

A Little Bit Of Sin

UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: In God's eyes, even A LITTLE BIT of sin is too much.

Scripture: James 2:10

Memory Verse: For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. - James 2:10

The Children's Sermon

Today, we're going to talk about something really special and important. It's called the forgiveness of sins. Do you know what that means? Well, let's dive in together and find out.

First off, let's understand what sin is. Sin is when we do something that is not good, something that God doesn't like. It could be telling a lie, being mean to someone, or not listening to our parents. We all make mistakes and do things that are wrong sometimes.

But here's the amazing part: God loves us so much that He forgives us for our sins. Yes, every single one of them! It doesn't matter if it's a big mistake or a small one; God's forgiveness is so big and so wide that it covers them all. Isn't that wonderful?

Now, you might wonder, how do we receive this forgiveness of sins? It's actually quite simple. We just need to talk to God, tell Him what we did wrong, and ask Him to forgive us. This is called praying. And guess what? God always listens and He always forgives. That's how much He loves us.

But there's something really important we need to remember. When God forgives us, He wants us to learn from our mistakes. He wants us to try our best not to do the same wrong things again. It's like when you're playing a game and you make a mistake; you try to do better next time, right? It's the same with God. He helps us to grow and be better.

Now, let's talk about how we feel when we know we've done something wrong. Sometimes, we might feel sad or upset. That's okay. It's normal to feel that way. But the great news is, when we ask for forgiveness and God forgives us, we can feel happy and free again. It's like when you're carrying a really heavy backpack and then you take it off. You feel so much lighter, right? That's how our hearts feel when God forgives us.

But forgiveness isn't just something we get; it's also something we give. Yes, that's right. Just like God forgives us, He wants us to forgive others too. If someone says something mean or does something that hurts us, we can choose to forgive them. It might not be easy, but with God's help, we can do it. And when we forgive others, it makes our hearts happy and light, just like when God forgives us.

So, why is forgiveness of sins so important? Well, it helps us to be close to God. It keeps our hearts clean and happy. And it teaches us to be kind and forgiving to others too. It's like a beautiful circle of love and forgiveness that goes around and around.

In conclusion, remember that God's forgiveness is a wonderful gift. It doesn't matter how big or small our mistakes are; God is always ready to forgive us. All we have to do is ask. And let's not forget to forgive others too, just like God forgives us. This way, we can all live happily, love each other, and be close to God.

Let's pray together: Dear God, thank you for the gift of forgiveness. Help us to always remember to ask for forgiveness when we do something wrong. And help us to forgive others, just like you forgive us. We love you, God. Amen.

Remember, friends, God's forgiveness is always there for us, and it's one of the most beautiful things we can have in our lives. Let's cherish it, share it, and live our lives full of love and forgiveness.

Bible Memory Verse

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. - James 2:10

You Will Need:

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

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into large heart shapes, one for each child.
- Write 'James 2:10' on the top of each heart with a marker.

Do This:

1. Give each child a heart and ask them to decorate it with markers or crayons, reflecting on what it means to follow God's laws and how even one sin affects our heart.

2. After decorating, discuss as a group how breaking even one of God's laws is like putting a mark on our clean heart, using the decorated hearts as a visual aid.
3. Encourage the children to think of ways they can ask for forgiveness and strive to keep their hearts clean, writing these ideas on the back of their heart. Conclude by memorizing James 2:10 together, reminding them that we all need God's grace.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large clear jar or container
- Water
- Food coloring (preferably a dark color like blue or red)
- Small stones or pebbles (each marked with different "sins" like lying, stealing, being unkind, etc.)
- Paper and pens
- A large spoon or stick for stirring

Get Ready:

- Fill the large clear jar about three-quarters full with water.
- Write different "sins" on the small stones or pebbles with a waterproof marker.
- Set up a table with the jar of water in the center, the food coloring, the stones, and the paper and pens nearby.

Do this:

1. Begin by explaining James 2:10, emphasizing that in God's eyes, breaking even one commandment is like breaking them all because sin separates us from Him.
2. Invite the children to come up one at a time and select a stone from a basket. Have them read the "sin" on the stone aloud and then drop the stone into the jar of clear

water. After each stone is dropped, add a drop of food coloring to the water. Stir the water gently with the spoon or stick to show how the water becomes cloudier with each added drop.

