

Worshiping Idols

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Why worshiping idols is wrong

Scripture: Leviticus 19:4

Memory Verse: Do not turn to idols or make metal gods for yourselves. I am the Lord your God. - Leviticus 19:4

The Children's Sermon

Hey kids! Today, we're going to talk about something really important. Have you ever seen a fake 20, 50, or 100 dollar bill? It looks a lot like real money, but it's not.

Sometimes, we can treat things in our life as more important than they really are, just like someone might mistakenly treat a fake bill as real money. This can happen with our toys, video games, or even our favorite sports. When we do this, it's like we're putting those things in God's special spot in our hearts. That's not good.

You know, anything can become too important to us if we're not careful. It could be your bike, your doll, or even your collection of comic books. When you wake up, the first thing you think about might be playing with your toys instead of saying "Good morning" to God. That's a problem because God wants to be the most important in our lives.

God tells us in the Bible, "Do not turn to idols or make gods of cast metal for yourselves. I am the LORD your God." (Leviticus 19:4) This means we shouldn't let anything become more important than God. Not our toys, not our games, and not even our money.

God loves us so much and wants us to love Him back more than anything else in the world. He wants to be our best friend. But if we're too busy with our toys or games, we might forget to talk to Him. It's like if you had a best friend but you never talked to them because you were too busy playing. That would make your friend sad, right? Well, it makes God sad too when we don't spend time with Him.

Let's think about Jesus. When He was on earth, He could have had lots of money, a big house, and many things. But He didn't. He knew those things weren't important. What was important to Him was loving God and loving people. He showed us that we don't need stuff to be happy. What we really need is God.

So, what can we do to make sure we're not falling into idol worship? First, we can talk to God every day. Just like you'd talk to your mom, dad, or best friend. Tell Him about your day, your worries, and even the fun things you did. God loves hearing from you.

Next, we can read the Bible. The Bible is like a letter from God. It tells us how much He loves us and how we can live in a way that makes Him happy. There are lots of cool stories in the Bible about kids and grown-ups who chose to love God more than anything else.

We can also help others. When we help our friends, our family, or even people we don't know, we're showing God's love. And when we're busy loving others, we don't have time to make things like toys or money too important.

Remember, it's okay to have fun and enjoy our toys and games. God wants us to be happy. But He also wants us to remember that He is the most important. Nothing should take His place in our hearts.

Let's pray together: Dear God, help us to always remember that You are the most important thing in our lives. Help us not to make idols out of our stuff or the things we do. We want to love You more than anything else. Thank you for loving us. Amen.

Bible Memory Verse

Do not turn to idols or make metal gods for yourselves. I am the Lord your God. - Leviticus 19:4

You Will Need:

- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Glue
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut out heart shapes from the construction paper ahead of time, one for each child.
- Set up a table with markers, crayons, scissors, glue, and stickers for decoration.

Do This:

1. Give each child a heart shape and explain that the heart represents our love and devotion, which should only be for God, not idols.
2. Ask the children to decorate their hearts with markers, crayons, and stickers as they think about loving God and not turning to idols.

3. Once everyone is done, have a short discussion about why it's important to worship only God and not idols, using the memory verse. Encourage the children to hang their decorated hearts in their room as a reminder to worship God alone.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Play-Doh or clay
- Paper and markers
- Small boxes or containers
- Bible

Get Ready:

- Divide the Play-Doh or clay into small portions, one for each child.
- Write Leviticus 19:4 on a large piece of paper and display it where all the children can see.
- Prepare small boxes or containers, one for each child, by writing their names on them.

Do this:

1. ****Introduction to the Theme:**** Begin by reading Leviticus 19:4 aloud to the children. Explain that worshiping idols is like giving our love and attention to something that cannot love us back, instead of giving it to God who loves us more than anything.
2. ****Creative Expression:**** Give each child a portion of Play-Doh or clay and ask them to create something that is important to them (it could be a toy, a pet, etc.). As they work, discuss how the things we make are special because we made them, but they don't have power to care for us or help us.

3. **Understanding Idols:** After everyone has finished their creation, explain that sometimes people make things and then treat them like they're more important than anything else, even God. This is what the Bible calls an "idol." Ask the children to place their creations into the small boxes or containers. Explain that putting their creations away doesn't mean they don't like them anymore, but it's a way to remember that God is more important than anything we can make or have.

