

God Of Our Fathers

UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Father's Day

Scripture: Luke 11:11-13

Memory Verse: If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! - Luke 11:13

The Children's Sermon

Hey kids, guess what special day it is? That's right, it's Father's Day! Today is a super cool day because it's all about saying "Thank you" and "I love you" to dads, grandpas, and all the father figures in our lives. They do so much for us, like helping us tie our shoes, teaching us how to ride a bike, and giving the best bear hugs. So, today, we're going to talk about why Father's Day is so important and share some awesome Father's Day Scripture to help us understand better.

Father's Day is not just about giving cards and presents (though those are pretty fun, too). It's also about spending time together, sharing stories, and showing love. Just like how we have a heavenly Father who loves us a lot, our dads and father figures on Earth show us a little bit of that love every day in how they care for us.

Now, let's dive into some Father's Day Scripture that talks about the love and guidance fathers give. In the Bible, there's a verse that says, "Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord." (Colossians 3:20) This means that listening to our

dads and doing what they say is not just good for us, but it also makes God happy because He knows they want the best for us.

Another cool Father's Day Scripture is, "The father of a righteous child has great joy; a man who fathers a wise son rejoices in him." (Proverbs 23:24) This tells us that when we make good choices and are kind and wise, it makes our dads super happy. It's like when you finish a big puzzle or learn something new, and you see your dad smiling and proud. That's the joy this verse is talking about.

Fathers are like superheroes. They don't wear capes (well, most of the time), but they do lots of things to protect us, teach us, and make sure we're happy. They're the ones who check for monsters under the bed, fix the broken toy, and teach us how to be brave. And just like superheroes, sometimes they get tired too, because being a dad is a big job!

So, on Father's Day, we get to be their sidekicks. We can help them feel special by making them breakfast in bed, drawing them a picture, or just giving them a big hug and saying, "Thank you for everything you do!" It's our turn to make sure they know how much they are loved and appreciated.

Now, let's remember another Father's Day Scripture, "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you." (Exodus 20:12) This is one of the Ten Commandments, and it's really important. It tells us that listening to and respecting our parents is something God wants us to do because it's good for us. It helps us grow up to be kind, respectful, and loving people.

Did you know that Father's Day is celebrated all around the world? It's true! People in different countries have their own ways of showing love to their dads, but the feeling is the same everywhere. It's all about making sure dads know how important they are and how much we need them.

Fathers teach us so many things, like how to be honest, how to share, and how to be strong. They also show us how to treat others with respect and kindness. And even when we make mistakes, they're there to help us learn and grow from them. That's why it's so important to listen to their advice and learn from their experiences.

Let's think about another Father's Day Scripture, "As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him." (Psalm 103:13) This verse reminds us that just like our dads are kind and forgiving to us, God is even more so. He loves us so much and is always ready to listen and help us when we need it.

So, kids, let's make this Father's Day extra special. Let's show our dads, grandpas, and all the father figures in our lives just how much we love and appreciate them. We can do this by being kind, helping out around the house, and maybe even learning a new Father's Day Scripture to share with them.

Remember, it's not just about the gifts or the cards. It's about the love we share and the time we spend together. So, let's make sure our dads know they're our heroes not just on Father's Day, but every day. And let's thank God for giving us such amazing dads and father figures who teach us, guide us, and love us always.

Happy Father's Day, everyone! Let's make it the best one yet, filled with love, laughter, and lots of fun memories. And don't forget to say a little prayer of thanks for all the dads out there and for our heavenly Father who loves us more than we can imagine.

Bible Memory Verse

If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! - Luke 11:13

You Will Need:

- Plain white paper
- Colored pencils or markers
- Envelopes

Get Ready:

- Gather all materials on a table.
- Write the memory verse on a board or large piece of paper for all the children to see.

Do This:

1. Ask each child to draw a picture of a gift they would love to receive and next to it, a gift they think God wants to give them (hint: focus on non-material gifts like love, peace, joy).
2. On the back of their drawing, have them write the memory verse from Luke 11:13.
3. Encourage the children to fold their drawing and place it in an envelope. Then, they can either give it to someone as a reminder of God's good gifts or take it home to remember to ask God for the Holy Spirit and His gifts.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Small stones or pebbles
- Loaves of bread (or small rolls) - safe for all dietary restrictions
- Plastic fish
- Eggs (real or plastic)
- Scorpions (plastic toy versions)
- Snakes (plastic toy versions)
- A large basket
- Paper and pens
- "Good Father" certificates (pre-made with space for children to write)

Get Ready:

- Arrange the stones, bread, fish, eggs, plastic scorpions, and snakes on a table.
- Place the large basket at the end of the table.
- Prepare "Good Father" certificates with the verse Luke 11:11-13 printed on them.

Do this:

1. ****Understanding the Scripture****: Start by reading Luke 11:11-13 aloud with the children. Discuss briefly what the passage means about how God gives good gifts to His children.