3. After all the stones have been added and the water is noticeably darker, discuss how the clear water represents our life without sin and how each sin, no matter how small, affects our relationship with God, making it harder to see through the "water" clearly.

4. Hand out paper and pens, and ask each child to write down a personal commitment to ask God for help in one area where they struggle with sin. Encourage them to pray about it during the week and remind them that God forgives and cleanses us when we ask for forgiveness, just as if we could make the water clear again.

Snack Activity: Sin Spots Cookies

You'll Need:

- Sugar cookies (pre-baked or dough to bake)
- Icing (white)
- Food coloring (black or dark red)
- Small bowls
- Toothpicks
- Baking sheets (if baking cookies)
- Oven (if baking cookies)

Get Ready: If using dough, preheat your oven according to the cookie dough package instructions and bake the cookies as directed. Allow them to cool completely. Place white icing in a small bowl.

Do this:

1. Discuss James 2:10, explaining how in God's eyes, even a little sin is too much. Relate this to the cookies representing our lives, which start out clean (white icing).
2. Add a drop of food coloring to a separate small bowl and mix a very small amount of icing with it to create a 'sin spot.' Explain how even a small sin, represented by the dark spot in the icing, affects our relationship with God.
3. Using a toothpick, have each child add a tiny dot of the colored icing onto their white-iced cookie to see how even a little 'sin' stands out. Discuss the importance of seeking forgiveness and striving to live a life that honors God.

Game Activity: Sin Knockout

You'll Need:

- A large open space (indoor or outdoor)
- Chalk (if outdoors) or tape (if indoors) to mark areas
- Small bean bags or soft balls
- A bell or whistle

Get Ready: Use the chalk or tape to create a large circle on the ground, big enough for all participants to stand inside with a little room between each. Outside the circle, mark several 'sin zones' with the chalk or tape. These should be small squares or circles.

Do this:

1. Explain James 2:10 to the children, emphasizing that breaking even one part of God's law is like breaking all of it. Discuss how in God's eyes, even a little bit of sin is too much.
2. Have the children stand inside the large circle. This circle represents living within God's laws. The 'sin zones' outside the circle represent various sins.

3. The objective of the game is for the children to stay within the 'law circle' while avoiding the 'sins' that will be tossed into the circle (the bean bags or soft balls). Whenever the bell or whistle is blown, a leader (or leaders) will toss the 'sins' into the circle. If a child touches a 'sin', they must step out to a 'sin zone' and perform a task (such as reciting a Bible verse or saying a prayer) to 'repent' and rejoin the game in the circle. The game continues with increasing difficulty (more 'sins' being tossed in) until only one child remains, emphasizing the challenge of avoiding sin but also the possibility of repentance and forgiveness.

Craft Activity: The Sin Puzzle: Understanding James

2:10

You'll Need:

- A blank puzzle (around 20 pieces or make your own from cardboard)
- Markers or paint
- Stickers or pictures that represent various sins (lying, stealing, not obeying parents, etc.)

Get Ready: If you're making your own puzzle, cut a piece of cardboard into a 20-piece puzzle. It doesn't have to be perfect; the idea is to have fun and learn. Prepare the stickers or pictures by either printing them out or ensuring you have enough for each puzzle piece.

Do this:

1. Read James 2:10 together and discuss what it means. Explain that in God's eyes, breaking even one of His laws is like breaking them all because God is perfectly holy.

2. Have each child decorate their puzzle piece with markers or paint, then choose stickers or pictures that represent different sins to stick on each piece. As they work, encourage them to think about how even what might seem like a 'small' sin is still significant in God's eyes.

3. Once all the pieces are decorated, assemble the puzzle together. As you do, discuss how our sins affect our relationship with God and with others. Emphasize that just like the puzzle is incomplete with even one piece missing, our obedience to God must be complete, and even one sin is too much. But also share the good news that Jesus forgives our sins and helps us to live in a way that pleases God.