

Worshiping Idols

UPPER 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.

Dear Father, we give you first place in our life. Help us to keep anything from becoming more important to us than You. Amen.

Now, let's talk a bit more about this. Imagine you have a big, shiny trophy you won in a race. You love that trophy so much that you clean it every day, and you always talk about it. But if you start loving that trophy more than spending time with God, that trophy becomes an idol. Idol worship is when we love something more than we love God. And that's not what God wants.

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.

Kids, always remember, God loves you so much, and He wants to be your number one. Let's make sure we're giving God the special spot in our hearts that He deserves. No toy, no game, and no trophy should ever take that spot. Let's love God more than anything else.

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:

- Clay or playdough
- Construction paper

-Markers or crayons

Get Ready:

-Gather all materials and set up a work area for each child.

-Pre-cut construction paper into small squares or rectangles for the 'Do Not' signs.

Do This:

1. Discuss the meaning of Leviticus 19:4, emphasizing the importance of worshiping only God and not idols. Explain what idols can be in today's context (e.g., money, fame, gadgets).

2. Have each child use the clay or playdough to create a simple 'idol'—this could be anything they think people might wrongly put their trust in instead of God. While they work, encourage them to think about why God wants our full devotion.

3. Once the idols are made, give each child a piece of pre-cut construction paper and markers or crayons. Ask them to write 'Do Not Worship' on the paper and decorate it. Then, they should place their 'Do Not Worship' sign next to their clay idol as a reminder of the command in Leviticus 19:4.

4. Conclude with a discussion on how we can avoid modern-day idols and focus on worshiping God alone. Encourage the children to share their thoughts and commit to putting God first in their lives.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Play-Doh or clay

- Paper and markers

- Bible or printed copy of Leviticus 19:4

- Small cardboard boxes or blocks

Get Ready:

- Set up a table with the Play-Doh or clay, paper, markers, and small cardboard boxes or blocks.
- Write Leviticus 19:4 on a large piece of paper and display it where all the children can see it.

Do this:

1. **Introduction to Leviticus 19:4**: Start by reading Leviticus 19:4 aloud to the group. Discuss what idols are (anything we put before God or worship instead of God) and why God commands us not to turn to idols.
2. **Create Your "Idols"**: Give each child some Play-Doh or clay and ask them to create a small "idol" - something they think people might wrongly put their trust in instead of God (e.g., money, fame, video games). While they work, encourage them to think about why these things cannot compare to God.
3. **The Idol Test**: Once the idols are created, present the small cardboard boxes or blocks as "altars" for the idols. Ask the children to place their idols on the altars. Then, challenge them to think of ways these idols could help them in difficult times (e.g., being sick, feeling lonely, needing guidance). Discuss how these idols, unlike God, have no power to provide help, comfort, or guidance.
4. **Destruction and Replacement**: Have the children dismantle their idols and use the materials to create something that represents their relationship with God (e.g., a heart, a cross, a Bible). As they work, discuss how God is the only one worthy of our

worship and trust. Encourage them to write Leviticus 19:4 on the paper and place it next to their creation as a reminder of God's command.

5. **Reflection and Sharing**: Invite each child to share their creation and what they learned about the importance of worshiping only God. Close with a prayer, asking God to help each of you to keep Him first in your hearts and lives.

Snack Activity: No-Idol Fruit Sculptures

You'll Need:

- A variety of fruits (apples, grapes, bananas, strawberries, etc.)
- Toothpicks
- Small knives (to be used under adult supervision)
- Plates

Get Ready: Wash all the fruits and set them on a large table. Make sure each child has access to toothpicks and a small knife (with adult supervision).

Do this:

1. Read Leviticus 19:4 together as a class. Discuss what it means to turn away from idols and worship only God. Explain that just like we are creating something good and healthy, God wants our worship towards Him to be pure and good.
2. Allow each child to use the fruits and toothpicks to create their own 'worship sculpture'. They can make animals, flowers, or any creative design they think up. As they work, encourage them to think about how each piece of fruit can represent a part of their life that they want to dedicate to worshiping God instead of idols.

3. Once everyone has finished their sculptures, come together as a group and share what each sculpture represents in their life. Close with a prayer, asking God to help each child turn away from idols and to dedicate their lives to worshiping Him alone.

Game Activity: Idol Smashers

You'll Need:

- Chalk or tape to mark areas on the ground
- Soft balls or bean bags
- Pictures of common 'idols' (like money, celebrities, video games, etc.)

Get Ready: Draw a large square on the ground and divide it into four equal smaller squares. In each square, place a picture of a modern-day 'idol.' Assign each square a number from 1 to 4.

Do this:

1. Explain Leviticus 19:4, emphasizing why worshiping idols is wrong and how it distracts us from God. Discuss modern-day 'idols' that can take our focus away from God.
2. Players take turns standing outside the large square. They toss a ball or bean bag aiming to land on the 'idols' to 'smash' them (knocking the picture out of the square).
3. After every throw, discuss as a group why relying on or giving too much importance to that 'idol' can be harmful to our relationship with God.
4. The game continues until all 'idols' have been 'smashed.' Conclude with a prayer asking God to help us focus on Him and avoid the distractions of modern-day idols.

Craft Activity: No Idols: A Commandment Craft

You'll Need:

- Cardstock or heavy paper
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue
- Magazine cutouts or printed images of modern 'idols' (e.g., money, celebrities, technology)

Get Ready: Gather all materials on a clean workspace. Print or write out Leviticus 19:4 on a large piece of cardstock.

Do this:

1. Discuss Leviticus 19:4, emphasizing why God instructs us not to turn to idols. Explain that idols can be anything we put before God in our lives.
2. Have each child select magazine cutouts or printed images that represent modern idols. Discuss why these can be considered idols and how they can distract us from our relationship with God.
3. On a piece of cardstock, have the children create a collage with the images around the printed verse. Encourage them to draw or write how they can focus more on God and less on these 'idols.'
4. Once the collages are complete, share them with the group, allowing each child to explain their work and commitment to prioritize God over idols in their lives.

Prayer Activity: No Idols, Just God: A Prayer Craft

You'll Need:

- Paper
- Markers or Crayons

- Stickers or Glitter (optional)

Get Ready: Gather all your materials and create a comfortable workspace where all the children can sit and have space to work on their craft.

Do this:

1. Read Leviticus 19:4 together as a class. Discuss what it means to turn away from idols and to worship only God. Explain that an idol can be anything we put before God in our lives.
2. Have each child draw a picture of what they think it looks like to worship only God. They can draw themselves praying, reading the Bible, helping others, or any other activity that shows worship to God.
3. Once the drawings are complete, lead the children in a prayer. Ask them to pray over their drawing, asking God to help them worship Him alone and to keep their hearts away from idols. Encourage them to hang their drawing somewhere they will see it daily as a reminder of their commitment.