

The White Stone

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Being faithful and courageous in our Christian life.

Scripture: Revelation 2:17

Memory Verse: To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it. - Revelation 2:17

The Children's Sermon

Have you ever played with rocks in the driveway? Have you ever found a stone that was pure white? It is pretty hard to find one, isn't it? I have one to show you.

A long, long time ago, when a Roman gladiator was especially brave and had fought a good fight, he was given a white stone with some special letters on it. When this special stone was given to a gladiator, it allowed him to retire so that he would not have to continue to risk his life as he was getting older. It was a great reward.

In the Bible, it says, "To him who overcomes I will give a share of the hidden manna; and I will give him a WHITE STONE, and written on the stone a new name, which no one but him who receives it knows."

Just think! Wouldn't you like to get a white stone from JESUS? A stone with a name written on it that is known only by you and HIM because you are His beloved? I know I would! (I gave each child a white stone to help remember passage.)

Now, let's dive a little deeper into this idea of the White Stone Revelation 2:17. It is like a promise from Jesus. It's His way of saying, "You did it! You followed me, and you stayed strong in your faith." It's like when you play a game and you win a prize at the end. But this prize is way better than any toy or game because it comes from Jesus.

Now, you might wonder, "How do I get this white stone?" Well, it's all about staying close to Jesus, listening to His words, and following His teachings. It's like being on a team. Jesus is the team leader, and He's showing us the way to play the game of life. When we listen to Him and do our best to follow His rules, we're on the right path to getting that special white stone.

But remember, getting this stone isn't always easy. Sometimes, we might feel scared or alone. We might even make mistakes. That's okay because Jesus is always with us, helping us to get back up and try again. He knows we're not perfect, and He loves us anyway. That's the amazing thing about Jesus' love—it's always there, no matter what.

Imagine one day, when you're much older, Jesus gives you your white stone. How do you think you would feel? I bet you'd feel super happy and loved. You'd hold onto that stone tight, knowing it's a sign of Jesus' love for you. And that secret name written on it? It's a reminder that you are very special to Jesus, so special that He has a unique name just for you.

So, every day, let's try to be a little more like Jesus. Let's be kind, brave, and loving. Let's help our friends and family. And let's remember that Jesus is with us, helping us to win that special white stone.

Before we finish, let's say a little prayer together. "Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us so much. Help us to always follow you and make good choices. We want to be close to you and one day receive our special white stone. Thank you for being our friend and guide. Amen."

Bible Memory Verse

To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it. - Revelation 2:17

You Will Need:

- White stones (1 per child)
- Washable markers or paint pens
- Small boxes or pouches to hide the stones

Get Ready:

- Gather enough white stones so each child has one.
- Write or print out the memory verse on a large poster or board for all the children to see.

Do This:

1. Start by explaining the memory verse to the children. Talk about how being faithful and courageous in our Christian life is like being victorious, and how God has special rewards for us, like the hidden manna and a new name written on a white stone.

2. Give each child a white stone and markers or paint pens. Ask them to think of a new name that represents how they want to be faithful and courageous in their life. It could be a word like 'Brave', 'Faith', 'Love', or any name they feel God might give them for being victorious. They can then write this name on their stone.
3. Hide the stones with the new names in small boxes or pouches around the room. Have the children go on a 'hidden manna' treasure hunt to find their stone again, reminding them that just like the stone was hidden, sometimes the rewards God has for us are not always visible but are very special.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A small white stone for each child (available at craft stores or garden centers)
- Permanent markers in various colors
- A small box or pouch for each child to decorate
- Stickers and decorations for the boxes/pouches
- A simple printout of Revelation 2:17 (simplified for children)
- Courage and Faithfulness Challenge Cards (pre-made cards with simple daily faith and courage challenges for kids)

Get Ready:

- Write each child's name on a white stone with a permanent marker before class.
- Prepare the Courage and Faithfulness Challenge Cards with simple tasks like "Say something nice to a friend" or "Pray for someone you know" on each card.
- Set up a decoration station with all materials spread out for easy access.

