

Does God Have A Purpose For Me

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: God has a plan for us.

Scripture: Jeremiah 29:11

Memory Verse: 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' - Jeremiah 29:11

The Children's Sermon

Good morning, everyone! Today, I have something very special to show you. What is it? It's an empty box! But wait, it's not just any box. This box is going to help us learn something amazing today.

So, what can an empty box teach us? Well, sometimes, our lives might feel a little like this empty box. We might feel like we don't have what we want or need, or like we're missing something important. But guess what? God has a plan for us, just like He had plans for His people in the Bible.

One of those plans is talked about in Jeremiah 29:11. God says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Isn't that amazing? God has plans for us, and they are good plans!

Now, let's think about this box again. Imagine if we could fill this box with all the good things God has planned for us. What do you think would be inside? Maybe there would be moments of happiness, new friends, adventures, and lots of learning. God's plans are like invisible gifts waiting for us in the future.

But how do we get these gifts? How do we make God's plans come true? First, we need to trust God. Just like when you're playing a game and you trust your friends to follow the rules, trusting God means believing He will do what He says.

We also need to talk to God. You can tell Him anything - your wishes, your worries, and even your secrets. Praying is like sending God a letter, and guess what? He always reads them!

Listening is important too. Sometimes, God talks to us in quiet ways - through other people, in our thoughts, or even in our dreams. So, we need to be good listeners to hear God's plans for us.

Following God's way means doing what He teaches us, like being kind, sharing, and helping others. When we live like this, we are walking on the path God has set for us.

Now, let's imagine our empty box again. Every time we trust, talk, listen, and follow God, it's like we're putting a piece of His plan into our box. Bit by bit, our box gets filled with all the good things God has in store for us.

But remember, sometimes we might have to wait for God's plans to happen. Waiting can be hard, but it's part of the adventure. It's like when you plant a seed and wait for it to grow. You water it, give it sunlight, and one day, you see a little green shoot coming up from the ground. God's plans grow in a similar way.

And while we wait, we can help others with their boxes too. Maybe your friend is feeling sad or left out. You can share a smile, lend a hand, or say kind words. Helping others is part of God's plan for us. It's like adding sparkles to their box and ours too.

So, even when things don't go the way we want, we can remember Jeremiah 29:11 plans. God has something good in store for us. We just need to trust Him, talk to Him, listen, and follow His way.

Let's pray together. "Dear God, thank you for having good plans for us, plans for our happiness and future. Help us to trust You, talk to You, listen, and follow Your way. And help us to be patient and help others while we wait for Your plans to happen. Amen."

Alright, kids, let's keep our hearts open for God's Jeremiah 29:11 plans and fill our boxes with faith, love, and kindness. Remember, God's plans are the best plans!

Bible Memory Verse

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' - Jeremiah 29:11

You Will Need:

- Colored construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Glue sticks
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

-Cut the construction paper into large puzzle piece shapes, one for each child plus a few extra.

-Write one word of Jeremiah 29:11 on each puzzle piece with a marker.

Do This:

1. Mix all the puzzle pieces in a central pile. Invite the children to find one piece each and then work together to assemble the verse in the correct order. This will help them visualize how each word is a part of God's plan, just like each of them is a part of God's big picture.

2. Once the puzzle is complete, discuss what the verse means. Explain that God has a special plan for each of us, and it's a good plan full of hope and a bright future.

3. Allow the children to decorate their puzzle piece with markers, crayons, and stickers. Encourage them to write their name on the back and share how they think God's plan for them might look. They can take their piece home as a reminder that they are an important part of God's plan.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Colored construction paper
- Safety scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Glue sticks
- String or yarn
- Hole puncher

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into shapes of different symbols that represent plans or dreams (like stars, hearts, houses, etc.).
- Write "Jeremiah 29:11" on a large poster board and decorate it with the theme "God has a plan for us."

Do this:

1. **Introduction:** Start by reading Jeremiah 29:11 aloud to the children. Explain that God has a special plan for each of us, plans to give us hope and a future. Show them the poster board and discuss what the verse means in simple terms.
2. **Craft Activity:** Give each child several pre-cut paper shapes and ask them to think about their dreams or what they want to be when they grow up. On each shape, they will draw or write something related to their dreams or prayers to God about their future. Encourage creativity!
3. **Sharing Time:** Once they have finished their craft, create a "Plan of God" garland. Punch holes in the top of each shape and string them together with yarn or string. As you string them, invite each child to share one thing they've drawn or written. Hang the garland in the classroom as a reminder that God has a unique and loving plan for each of them.
4. **Closing Prayer:** Wrap up with a short prayer, thanking God for knowing each of us personally and having a perfect plan for our lives. Ask for guidance and faith to follow His path.

