

No Substitute

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: There is no substitute for God.

Scripture: Exodus 20:2-3

Memory Verse: Exodus 20:3 'You shall have no other gods before me.'

The Children's Sermon

It is that way with God. There is only one God and nothing can take his place. Nothing comes close. God comforts us and makes our lives sweet.

People try to substitute a lot of stuff for God. It may be new cars, new toys, new clothes, or new games. And all that stuff can make us feel good for a while, but only God can satisfy us and make our lives sweet.

He is the real thing, don't settle for anything less.

Imagine you have a big, beautiful puzzle. This puzzle is your life. There's one piece that fits perfectly in the middle. That piece is God. You can try to put other things in that spot - like video games, TV shows, or even friends and family. But remember, there's only one God, and He's the piece that fits just right. Without Him, the puzzle isn't complete.

Now, think about when you're really thirsty. You might dream of a cold, sweet drink to make you feel better. God is like that drink, but even better. He quenches our thirst in a

way nothing else can. Just like there's only one God, there's only one thing that can truly satisfy our hearts and souls, and that's God's love.

Sometimes, we might feel lonely or sad. We might think that if we have the newest toy or the latest game, we'll feel better. And it might work for a little bit. But those feelings come back. That's because there's a special place in our hearts that only God can fill. Because there's only one God, He's the only one who can make us feel whole and truly happy.

God's love is like a superpower. It can make us feel strong when we're weak, and it can make us feel loved when we're lonely. Remember, there's only one God, and His love is the biggest and the best. No superhero or TV character can match up to how amazing God is. He's the ultimate friend and hero.

And here's something really cool about God: He's always there for us. No matter what. Even when we mess up or forget to talk to Him, He's still there. Because there's only one God, He's able to be everywhere, for everyone, all at once. That's something no one else can do.

God also has a plan for each of us. He made us all special and unique. Sometimes, we might not understand His plan, but we can trust Him. He knows what's best for us because He loves us more than anyone else could. Remember, there's only one God, and He's got the whole world in His hands, including you and me.

Praying to God is like talking to your best friend. You can tell Him anything - your secrets, your wishes, and even the things that make you sad. God listens because He

cares. And because there's only one God, He has the power to help us in ways we can't even imagine.

Now, let's think about sharing. We share our toys, our snacks, and our stories. God wants us to share something very special, too: His love. Because there's only one God, sharing His love is like sharing the most precious gift we have. When we show kindness, help others, and speak gently, we're sharing a piece of God's love.

Remember, even though we have fun toys and games, and we love our families and friends very much, there's only one God who can make our hearts truly happy. He's the best friend we could ever ask for. So, let's make sure to keep Him in the center of our lives, just like the centerpiece of a puzzle. That way, our lives will be as sweet and complete as can be.

Let's pray and thank God for being the one true God who loves us, listens to us, and is always there for us. And let's ask Him to help us remember that He's the most important part of our lives. Amen.

So, kids, always remember: there's only one God, and He's the best part of everything. Keep Him close, and your life will be filled with joy and love.

Bible Memory Verse

Exodus 20:3 'You shall have no other gods before me.'

You Will Need:

- Colored paper
- Scissors

- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into large heart shapes, one for each child.
- Write the memory verse on a large poster board and display it where all the children can see.

Do This:

1. Give each child a large heart shape and ask them to decorate it with markers, crayons, and stickers as they like. Explain that the heart represents their love and that God wants to be the most important one in our hearts.
2. Once they are done decorating, help them write the memory verse, 'You shall have no other gods before me,' on their heart. Younger children may need assistance with writing.
3. Have a short discussion with the children about what it means to put God first in our lives. Encourage them to share ways they can show God is most important to them. Conclude by praying together, asking God to help each of us to always put Him first.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Large cardboard cutouts of different "idols" (e.g., toys, TV, money) and one of God (a cloud or light to represent God)
- Tape or Velcro to stick cutouts on a wall or board
- Simple crown cutouts for the children

Get Ready:

- Prepare the large cardboard cutouts by drawing or printing images of various idols and one representation of God. Ensure they are colorful and large enough for the children to see from a distance.
- Attach tape or Velcro to the back of each cutout for easy attachment to a wall or board.
- Create or find simple crown cutouts that can easily be worn by the children, symbolizing that they are special to God.

Do this:

1. Show the children the different cardboard cutouts and explain briefly in simple terms what each represents, emphasizing that sometimes people think these things are the most important.
2. Read a simplified version of Exodus 20:2-3, emphasizing "There is no substitute for God." Explain that God loves us so much and wants to be the most important in our lives.
3. Play a game where you mix up the cutouts on the wall or board, including the representation of God among the idols. Ask the children to find and point out which one is God. When they choose correctly, celebrate by saying, "Yes! There is no substitute for God!" and give them a crown to wear, reminding them they are special to God and He is the most important.

Snack Activity: One and Only Honey Toast

You'll Need:

- Sliced bread
- Honey
- Banana slices

Get Ready: Use a cookie cutter or a knife to cut the bread into the shape of a heart.

Do this:

1. Toast the bread lightly until it's just golden.
2. Spread honey over the toast in a thin layer, explaining that just like the honey, God's love is sweet and spreads all over our hearts, and there's no substitute for His love.
3. Place banana slices on top of the honey toast. Each slice can represent different ways we see God's love in our lives. Enjoy this sweet reminder that God is the one and only God, and there's no substitute for Him.

Game Activity: God's Pathway

You'll Need:

- Colorful tape or chalk
- Pictures of different objects (animals, toys, food, etc.)
- One big picture of a heart with 'God' written inside

Get Ready: Use the tape or chalk to create a simple path on the floor or ground. Place the pictures along the sides of the path, making sure there's enough space between them. Place the heart with 'God' at the end of the path.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that we are going on a special walk to find who is most important in our lives. Tell them that along the way, we will see many things we might like or love, but we need to remember who is the most important.

2. Have the children start at the beginning of the path. As they walk along, point out the different pictures and ask if these are the most important things in our lives.

Encourage them to say 'No' and continue walking.

3. When they reach the end of the path and find the heart with 'God' inside, celebrate and explain that God is the most important, and there is no substitute for Him. Remind them of Exodus 20:2-3, simplifying it by saying, 'God tells us He should be the most important in our lives because He loves us very much.'

Craft Activity: God is Number One

You'll Need:

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

Get Ready: Cut out large number '1' shapes from the construction paper ahead of time.

Do this:

1. Give each child a large number '1' cutout and let them choose their favorite color of construction paper for the background.
2. Encourage the children to decorate their number '1' with markers, crayons, stickers, or glitter to make it special. Explain that this '1' reminds us that God is number one and there is no substitute for Him.
3. Help the children glue their decorated number '1' onto the background paper. As they work, talk to them about how God loves us and wants to be the most important in our lives, just like how the number '1' is the first and most important number.

Prayer Activity: God is Number One

You'll Need:

- A large poster board
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers of hearts or stars

Get Ready: Before the activity, draw a big heart in the center of the poster board and write 'God' inside it.

Do this:

1. Gather the children around the poster board and explain that just like we have one heart to love, we should love God the most because He loves us and there is no one like Him.
2. Read Exodus 20:2-3 to the children, simplifying it to: 'God says, "I am the only God. You should not have any other gods but me."'
3. Give each child a sticker and let them place it around the 'God' heart on the poster board while saying, 'God is number one.' This helps them remember that there is no substitute for God and we should love Him the most.