

The Book Of Life

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: The Book of Life – your names are written in Heaven!

Scripture: Luke 10:20

Memory Verse: However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven. – Luke 10:20

The Children's Sermon

(Pretend to be taking roll of everyone who's in your class)

ASK: Can you guess what I'm doing? (Let kids guess that you are taking the roll.)

SAY: Great you have worked out that I am taking the roll – or checking list of names of those children who have come to school. Your Sunday School teachers do this also.

How does your name get in the roll book? Answers: you have to be at the school or in that class etc.

Did you know the Bible refers to a book like a roll book – it is called the Book of Life. Pastor read about it in the gospel reading (Luke 10:20).

Being a Christian means there are so many things, so many blessings to be happy about. What things has God given you? Answers: toys, home, mom & dad etc.

God gives us so many wonderful things. He takes care of us, keeps us safe, and gives us blessings. And while all those things are very special and make us happy, Jesus tells us about something even more amazing to be happy about. In the Bible, in the book of Luke 10:20, it says, "rejoice because your names are written in heaven." This means that the best reason to be happy is knowing we have a special place with God in heaven.

Sometimes, we get really excited about the things we can see and touch, like our toys, our friends, and the fun places we go. But there's something we can't see right now that's even better - heaven. Heaven is a wonderful place that God has prepared for us, and knowing our names are there should make us super happy.

When we start to think too much about the things we have, like our favorite games or the newest sneakers, we should remember what Jesus said about the real reason to be happy: "rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

Can you imagine what it would be like? God has a big book, and in that book, He has all the names of the people who will be with Him in heaven. And guess what? If you love and follow Jesus, your name is in that book! Imagine God turning the pages, and there, among all the other names, is yours! That's a really special moment to think about.

Now, let's talk more about why we should rejoice in Heaven. Heaven is not like any place we know. It's a place where there is no sadness, no pain, and no bad things. It's a place full of love, joy, and peace. Knowing we have a spot there should fill our hearts with joy.

Sometimes, we might feel sad or worried about things happening around us. Maybe we had a bad day at school, or we're feeling lonely. It's okay to feel that way sometimes, but remember, we have a big reason to be happy - our future in heaven! This thought can help us feel better when we're having a tough time.

Rejoicing in Heaven also means sharing our happiness with others. When we're happy about something, we like to tell our friends and family, right? Well, we can share our happiness about heaven too. We can tell our friends how much Jesus loves them and that He wants their names in His book too.

Another way to Rejoice in Heaven is by being kind and loving to everyone around us. Jesus taught us to love others as we love ourselves. When we do kind things for others, we're showing them a little bit of heaven's love. And that can make them happy too!

We can also Rejoice in Heaven by learning more about Jesus and following His teachings. Reading the Bible, praying, and going to church are great ways to get closer to Jesus. The more we learn about Him, the more we'll understand how amazing it is to have our names written in heaven.

Remember, being happy about heaven doesn't mean we can't enjoy the things we have here on earth. God wants us to enjoy our lives and the beautiful world He created. But the most important happiness comes from knowing we'll be with God in heaven forever.

Let's pray: "Dear God, help us to always remember to Rejoice in Heaven. Help us to share our happiness with others and to show them your love. Thank you for promising us a beautiful place with You. We love You, God. Amen."

Bible Memory Verse

However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven. - Luke 10:20

You Will Need:

- White paper
- Colorful markers or crayons
- Stickers of stars or angels

Get Ready:

- Cut the white paper into cloud shapes beforehand.
- Set up a table with markers, crayons, and stickers spread out for easy access.

Do This:

1. Give each child a cloud-shaped paper and ask them to write their name in the middle with a marker or crayon.
2. Explain the memory verse to the children, emphasizing the joy of having our names written in heaven. Share that just like they are writing their names on the paper, God has a special book where He writes the names of those who love Him.
3. Invite the children to decorate their cloud with the stickers and markers to make it look heavenly. Encourage them to hang their cloud in their room to remind them that their names are written in heaven.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large notebook or blank "book" to serve as the "Book of Life"

- Colorful markers or pens
- Stickers of stars, angels, or other heavenly symbols
- A simple, child-friendly version of Luke 10:20 printed out
- Name tags for each child

Get Ready:

- Write "The Book of Life" on the cover of the large notebook in bold letters.
- Prepare the Luke 10:20 printouts, making sure there's enough for each child to have one.
- Set up a table with the "Book of Life," markers, pens, and stickers.

