

Proclaiming The Good News

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: An apple pin or other symbol of teaching

Scripture: Philippians 1:18

Memory Verse: Philippians 1:18 - 'What does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.'

The Children's Sermon

Hey kids, today we're going to talk about something really special - teaching about God. Now, that's what Pastor _____ does for a living. He teaches others about God. But he went to school for years and years to learn about God and to learn about teaching about God. We haven't been to that school, so how can we possibly be qualified to teach about God?

I ask myself that question all the time. I love being a teacher. I felt it was my calling. It's a huge honor and a huge responsibility. In fact, if I think too much about what a huge responsibility it is and how I might fall short of that responsibility, I don't think I could teach at all. If I thought about the sacred trust and faith your parents put in me on Sunday mornings, I think I might just faint right here.

But the apostle Paul is reassuring. He tells us that we don't have to be perfect teachers. We can try to spread the word of God for many different reasons and in many different ways. The important thing is that we do it.

Now, you might be thinking, "But I'm just a kid. How can I teach about God?" Well, guess what? Teaching about God isn't just for grown-ups. It's for everyone, even kids like you!

Teaching about God can be as simple as being kind to your friends. When you help someone who is sad or share your toys, you are showing God's love. That's teaching about God without even using words!

Sometimes, you might tell your friends about a Bible story you learned or a song about Jesus you love to sing. That's also teaching about God. You see, every time you talk about Jesus or show love like He did, you're being a teacher.

You might wonder, "What if I get it wrong?" or "What if I don't know all the answers?" That's okay! Remember, even grown-ups don't know everything about God. God doesn't expect you to be perfect. He just wants you to try and to share His love in your own special way.

And here's a secret: sometimes, when you try to teach about God, you learn something new too! Maybe you'll learn a new Bible story or understand something about God's love that you didn't before. Teaching about God is a great way to grow in your own faith.

But what if someone asks a tough question about God that you can't answer? Well, it's perfectly fine to say, "I don't know, but let's find out together." This shows that learning about God is a journey we're all on together, and it's okay to ask questions and search for answers.

Remember, teaching about God isn't just about talking; it's about living. When you choose to be patient, kind, and forgiving, you are teaching about God's ways. Your actions can speak louder than words and show others what it means to follow Jesus.

So, don't worry about being the perfect teacher or knowing everything about the Bible. Just be yourself and share God's love in your own unique way. Whether it's through words, actions, or simply being a good friend, you are capable of teaching about God.

Prayer: Dear God, Help us to be good teachers, spreading the good news of Your resurrection. Give us the courage to share Your love and the wisdom to show others what it means to follow You. Amen.

So kids, remember, teaching about God is something all of us can do, no matter how young or old we are. It's about sharing love, kindness, and the stories of Jesus in whatever way we can. Let's be brave and start teaching about God in our own special ways today!

Bible Memory Verse

Philippians 1:18 - 'What does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.'

You Will Need:

- Red, green, and brown construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons

-Apple-shaped template

Get Ready:

-Cut the red, green, and brown construction paper into squares that are easy for little hands to hold.

-Print or draw an apple-shaped template on a piece of paper for each child.

Do This:

1. Tell the children they will be making their own apple pin to remind them of the joy of sharing about Jesus, just like Paul did. Explain that the apple represents knowledge and teaching, and we can share the knowledge of Jesus with others.

2. Give each child an apple-shaped template. Have them trace the template onto the red construction paper and cut it out for the apple's body.

3. Next, have them cut a small stem from the brown paper and a leaf from the green paper. They can glue these onto their apple.

4. On the apple, help them write 'Jesus is Good News!' or they can draw symbols that remind them of Jesus. This will help them remember Philippians 1:18 and the importance of sharing about Jesus with joy.

5. Lastly, if possible, attach a safety pin to the back of the apple (this step should be done by the teacher for safety), turning it into a pin they can wear. Remind them that wearing the pin can be a way to share the good news about Jesus with others, just like Paul rejoiced in doing.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Red, green, and brown construction paper

- Safety scissors

- Glue sticks
- Pin backs or safety pins
- Markers
- A printed copy of Philippians 1:18 for each child

Get Ready:

- Cut the red construction paper into apple shapes, green into small leaves, and brown into tiny stems.
- Prepare a sample apple pin by gluing a leaf and stem onto an apple shape and attaching a pin back.
- Write Philippians 1:18 on a board or large paper where all the children can see.

