

Does God Have A Purpose For Me

UPPER 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 for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. - 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 for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. -

Jeremiah 29:11

You Will Need:

- Colored paper
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into strips wide enough for the children to write the memory verse on.
- Set up a table with markers, crayons, scissors, and stickers for decoration.

Do This:

1. Have each child select their favorite color of paper strip. Explain that this strip will be their personal reminder of God's plan for their future.
2. Encourage the children to write Jeremiah 29:11 on their paper strip using markers or crayons. They can decorate their verse strip with stickers or draw designs around it to make it visually appealing.
3. Once everyone has finished decorating, help the children to make a loop with their paper strip and tape the ends together, creating a link. Explain that each link represents a promise from God, and together, they create a chain of hope and future. Display the chain in the classroom as a visual reminder of God's plans for each of them.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large poster board
- Markers or colored pencils
- Sticky notes
- Bible or printed copies of Jeremiah 29:11

Get Ready:

- Write Jeremiah 29:11 prominently on the poster board.
- Set up a table with the markers or colored pencils and sticky notes.
- Have the Bible verse printed out or available in Bibles for each child to read.

Do this:

1. **Introduction to Jeremiah 29:11**: Start by reading Jeremiah 29:11 together as a class. Discuss what it means to know that God has plans for us, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give us a future and a hope.
2. **Personal Reflection**: Give each child a sticky note and ask them to reflect on what dreams or hopes they believe God has placed in their heart. They should write or draw these on the sticky note.
3. **Creating a Vision Board**: Have each child come up and stick their note on the poster board around the verse. As they place their note, encourage them to say a short prayer or declaration, like "I trust in God's plan for me."
4. **Group Discussion**: Once everyone has placed their sticky notes, have a group discussion about the different dreams and hopes shared. Emphasize how God has a unique plan for each person, but all are united in His love and purpose.
5. **Prayer Circle**: Conclude with a prayer circle, asking God to guide each child towards His plans for their lives, reminding them of His promise in Jeremiah 29:11.

Snack Activity: Plans for Prosperity Fruit Pizza

You'll Need:

- 1 package of sugar cookie dough
- 1 package of cream cheese (8 oz), softened
- 1/4 cup of sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- Assorted sliced fruits (strawberries, kiwis, blueberries, grapes)
- Parchment paper
- Rolling pin
- Cookie sheet
- Mixing bowl

- Spatula

Get Ready: Preheat your oven to the temperature specified on the sugar cookie dough package. Then, line your cookie sheet with parchment paper.

Do this:

1. Roll out the sugar cookie dough on the parchment-lined cookie sheet to form a large rectangle or circle, about 1/4 inch thick. This represents the foundation that God has plans for us, a base for our prosperity.
2. Bake according to the package instructions, then allow to cool completely. This cookie base symbolizes the patience we need while waiting on God's plans to unfold.
3. While the cookie is cooling, mix the softened cream cheese with sugar and vanilla extract in a mixing bowl until smooth. Spread this mixture over the cooled cookie crust evenly. This cream cheese layer represents the sweetness and richness of God's plans for us.
4. Arrange the sliced fruits on top of the cream cheese layer in a decorative pattern. Each type of fruit can represent the different blessings and opportunities God has in store for us, as mentioned in Jeremiah 29:11. Enjoy this edible reminder that God has a plan for us, plans to prosper us and not to harm us, plans to give us hope and a future.

Game Activity: Pathway to Purpose

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- A large, open concrete or asphalt area
- Small stones or bean bags

Get Ready: Using the sidewalk chalk, draw a large hopscotch grid on the concrete area. Instead of numbers in each square, write words from Jeremiah 29:11 ('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.') Each square should have one word from the verse, and the grid should end with the full verse written out.

Do this:

1. Have the children line up at the start of the hopscotch grid. Each child takes a turn tossing a small stone or bean bag to land on one of the squares.
2. The child then hops through the grid, skipping the square with their stone or bean bag, while saying the words in the squares they hop on. If a child misses a word or steps on a line, they start over.
3. When they reach the end of the grid where the full verse is written, they must recite Jeremiah 29:11 from memory before hopping back to the start.
4. The game continues until all children have had a chance to complete the course. The aim is for each child to memorize Jeremiah 29:11 while physically engaging with the words, reinforcing the message that God has a hopeful and prosperous plan for their lives.

Craft Activity: God's Plan for Me: A Future & Hope Collage

You'll Need:

- A large piece of poster board or construction paper
- Old magazines, newspapers, or printed images
- Scissors
- Glue sticks

- Markers or crayons
- A printed copy of Jeremiah 29:11

Get Ready: Gather all materials on a large table, ensuring there are enough scissors and glue sticks for each child. Print out Jeremiah 29:11 in a large, readable font and display it where all the children can see it.

Do this:

1. Start by discussing Jeremiah 29:11. Ask the children what they think it means when God says He has plans for us, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give us a future and a hope. Encourage them to share their dreams and how they think God is part of their future.
2. Have each child select a piece of poster board or construction paper. They will then look through magazines, newspapers, and printed images to find pictures that represent what they hope for in their future or how they see God's plan in their life. They can also draw or write words that are meaningful to them.
3. Once they have a collection of images and words, they will arrange them on their poster board to create a collage. After arranging, they will glue everything in place. Encourage them to place the printed Jeremiah 29:11 verse prominently on their collage.
4. After everyone has completed their collage, allow time for the children to share their collages with the group, explaining the images they chose and how it represents their hopes and God's plan for their future.

Prayer Activity: God's Plan for Us: A Prayer Map Journey

You'll Need:

- A large poster board or roll of paper
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Sticky notes or index cards

Get Ready: Before the activity, write Jeremiah 29:11 at the top of the poster board or paper in large, decorative letters. Spread out the drawing materials so each child can reach them easily.

Do this:

1. Read Jeremiah 29:11 together as a class. Discuss what it means to know that God has plans for us, plans for our welfare and not for harm, to give us a future with hope.
2. Ask each child to think about their dreams for the future or things they hope to accomplish. Have them write or draw these dreams on sticky notes or index cards.
3. Create a 'Prayer Map' on the poster board or paper. Have the children place their dreams on the map. Then, as a class, draw paths connecting these dreams to the verse at the top, symbolizing how God's plan is connected to their dreams.
4. Lead the children in a prayer, asking God to guide them towards His plan for their lives, mentioning the dreams and hopes they've placed on the Prayer Map.