Do this:

1. **Introduction to the Theme**: Start by telling the children that today they're going to learn about a very special book mentioned in the Bible, the Book of Life, where God writes the names of everyone who believes in Him and follows Jesus. Explain that this means they are very important to God, so important that He writes their names in a special book in Heaven. Show them the verse Luke 10:20 to help them understand the joy of having their names written in Heaven.

2. **Creative Activity**: Give each child a name tag and ask them to write their name on it as beautifully as they can. Once they've done this, invite them one by one to come up to the "Book of Life." Have them stick their name tag on a page and then decorate around their name with the markers and stickers. As they do this, remind them that just like they are putting their names in this book, God has a special book where He has written their names because they are His children and He loves them.

3. ****Reflection and Sharing****: Once everyone has added their name to the "Book of Life," gather the children in a circle. Pass around the Luke 10:20 printout and let each child say one thing they love about knowing their name is written in Heaven. Conclude by reminding them that no matter where they go or what they do, they are very precious to God, and their names being written in Heaven is a promise of His love and care for them.

Snack Activity: Heavenly Book Pages

You'll Need:

- Graham crackers
- White frosting
- Edible markers
- Small candies or sprinkles

Get Ready: Gather all your materials on a clean table. Make sure each child has a small plate and a butter knife or a small spatula for spreading the frosting.

Do this:

1. Explain Luke 10:20 to the children, focusing on how wonderful it is that our names are written in heaven. Mention that today, we're going to make edible 'pages' from the Book of Life, where our names are recorded.
2. Give each child a graham cracker. This will represent a page from the Book of Life. Have them spread white frosting over the cracker smoothly to create a blank 'page.'
3. Use the edible markers to write their names on the frosting 'page.' Let them decorate around their names with small candies or sprinkles to make it festive, symbolizing the joy of having our names written in heaven.

4. Once everyone's done, share a moment to appreciate each other's creations, reminding them that just like their unique and beautifully decorated crackers, their names are uniquely and wonderfully written in Heaven's Book of Life.

Game Activity: Heavenly Hopscotch

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- A small stone or beanbag
- A large, open sidewalk or driveway

Get Ready: Draw a hopscotch grid on the sidewalk or driveway, but instead of numbers, write attributes that are valued in heaven like 'Kindness', 'Joy', 'Peace', 'Patience', 'Love', 'Goodness', 'Faithfulness', 'Gentleness', and 'Self-control'. At the start, write 'Earth' and at the end, write 'Heaven'.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that just like the game, our journey from 'Earth' to 'Heaven' is filled with steps we need to take, showing love, joy, peace, and other fruits of the Spirit.
2. Each child takes a turn tossing their stone or beanbag onto the grid, aiming for 'Earth'. They then hop through the grid, skipping the square with their stone, and picking it up on their way back. As they hop, encourage them to say the attribute they land on out loud, reflecting on its importance.
3. When a player reaches 'Heaven', the group cheers. Share Luke 10:20, explaining that our names are written in heaven not because of the games we win or the good things we do, but because of Jesus' love for us. Encourage them to think about how they can show these heavenly attributes in their daily lives.

Craft Activity: Heavenly Bookmarks: Your Name in the Book of Life

You'll Need:

- White cardstock or heavy paper
- Markers or crayons
- Glitter glue or stickers
- Hole punch
- Ribbon or yarn

Get Ready: Cut the cardstock into rectangles to make bookmark shapes, about 2 inches wide and 6 inches long.

Do this:

1. Read Luke 10:20 together and talk about what it means to have our names written in Heaven. Explain that the Book of Life is like God's special book where all the names of His children are written.
2. Let each child write their name on the top of their bookmark with markers or crayons. Encourage them to decorate around their name with glitter glue or stickers to make it look 'heavenly.'
3. Punch a hole at the top of the bookmark and thread a piece of ribbon or yarn through it. Tie a knot to secure the ribbon. Explain that the bookmark can remind them that their names are written in Heaven, just like in the Book of Life.

Prayer Activity: Heavenly Names

You'll Need:

- A large notebook or a blank journal
- Colorful pens or markers
- Stickers of stars, clouds, or angels

Get Ready: Create a cover for the notebook or journal that says 'The Book of Life' and decorate it with the stickers to make it look heavenly.

Do this:

1. Read Luke 10:20 together and explain that when we believe in Jesus, our names are written in Heaven, just like a special book. Tell them this notebook represents 'The Book of Life.'
2. Ask each child to think of a prayer, thanking God for loving them so much that He has a special place for their names in Heaven. They can thank God for their family, friends, and blessings.
3. Let each child write their name and their prayer in the notebook with the colorful pens or markers. They can also decorate around their name and prayer with the stickers. Remind them that this is a way of remembering how special they are to God and that their names are written in Heaven.