Do this:

1. ****Read and Explain Philippians 1:18****: Start by reading Philippians 1:18 aloud to the children. Explain that this verse tells us that no matter what, we should be happy that Jesus is being talked about. Like when we wear something special, like an apple pin, it can remind us and others about Jesus and His teachings.
2. ****Make Apple Pins****: Give each child an apple shape, a leaf, and a stem. Show them how to glue the leaf and stem onto their apple. While they work, encourage them to think about how they can share Jesus's love and teachings with others, just like a teacher uses symbols like apples to represent learning.
3. ****Attach the Pin and Share****: Help each child attach a pin back to their apple. Once everyone has their apple pin, ask them to think of one person they want to share a teaching of Jesus with this week. Encourage them to wear their apple pin as a reminder of their mission.

Snack Activity: Joyful Apple Sandwiches

You'll Need:

- 1 apple
- Peanut butter (or any nut-free alternative)
- Granola
- Small cookie cutter in the shape of a heart or a cross

Get Ready: Wash the apple and slice it into round, thin pieces. Make sure to remove the core to create a flat, circular shape.

Do this:

1. Use the small cookie cutter to cut out the center of each apple slice. Explain that the shape you're cutting out represents the love and joy we share when we teach and learn from each other, similar to Philippians 1:18, which talks about rejoicing.
2. Spread peanut butter on one side of half of the apple slices. Sprinkle granola over the peanut butter for added texture and a lesson in combining different elements to create something new and wonderful, just like combining our gifts and knowledge when we come together.
3. Top the peanut butter and granola apple slices with another apple slice, creating a sandwich. The apple sandwich represents how teaching and sharing knowledge can be both nourishing and fulfilling, just like a tasty snack.

Game Activity: Apple Pin Joy Hop

You'll Need:

- A large open space (like a gym or outdoor field)

- Chalk or tape (for outdoor and indoor use, respectively)
- Apple pins or stickers (enough for each child)
- A speaker for music (optional)

Get Ready: Draw a large hopscotch grid on the ground with chalk or tape. Each square should be large enough for a child to stand in comfortably. Number the squares from 1 to 10. Place an apple pin or sticker in two random squares before the game starts.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that just like Paul found joy in spreading the message of Christ (Philippians 1:18), they will find joy in this game by hopping through the hopscotch grid to find the apple pins, which represent the joy of teaching and sharing knowledge.
2. Play some fun music (optional) and let the children take turns hopping through the hopscotch grid. The rule is they can only hop on one foot, except for the squares that have two numbers or the squares with the apple pins/stickers, where they can land on both feet.
3. When a child finds a square with an apple pin or sticker, they shout 'Joy!' and pick it up. They then share a simple fact or something they are grateful for before continuing. The game goes on until all the apple pins or stickers have been found. Encourage the children to cheer each other on, fostering a spirit of encouragement and teaching, just like in Philippians 1:18.

Prayer Activity: Apple Pin Prayers

You'll Need:

- Small apple pins or apple stickers
- Construction paper

- Markers or crayons

Get Ready: Prepare small cards from the construction paper, one for each child in your class.

Do this:

1. Start by explaining Philippians 1:18, 'What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.' Simplify it by saying, 'Paul is happy because people are learning about Jesus, no matter how it happens.'
2. Tell the children that teachers, like Paul, help us learn about Jesus and many other things. Ask them to think of their teachers and why they are thankful for them.
3. Give each child a card, an apple pin or sticker, and some markers or crayons. Ask them to decorate their card and write a short prayer or thank you note for their teachers. They can stick the apple pin or sticker on the card as a symbol of their appreciation for teaching.
4. Encourage them to share their prayers or notes with the class, and if possible, to give the card to their teacher the next day as a small gesture of gratitude.