

Proclaiming The Good News

UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: An apple pin or other symbol of teaching

Scripture: Philippians 1:18

Memory Verse: Philippians 1:18 - 'What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that 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 then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.'

You Will Need:

- Colored paper
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Stickers with joyful themes

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into large speech bubble shapes.
- Write 'Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice!' on each speech bubble with markers or crayons.

Do This:

1. Give each child a prepared speech bubble and a set of markers or crayons. Explain that they will decorate their speech bubble with the stickers and drawings that represent joy and happiness to them, focusing on the joy of proclaiming Christ.
2. While they work, discuss what it means to proclaim Christ in their daily lives and how it brings joy not only to themselves but to others around them.
3. Once everyone has finished decorating, gather the speech bubbles and create a 'Wall of Joy' in the classroom. Encourage the children to share their speech bubbles and explain their decorations, reinforcing the memory verse and its meaning.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Red, green, and black felt sheets
- Fabric glue
- Scissors
- Safety pins or pin backings
- Permanent markers
- Copies of Philippians 1:18 printed on paper

Get Ready:

- Cut the red felt into apple shapes, green felt into small leaves, and black felt into tiny rectangles for seeds.

- Prepare a sample apple pin to show as an example.
- Write Philippians 1:18 on a large poster board for reference during the activity.

Do this:

1. Give each child a red apple-shaped felt, two small green leaves, and a few tiny black seeds. