why we are thankful.
3. Show the children how to make a chain by looping the strips and securing them with tape or a stapler. As they add each strip to their chain, encourage them to say a prayer thanking Jesus for dying for our sins and for the specific things they wrote or drew on their strips.