Do this:

1. **Introduction to the Theme**: Start by explaining the theme of being faithful and courageous in our Christian life. Use the simplified printout of Revelation 2:17 to explain that God promises us a special reward (the white stone) for our faithfulness and courage in following Him.
2. **Decorate Your Promise Box/Pouch**: Give each child a box or pouch to decorate with stickers and other materials. Explain that this box or pouch will hold their special white stone and Courage and Faithfulness Challenge Cards. It's a reminder of their promise to be faithful and courageous.
3. **Stone and Challenge Cards Activity**: Hand out the personalized white stones to each child, explaining that just like the stone has their name on it, God knows each of them by name and sees their acts of faith and courage. Then, give each child a set of Courage and Faithfulness Challenge Cards to keep in their box/pouch. Encourage them to draw a card each day and complete the challenge as a way to practice being faithful and courageous in their daily lives.
4. **Closing Discussion**: Have a short discussion where children can share ideas on how they can be faithful and courageous. Encourage them to think of specific situations at home, school, or with friends where they can show these qualities.
5. **Prayer**: Close with a prayer, asking God to help each child be faithful and courageous, to recognize His love for them, and to use their special stone and challenge cards to remember their commitment to living a Christian life.

Snack Activity: Hidden Manna and the White Stone

You'll Need:

- Plain cookies (like sugar cookies or round crackers)
- White frosting
- Edible markers
- Small pieces of paper
- Pens or pencils

Get Ready: Before the activity, write different virtues such as 'faith', 'courage', 'love', and 'patience' on small pieces of paper. Fold them and place them inside a bowl.

Do this:

1. Give each child a plain cookie or cracker. Explain that this represents the 'hidden manna' mentioned in Revelation 2:17, which is a special reward from God for those who are faithful.
2. Let the children pick a piece of paper from the bowl without looking. The virtue they pick represents a quality God wants them to have in their Christian life to be faithful and courageous.
3. Using the white frosting, let the children decorate their cookie or cracker to represent the white stone mentioned in the same verse. They can write their name or the virtue they picked on the cookie with edible markers. Explain that just like the white stone with a new name written on it, God knows and values each of us uniquely for our faithfulness and courage.

Game Activity: Courageous Quest

You'll Need:

- Chalk or tape for marking the ground
- Small stones or beanbags

- Index cards with written challenges (based on simple tasks, Bible verses, and questions about being faithful and courageous)

Get Ready: Before the game, create a large hopscotch-like path with the chalk or tape. Number each square from 1 to 10. Write simple challenges on the index cards that relate to being faithful and courageous in our Christian life. Place these cards next to each numbered square.

Do this:

1. Each player throws a stone or beanbag to land on a square. They hop through the path, skipping the square with their stone or beanbag. When they reach the end, they pick up the index card next to the square where their stone landed.
2. The player reads the challenge aloud and tries to complete it. Challenges can range from reciting a Bible verse, sharing a time they were brave, or doing a kind act for another player.
3. After completing the challenge, the player keeps the card and hops back. It's the next player's turn. The game continues until all challenges are completed. The goal is to collect as many cards as possible, encouraging each other to be faithful and courageous in our Christian lives.

Craft Activity: Courageous Stones of Faith

You'll Need:

- Smooth stones (1 per child)
- Paint markers or acrylic paints
- Small brushes (if using acrylic paints)
- A bowl of water
- Paper towels

- Stickers of stars or hearts (optional)

Get Ready: Before the class, gather all the materials. If possible, select a variety of stone sizes. Set up a painting area with newspapers or a plastic tablecloth to protect surfaces.

Do this:

1. Start by explaining Revelation 2:17 to the children in simple terms. Say something like, 'God tells us that if we are brave and keep believing in Him, even when it's hard, He will give us a special reward. It's like having a secret name that only you and God know.'
 2. Tell the children they will paint their stones to remind them to be courageous and faithful in their Christian life. They can paint a symbol that represents courage or faith to them, like a heart, a cross, or even just a bold color that makes them feel brave.
 3. Once the paint is dry, if time allows, they can add stickers for extra decoration.
- Encourage them to place their Courageous Stone somewhere they will see it every day, like on their bedside table or desk, to remind them to always be brave and faithful.

Prayer Activity: Secret Name Stones

You'll Need:

- Small, smooth stones (one for each child)
- Washable markers
- A small basket or container

Get Ready: Before the class, write on one side of each stone a quality that shows faithfulness or courage (e.g., 'Brave', 'True', 'Kind'). Place all the stones quality-side-down in the basket.

Do this:

1. Share with the children that in Revelation 2:17, it talks about getting a new name written on a white stone, a secret between them and God. Explain that this is like having a special quality or gift that God knows and sees in us, even if others don't.
2. Let each child pick one stone from the basket without seeing the quality written on it. Once everyone has a stone, have them color the other side with markers while thinking about being faithful and courageous in their lives.
3. After they're done decorating, have them flip the stone to reveal the quality. Encourage them to pray silently or out loud, asking God to help them grow in that quality. Remind them that being faithful and courageous is something God helps us with every day.