

# Big Sin - Little Sin

## UPPER 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
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Stickers with stars and other shapes

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into strips, one for each child.
- Write 'Romans 3:23' on each strip with a marker.

Do This:

1. Give each child a strip of colored paper and markers or crayons. Ask them to decorate their strip with the stickers and write the memory verse on it in their own handwriting.
2. Once everyone has finished, form a circle and let each child share what the verse means to them and how they understand the concept of 'falling short' in their own lives.
3. Finally, connect the strips into a paper chain. Explain that just as each strip is linked together, we are all connected in needing God's forgiveness. Hang the chain in your classroom as a reminder of today's lesson.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large cross made out of cardboard or wood
- Sticky notes and pens
- Blindfolds for each child
- A "sin bucket" (any container labeled "SIN")
- A map of the room with a marked path leading to the cross

Get Ready:

- Place the cross at one end of the room.
- Scatter sticky notes and pens near the entrance.
- Set the "sin bucket" beside the cross.
- Draw a map of the room, marking a clear path to the cross, and make copies for each child.

Do this:

1. **Understanding Romans 3:23**: Begin by discussing Romans 3:23, explaining that everyone has sinned and falls short of God's glory, but Jesus died for our sins. Emphasize that despite our sins, we can still find our way to Jesus, who forgives us.
2. **Writing Sins and Finding the Way**: Give each child a sticky note and a pen. Ask them to write down something wrong they've done (they don't need to share it with anyone; it's between them and God). Once they've written it down, they should fold the sticky note. Blindfold them one at a time, spin them gently, and then hand them the map. Their task is to find their way to the cross and drop their "sin" in the bucket, relying on the map and their memory of the room's layout.
3. **Reflection and Prayer**: Once all children have found their way to the cross and discarded their sins, gather them around the cross. Discuss how the exercise represents Jesus taking our sins upon Himself when He died on the cross. Emphasize that just as they navigated to the cross, Jesus is always there to guide us away from sin. Conclude with a prayer of thanks for Jesus' sacrifice and ask for help in turning away from sin.

## Snack Activity: Cross-Shaped Fruit Snacks

You'll Need:

- A variety of fruits (grapes, strawberries, bananas, apples)

- Toothpicks
- Small cookie cutters (cross-shaped if available)
- Plates and napkins

Get Ready: Wash all the fruits thoroughly and lay them out on a clean surface. If you don't have cross-shaped cookie cutters, prepare to guide the children on how to cut the fruits into cross shapes manually with safety knives or by arranging the pieces.

Do this:

1. Start by discussing Romans 3:23, explaining how everyone has sinned and falls short of the glory of God, but through Jesus, we have redemption. Relate this to the activity by explaining that the cross-shaped snacks will remind us of Jesus' sacrifice.
2. Use the cookie cutters to cut the fruits into cross shapes. If you don't have cross-shaped cutters, show the children how to carefully cut or arrange the fruits into cross shapes on their plates using safety knives or just by positioning the fruit pieces.
3. As the children create their cross-shaped snacks, encourage them to think about what Jesus' sacrifice means to them personally. Once everyone has their snack ready, come together to share thoughts and enjoy the snacks as a reminder of Jesus' love and sacrifice for us.

## Game Activity: Sin and Grace Obstacle Course

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- Cones or small objects to serve as obstacles
- A large cross made out of cardboard or any available material

Get Ready: Draw a large hopscotch grid on the ground with the sidewalk chalk. Each square should represent a sin or a positive action (e.g., lying, helping others). Place the cones or objects in a zigzag pattern after the hopscotch grid to serve as obstacles. At the end of the course, place the large cross.

Do this:

1. Explain Romans 3:23 to the children, emphasizing that everyone has sinned but Jesus' sacrifice offers us grace and forgiveness.
2. Have each child start at the beginning of the hopscotch grid. As they hop on a square, they should say a sin or a positive action based on what the square represents. This part of the game symbolizes the challenges and choices we face daily.
3. After completing the hopscotch, the children will navigate the obstacle course, symbolizing the obstacles sin places in our path.
4. Once they reach the cross at the end, they should say, 'Jesus died for my sins,' symbolizing that despite our sins and the obstacles they create, Jesus' sacrifice on the cross has given us a path to forgiveness and salvation.

## Craft Activity: Cross of Forgiveness

You'll Need:

- White cardstock
- Red and black markers
- Scissors
- Glue
- Glitter

Get Ready: Cut the white cardstock into a cross shape for each child.

Do this:

1. Have each child write Romans 3:23 on one side of the cross with the black marker. Discuss what this verse means and how it shows that everyone needs forgiveness.
2. On the other side of the cross, ask the children to write down things they want to ask forgiveness for or things they are thankful Jesus forgave. They can use the red marker for this to symbolize Jesus' blood that was shed for us.
3. Decorate the edges of the cross with glue and sprinkle glitter over it. This represents the beauty and purity that comes from Jesus' forgiveness.
4. Allow some time for the crosses to dry. Encourage the children to place their Cross of Forgiveness somewhere they will see it daily as a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice and love.

## Prayer Activity: Bridge Over Sin

You'll Need:

- A large piece of blue cloth or paper to represent water
- Sheets of paper
- Pens or markers
- A wooden plank or sturdy cardboard (to act as a bridge)

**Get Ready:** Before the class, spread the blue cloth or paper on the floor to represent a body of water. This 'water' symbolizes sin, and the wooden plank or cardboard will serve as the bridge that represents Jesus Christ as our bridge over sin. Place the wooden plank or cardboard on the side, not yet over the 'water'. Prepare sheets of paper and pens/markers for each child.

Do this:



1. Start by discussing Romans 3:23 with the children, explaining that everyone has sinned and falls short of the glory of God. Emphasize that sin separates us from God, like how the water separates one side from the other.
2. Ask each child to write or draw something on a piece of paper that they feel they need forgiveness for, reminding them that it's confidential and won't be shared. This activity helps them personally connect with the concept of sin.
3. Explain how Jesus dying for our sins is like building a bridge over the water of sin that separates us from God. Place the wooden plank or cardboard over the 'water' to symbolize Jesus as the bridge. Invite each child to walk over the 'bridge' while holding their piece of paper, symbolizing moving from sin towards forgiveness through Jesus. At the end of the bridge, have a basket where they can leave their paper, symbolizing leaving their sins behind thanks to Jesus's sacrifice.