

God's Team

UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: God's guidance, spiritual victory

Scripture: Romans 8:31

Memory Verse: If God is for us, who can be against us? - Romans 8:31

The Children's Sermon

Today there will be a big football game on TV. Does anyone know what it is called? (Children respond).

That's right - the Super Bowl. I'm going to be rooting for the Steelers to win. (Explain why). Can some of you tell me why you might like a certain team - in any sport? It doesn't have to be football. (Children respond).

Some people say that they may like a certain team because it is a "winning team," which means that it wins most or all of its games. Did you know that you are part of a winning team? That's right; it's called God's Team. If you've asked Jesus into your heart to be your Savior and Lord, you are a part of God's Team!

Every team has a coach who guides them and helps them to do what they need to do to win the game. We've got the best coach ever—God! He always helps us to do what we need to do to live our lives the right way. Being on God's Team means we listen to Him because He knows the best way for us to go.

A football team has the plans that they need to play the game in its playbook. God has given His plans for our lives in His playbook – the Bible. Just like players study their playbook, we can read the Bible to learn how to be on God's Team and follow His game plan.

Sometimes the game doesn't go the way the players want it to. They get knocked down, or make a mistake and drop the ball. They can get hit from behind when they don't expect it. The players sometimes even get hurt. Our lives can be like that too, but we have teammates (others who have asked Jesus into their hearts) to help to pick us up, brush us off, and help us finish the game. Being on God's Team means we're never alone.

When you're on a sports team, you practice a lot, right? You learn the rules of the game and how to play your best. Being on God's Team is similar. We practice by praying, reading the Bible, and doing what it says. This helps us to play our part on God's Team the best we can.

And just like on any team, on God's Team, everyone has a special role. Some of us are really good at encouraging others, some are great sharers, and some are super helpers. God has given each of us special gifts to use on His Team. It's like being a part of a big, loving family where everyone has something important to do.

But what happens when we make a mistake? What if we do something that isn't part of God's game plan? Well, just like a good coach, God doesn't kick us off the team. Instead, He helps us learn from our mistakes. He forgives us and helps us get back in the game. That's because God's Team is about love and forgiveness.

Sometimes, being on God's Team means we face challenges. Maybe someone at school is not being very nice, or we have a hard time with our homework. It's like facing a tough opponent in a game. But remember, God is our coach, and He gives us strength and wisdom to face these challenges. And just like teammates help each other, we can help our friends too.

You know what is the best part? God's Team is always open for more players. We can invite our friends, family, and even people we don't know very well to join God's Team. Sharing God's love is like passing the ball in a game. When we share His love, we're helping others to know the joy of being on God's Team.

In the end, we will always win, because we are on God's Team. Someday we will go to Heaven and live forever with Him, and that's even better than winning the Super Bowl! Being on God's Team is the best team to be on because the victory is eternal.

Dear Lord, thank you for always being with us to help and guide us in all that we do, and for giving others to help us as well. Thank you for letting us be a part of God's Team. Help us to follow Your game plan, use our gifts to help the team, and invite others to join Your team. Amen.

Bible Memory Verse

If God is for us, who can be against us? - Romans 8:31

You Will Need:

- Construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors

-Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

-Cut the construction paper into large shield shapes ahead of time.

-Write the memory verse on a whiteboard or large paper where all the children can see it.

Do This:

1. Give each child a shield-shaped piece of construction paper and markers or crayons.

Invite them to decorate their shields with drawings, symbols, or words that remind them of God's protection and love.

2. Encourage the children to write the memory verse, Romans 8:31, on their shield.

They can also use stickers to decorate if available.

3. Once everyone has finished, gather the children in a circle and have them share their shields. Ask them to explain their drawings and how the verse makes them feel protected by God. Conclude by praying together, thanking God for being our protector and for the truth that if He is for us, no one can stand against us.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Bible or printed copies of Romans 8:31

- Large poster board and markers

- Sticky notes

- Costume items or props to represent various roles (e.g., crown for a king, toy sword for a soldier)

- Obstacle course setup materials (cones, ropes, small hurdles)

Get Ready:

- Set up an obstacle course in a large open area, using cones, ropes, and small hurdles.
- Write "If God is for us, who can be against us?" on the poster board and display it prominently.
- Prepare the costume items or props in a visible location.