4. **Reflection and Prayer:** Have the children draw a picture of something they enjoy doing with their family or friends that makes them feel loved. Encourage them to think about how God's love is even greater than these moments. Close with a prayer, thanking God for loving us and asking for help to love Him more than anything else in the world.

Snack Activity: Heart-Shaped Fruit Pizzas

You'll Need:

- Whole wheat English muffins
- Cream cheese (softened)
- Assorted fresh fruits (strawberries, blueberries, kiwi, etc.)
- Small heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Butter knife or spreader

Get Ready: Gather all your materials and wash the fruits. Cut the larger fruits like strawberries and kiwi into slices that are easy to cut shapes from.

Do this:

1. Split the English muffins into halves and spread a thin layer of cream cheese on each half. This cream cheese represents the foundation of our faith, which should be in God, not in idols.
2. Use the small heart-shaped cookie cutter to cut out pieces of fruit. Place these fruit shapes on the cream cheese to create a colorful pattern. Each piece of fruit represents the different ways we can show love to God, rather than giving our attention to idols.
3. Share why worshiping idols is wrong, referring to Leviticus 19:4, 'Do not turn to idols or make metal gods for yourselves. I am the Lord your God.' Explain that just like the heart shapes point to love, our love and worship should be directed to God alone, who loves us and wants the best for us.

Game Activity: Treasure Hunt for the True Treasure

You'll Need:

- Cardboard cutouts or drawings of various 'idols' (like money, toys, video games) and one big heart symbolizing God's love
- Blindfolds
- Safe, open space to play

Get Ready: Hide the 'idols' and the heart symbol around your play area before the children arrive. Make sure the heart is hidden last and is more challenging to find.

Do this:

1. Divide the children into teams and give each team a blindfold. Explain that in Leviticus 19:4, God tells us not to turn to idols or make metal gods for ourselves. Today, idols can be anything we put before God in our lives.

2. Tell the children they are going on a treasure hunt to find the true treasure, which is God's love. The other items they find are things that sometimes people wrongly put their trust in instead of God.

3. Teams take turns using the blindfold to find the items. When an 'idol' is found, discuss why it can't be the true treasure. The game ends when the heart symbol is found. Conclude with a discussion on why God's love is the greatest treasure and why worshiping idols is wrong.

Craft Activity: Heart for God, Not Idols

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Template of a heart and an idol shape (can be a simple figure or object)

Get Ready: Pre-cut the heart and idol shapes from the construction paper using the templates. Make sure you have enough for each child to have one of each.

Do this:

1. Give each child a heart shape and an idol shape. Explain that the heart represents our love and devotion, which should only be for God, as He is the only one worthy of our worship. Leviticus 19:4 tells us, 'Do not turn to idols or make metal gods for yourselves. I am the Lord your God.' This means we should not put anything above God in our lives.
2. Ask the children to think of things that sometimes people treat as more important than God (like toys, video games, or even other people). Have them draw or write these on the idol shape.

3. Next, have the children decorate the heart with words or pictures that represent their love for God and why He is the only one who deserves our worship. They can use markers, crayons, and other colors of construction paper to make it colorful and personal.
4. Finally, have the children glue the idol shape to one side of the heart and then fold the heart in half, covering the idol. This symbolizes putting God first in our hearts and lives, covering over and rejecting idol worship. Explain that when we love God with all our heart, there's no room for idols.

Prayer Activity: Heart Prayers Against Idol Worship

You'll Need:

- Paper hearts (one for each child)
- Markers or crayons
- A 'Prayer Box'

Get Ready: Before the class, write Leviticus 19:4 on a large poster board and place it where all the children can see it. Prepare the 'Prayer Box' by decorating a small box with symbols of worship like crosses, doves, or fish. Cut out paper hearts from colorful paper.

Do this:

1. Begin by reading Leviticus 19:4 aloud to the children: 'Do not turn to idols or make metal gods for yourselves. I am the Lord your God.' Discuss in simple terms what an idol is (anything we put before God) and why it's wrong to worship them.
2. Give each child a paper heart and markers or crayons. Ask them to think about things that are important to them but remind them that God loves it when He is the

most important. Have them draw or write something on the heart that represents putting God first in their lives.

3. Encourage the children to place their hearts in the 'Prayer Box' as a symbol of their commitment to worship only God and not idols. Close with a group prayer, asking God to help each child keep Him first in everything.