Snack Activity: Pathway to Promise Cookies

You'll Need:

- Sugar cookies (pre-baked round cookies)
- Icing (blue, green, and white)
- Sprinkles (star-shaped and others to represent blessings)
- Plastic knives or small spatulas
- Paper plates

Get Ready: Set up a clean table with all the materials laid out. Each child should have a paper plate to work on, a pre-baked cookie, and access to the icing and sprinkles.

Do this:

1. Explain Jeremiah 29:11 to the children: 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' Tell them that just like the verse says, God has a beautiful plan for each of us, and today, we're going to create our 'Pathway to Promise' cookies to remind us of God's plan.
2. Have the children use the blue and green icing to create the earth on their cookies, symbolizing the world we live in. They can then use the white icing to draw pathways or roads on their 'earth,' showing that God has a path for each of us.
3. Finally, let the children decorate their pathways with the star-shaped sprinkles and other sprinkles, representing the blessings and promises God has for us along the way. As they decorate, encourage them to think about the good plans God has for them, filled with hope and a bright future.

Game Activity: Pathway to Promise

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- A large, open concrete area

- Small stones or beanbags

Get Ready: Draw a large hopscotch grid on the concrete. Instead of numbers, write attributes of God's plan for us in each box (e.g., 'Love', 'Hope', 'Plan', 'Future', 'Prosper'). Leave a space at the start labeled 'You' and at the end labeled 'Jeremiah 29:11'.

Do this:

1. Have the children line up at the 'You' space. Explain that each box represents part of God's plan for us, just like Jeremiah 29:11 says, 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'
2. The first child tosses a stone or beanbag onto the first attribute (e.g., 'Love'). They hop through the grid, skipping the box with their stone or beanbag, to reach 'Jeremiah 29:11', then hop back, pick up the stone/beanbag, and say a simple prayer related to the attribute (e.g., 'Thank You, God, for Your love').
3. The game continues with each child taking turns, aiming for the next attribute in the sequence. If a player misses their target, they say a prayer of gratitude for anything they're thankful for, then pass their turn. The game ends when all attributes have been covered, reminding them that every step in life is part of God's loving plan for us.

Craft Activity: God's Plan for Me Pathway

You'll Need:

- A large sheet of construction paper (preferably blue or green)
- Colorful markers or crayons
- Stickers or magazine cutouts related to dreams or professions (like animals for a veterinarian, books for a teacher, etc.)
- Glue stick

- A printout of Jeremiah 29:11

Get Ready: Cut out the printout of Jeremiah 29:11 into a small rectangle that can be glued onto the construction paper.

Do this:

1. Have the children read Jeremiah 29:11 together: 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' Discuss briefly that God has a special plan for each of us, and it's filled with hope and love.
2. Ask the children to think about what they dream to be when they grow up or something they really hope to do. They can then use the markers or crayons to draw a path on their construction paper, starting from one end and leading to the other. This path represents their life's journey.
3. Along the path, they can glue the stickers or magazine cutouts that represent their dreams or future professions. At the start of the path, they glue the Jeremiah 29:11 printout, reminding them that God has a plan for their journey. Encourage them to share their 'path' and dreams with the class if they feel comfortable.

Prayer Activity: God's Plan Puzzle Prayer

You'll Need:

- Puzzle pieces (blank or old ones you can write on)
- Markers
- A large poster board

Get Ready: Write Jeremiah 29:11 on the poster board and draw a simple puzzle outline around it. Make sure the puzzle pieces fit within this outline.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Jeremiah 29:11 together: 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' Discuss what this means—that God has good plans for each of us.
2. Give each child a puzzle piece and a marker. Ask them to think about the dreams or plans they believe God might have for them. It could be anything from being kind to others, doing well in school, or helping their family.
3. Have each child draw or write that dream or plan on their puzzle piece. Once everyone is done, work together to fit all the pieces on the poster board, completing the 'God's Plan' puzzle. As you do, pray together, thanking God for having a unique plan for everyone and asking for guidance to follow His path.