

# The White Stone

## UPPER 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 (or smooth rocks)
- Permanent markers
- Small boxes or pouches
- Snacks resembling manna (e.g., honey wafers or pieces of bread)

Get Ready:

- Gather enough white stones or smooth rocks so that each child has one.
- Write each child's name on a small piece of paper and place it inside a box or pouch.

Do This:

1. Start by discussing the memory verse and what it means to be 'victorious' in our faith. Explain the significance of the 'hidden manna' and the 'white stone' with a new name.

2. Give each child a white stone and permanent markers. Invite them to decorate their stone while thinking about what new name God might have for them, reflecting their personal victories and growth in faith.
3. After decorating, have the children place their stones inside the boxes or pouches. Then, distribute the snacks resembling manna, explaining that just as God provided for the Israelites, He provides for us in unexpected ways.
4. Conclude by encouraging the children to keep their stone in a special place as a reminder of God's provision and the new identity He gives us when we overcome challenges with faith.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- White stones (one per child)
- Permanent markers
- Small boxes (one per child)
- Paper and pens
- Copies of Revelation 2:17

Get Ready:

- Write each child's name on a small box before the class.
- Place a white stone and a pen inside each box.
- Prepare a short explanation of Revelation 2:17, focusing on the symbolism of the white stone and the new name.

Do this:

1. Begin with a discussion on the meaning of faithfulness and courage in our Christian life, using Revelation 2:17 as the foundation. Explain the significance of receiving a

white stone with a new name, as a symbol of our unique identity and relationship with God.

2. Have each child open their box and take out the white stone. Tell them that the stone represents their pure, strong, and victorious faith in God. The new name symbolizes their unique role and identity in God's eyes, known only to the one who receives it.

3. Invite the children to think of a word or phrase that represents their personal commitment to being faithful and courageous in their Christian life. It could be a quality they want to embody or a promise they want to keep. Once they have thought of it, they should write it on the white stone with the permanent marker.

4. Encourage the children to keep the stone in a place where they will see it daily (e.g., on their bedside table or in their school bag) as a reminder of their commitment. They can use the paper and pens to write a prayer or a pledge about their commitment to God, which they can keep in the box along with the stone.

5. Close the activity with a group prayer, asking God to help each child live out the word or phrase they have chosen, to be faithful and courageous in their walk with Him.

## Snack Activity: Manna from Heaven Cookies

You'll Need:

- 1 cup of whole almonds or white chocolate chips (to represent the 'hidden manna')
- 2 egg whites
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Parchment paper
- Mixing bowl
- Mixer
- Cookie sheet

Get Ready: Preheat your oven to 300°F (150°C) and line your cookie sheet with parchment paper.

Do this:

1. Discuss Revelation 2:17, focusing on the promise of 'hidden manna' to those who overcome. Explain that just as God provided manna to the Israelites, He provides us with spiritual nourishment.
2. In a mixing bowl, beat the egg whites and salt until they form stiff peaks. Gradually add sugar and vanilla, continuing to beat until the mixture is glossy and holds stiff peaks.
3. Gently fold in the almonds or white chocolate chips. Drop by spoonfuls onto the prepared cookie sheet. Talk about how each cookie represents the unique 'white stone' and 'new name' given to those who remain faithful.
4. Bake for 20-25 minutes until the cookies are lightly golden. While they bake, encourage the children to think of ways they can be faithful and courageous in their Christian life. After the cookies cool, enjoy this sweet reminder of God's promises together.

## Game Activity: The Secret Name Quest

You'll Need:

- A bag of smooth stones (one for each child)
- Permanent markers
- A blindfold
- Small prizes or treats

Get Ready: Write a unique virtue (e.g., Faithfulness, Courage, Love, Patience) on each stone with the permanent markers. Hide these stones around your play area before the children arrive.

Do this:

1. Gather the children and explain that Revelation 2:17 talks about receiving a new name written on a white stone, a name known only to the one who receives it. This symbolizes our unique relationship with God and the special, personal ways He knows and loves each of us.
2. Tell the children they will go on a quest to find a 'secret name' stone. Each 'secret name' represents a virtue they are called to live out as faithful followers of Christ.
3. Blindfold each child in turn and spin them gently three times. Remove the blindfold, and then release them to find a stone. Once they find a stone, they must return to the starting point.
4. After everyone has found a stone, gather the children and have them guess the virtue (secret name) on their stone. Discuss how they can live out this virtue in their daily lives.
5. Conclude by reminding them that like the stone with a new name, God calls each of us to a unique and courageous life of faithfulness. Reward each child with a small prize or treat for their participation and courage.

## Craft Activity: Secret Stones of Promise

You'll Need:

- Smooth white stones (1 per child)
- Permanent markers or paint pens
- Small boxes or pouches
- Stickers or decorations to personalize the boxes/pouches

Get Ready: Gather all materials and set up a crafting station with enough space for each child to work comfortably. Print out Revelation 2:17 on a large poster or individual cards for each child to reference.

Do this:

1. Start by discussing Revelation 2:17, focusing on the promise of a new name written on a white stone given to those who are victorious. Explain how this symbolizes being faithful and courageous in our Christian life.
2. Give each child a smooth white stone and ask them to think about a word or short phrase that represents what being faithful and courageous means to them. They can choose a word like 'Brave', 'Faith', 'Love', or any other that they feel is significant.
3. Using permanent markers or paint pens, have the children write their chosen word or phrase on their stone. Encourage creativity!
4. While the stones dry, provide each child with a small box or pouch to decorate with stickers or other decorations. This will serve as the 'secret' holder of their promise stone.
5. Conclude the activity with a discussion on the importance of holding onto faith and courage in their lives, just like holding onto their secret stone of promise. Encourage them to keep their stone in a special place where they can see it and remember their commitment to being faithful and courageous.

## Prayer Activity: The Secret Stone Prayer

You'll Need:

- Small white stones (one for each child)
- Permanent markers
- A bowl of water



Get Ready: Gather all materials and have Revelation 2:17 ready to read to the class.

Do this:

1. Begin by reading Revelation 2:17 to the class, explaining that just as God has a special name for each of us, He also calls us to be faithful and courageous in our Christian life.
2. Give each child a small white stone and a permanent marker. Ask them to think of one word that represents what they want to be as a faithful follower of Christ (e.g., brave, kind, loyal).
3. Once they have their word, instruct them to write it on their stone. After everyone has written their word, gather the stones in a bowl of water as a symbol of their commitment being purified and set apart for God. Lead the children in a prayer, asking God to help them live out the word they've chosen every day.