2. ****Interactive Illustration****: Invite the children to come to the table. Ask them to choose between a stone and a loaf of bread, a snake or a fish, and a scorpion or an egg, explaining that these represent the choices God makes when giving us gifts. They should place their chosen items (bread, fish, eggs) in the basket to symbolize accepting God's good gifts.

3. **Reflect and Respond**: After everyone has made their selections, lead a discussion on why God, as our heavenly Father, chooses to give us good gifts (like the bread, fish, and eggs) instead of harmful ones (like the stones, snakes, and scorpions). Encourage them to think of times they asked for something and received something better than expected.

4. **Crafting Gratitude**: Have each child write or draw on a piece of paper a time they felt God gave them a "good gift" in their lives. They can either share with the group or place it in the basket as a thank offering.

5. **"Good Father" Certificates**: Conclude by giving each child a "Good Father" certificate. Have them write or draw on it what makes God a good Father to them, inspired by the lesson from Luke 11:11-13. Encourage them to hang it somewhere at home as a reminder of God's goodness.

Snack Activity: Heavenly Bread and Fish

You'll Need:

- Sliced bread
- Fish-shaped crackers
- Honey or jam
- Knife for spreading
- Cookie cutter (fish shape or any preferred shape)
- Plates

Get Ready: Gather all your materials on a clean table and make sure your hands are washed.

Do this:

1. Use the cookie cutter to cut out shapes from your slices of bread. These represent the gifts that God gives us, reminding us of Luke 11:11-13, where it's said that if we ask for a fish, our Father in heaven will not give us a snake.
2. Spread a thin layer of honey or jam on each bread shape. This represents the sweetness of God's gifts to us.
3. Place a fish-shaped cracker on top of each bread shape. This symbolizes the specific gift mentioned in the scripture, reinforcing the idea that God knows and provides exactly what we need.
4. As you eat your snack, reflect on the goodness of God and how He gives good gifts to those who ask.

Game Activity: Gifts from the Father Hopscotch

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- A small stone or beanbag
- A printed or written list of good gifts (e.g., love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) based on Luke 11:11-13 and Galatians 5:22-23

Get Ready: Draw a hopscotch grid on the sidewalk or any paved surface. Each square should be large enough for a child to stand in comfortably. Number the squares from 1 to 9. Write one of the 'good gifts' from the list in each square, ensuring they are big enough to be read easily.

Do this:

1. Have the children line up behind the start line. Explain that as they hop through the hopscotch, they are seeking the good gifts from their Heavenly Father, just like in Luke 11:11-13. Each square represents a gift that God wants to give them.
2. The first player tosses the stone or beanbag onto square one. They must skip that square and hop through the rest, picking up the stone on their way back. Before they can move to the next square, they must say a prayer thanking God for that specific gift (e.g., 'Thank you, God, for the gift of love').
3. Players take turns, each time tossing the stone to the next numbered square. If a player misses the correct square or steps on a line, they lose their turn but get to try again on their next turn. The game continues until all players have successfully completed the course, thanking God for each gift.

This game not only provides physical activity but also reinforces the concept of God's good gifts to us, encouraging gratitude and reflection on Scripture.

Craft Activity: Heavenly Father's Gifts

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Markers or crayons
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Template of a fish and an egg
- Envelopes

Get Ready: Print or draw templates of a fish and an egg on construction paper. Each child will need one fish and one egg template. Prepare envelopes with each child's name on them.

Do this:

1. Read Luke 11:11-13 together, discussing how God gives good gifts to His children, just like earthly fathers give good gifts to their children. Emphasize the comparison of the fish and the egg as good gifts in the scripture.
2. Have each child choose a fish and an egg template. They will then cut out the templates and use markers or crayons to decorate them, writing a prayer or a thank you note to God on one side for being a loving Father who knows how to give good gifts.
3. Once the fish and egg are decorated, each child will place their fish and egg into their personalized envelope. Encourage them to take it home and share it with their family, explaining the lesson of how our Heavenly Father gives us good gifts, just as their earthly parents do.

Prayer Activity: Heavenly Father's Gifts

You'll Need:

- A Bible or printed copy of Luke 11:11-13
- Blank cards or paper
- Art supplies (markers, crayons, stickers)

Get Ready: Read Luke 11:11-13 together as a class to understand how God gives good gifts to His children, just like earthly fathers do.

Do this:

1. Discuss what kinds of good gifts the children have received from their earthly fathers or father figures and how these gifts show love and care.
2. Reflect on the gifts they have received from God, our Heavenly Father, emphasizing the ultimate gift of the Holy Spirit, as mentioned in Luke 11:13.

3. Each child will then create a 'Thank You' card. On one side, they will write a thank you note to their earthly father or a father figure for a specific gift or act of love they've received. On the other side, they will write a prayer to God, thanking Him for the good gifts He gives, especially the gift of the Holy Spirit. Encourage creativity in decorating their cards.

4. If time and context allow, have a sharing moment where children can talk about their cards and what they wrote, fostering a sense of community and shared appreciation for both earthly and heavenly fathers.