Do this:

1. **Introduction to Romans 8:31**: Start by reading Romans 8:31 together. Discuss what it means to have God on our side and how that gives us strength and courage.
2. **Role-Play**: Divide the children into small groups. Give each group a scenario where they might feel alone or challenged (e.g., facing a difficult test, trying something new, standing up for what's right). Let them choose props or costume items to represent God's presence and strength. Have them act out the scenario, showing how believing "If God is for us, who can be against us?" changes their approach or feelings about the situation.
3. **Obstacle Course Challenge**: Explain that the obstacle course represents challenges or 'enemies' we might face in life. Before they start, have each child write a fear or challenge they face on a sticky note. Place these sticky notes at various points in the obstacle course. As children go through the course, they collect the sticky notes. At the end, gather the notes, discuss how God helps us overcome these challenges, and pray together, asking for God's guidance and strength to face and overcome personal challenges.

Snack Activity: Victory Shields

You'll Need:

- Graham crackers
- Frosting or peanut butter
- Pretzel sticks
- Fruit roll-ups (red or orange for 'flames')
- Plastic knives or spreaders
- Small bowls for dipping

Get Ready: Lay out all your ingredients on a clean table. Make sure each child has access to a plate, a plastic knife or spreader, and a small bowl if needed.

Do this:

1. Start by discussing Romans 8:31, 'If God is for us, who can be against us?' Talk about how this verse shows that with God on our side, we have victory over challenges.
2. Use a graham cracker as your shield base. Spread frosting or peanut butter over the graham cracker using the plastic knife or spreader. This represents the foundation of our faith and the protection God gives us.
3. Break pretzel sticks in half and press them into the frosting or peanut butter at the top edge of your graham cracker to create a 'crown' or 'spikes' on your shield, symbolizing strength and victory.
4. Cut fruit roll-ups into flame shapes and stick them to the bottom half of the graham cracker to represent the Holy Spirit's power in our lives, giving us the strength to overcome obstacles.
5. As you eat your Victory Shield, remember that with God, you are strong and victorious over any challenges you face.

Game Activity: Victory Path

You'll Need:

- A large open space (indoors or outdoors)
- Chalk (for outdoor use) or tape (for indoor use)
- Small stones or bean bags
- Printed or written copies of Romans 8:31

Get Ready: Use the chalk or tape to create a large hopscotch-like grid on the ground. Each square should be large enough for a child to stand in comfortably. Label the squares from start to finish with challenges or obstacles we face (e.g., 'Fear', 'Doubt', 'Loneliness'). At the start, place the copies of Romans 8:31.

Do this:

1. Gather the children and explain that the path they see represents our journey with God, facing various challenges. Read Romans 8:31 together and discuss briefly what it means to have God on our side.
2. Each child takes a turn throwing a stone or bean bag onto the path. They must hop through the path, but can skip the square where their stone lands, symbolizing God helping us overcome that obstacle.
3. When they reach the end, they shout, 'If God is for us, who can be against us?' to remind everyone of God's support. Then, they pick up their stone, and hop back to the start, reflecting on the victory God gives us over challenges.
4. Encourage children to support and cheer for each other, reinforcing the idea that we are a community of believers who help each other remember God's love and power.

Craft Activity: Victory Shields: Our Faith in God

You'll Need:

- Cardboard or thick poster board
- Markers, crayons, or paint

- Glue and glitter
- Stickers or printed images that symbolize faith, strength, and victory
- A printed or written copy of Romans 8:31

Get Ready: Cut the cardboard or poster board into large shield shapes. Each shield should be big enough for a child to decorate and write on. Print or write out Romans 8:31 on small pieces of paper or stickers.

Do this:

1. Give each child a shield shape and the materials for decorating. Explain that this shield represents their faith and the protection and victory God gives us, just like in Romans 8:31.
2. Have them decorate their shields with the materials provided, encouraging them to think about what symbols represent strength, faith, and victory to them. They can also draw or write things they feel God has helped them overcome.
3. Once the shields are decorated, help them attach the printed or written verse of Romans 8:31 to their shield. Discuss as a group what this verse means to them and how their shield represents the verse's message of God being for us and giving us victory in our lives.

Prayer Activity: Victory Shields: A Romans 8:31

Prayer Craft

You'll Need:

- Cardboard or heavy cardstock
- Markers, crayons, or paint
- Decorative items (stickers, glitter, etc.)

Get Ready: Cut the cardboard or cardstock into large shield shapes ahead of time for each child.

Do this:

1. Read Romans 8:31 together as a class, then discuss what it means to have God on our side and how that gives us spiritual victory. Emphasize that if God is for us, no one can stand against us.
2. Have each child decorate their 'Victory Shield' with the words 'If God is for us, who can be against us?' along with any other decorations they feel led to add. Encourage creativity! This is their personal reminder of God's protection and victory.
3. Once everyone has finished, gather in a circle and have a prayer session. Encourage the children to pray for areas in their lives where they need God's guidance and victory, holding their shields. Conclude by affirming that, like their shields, God's love and power protect and lead us to victory in all things.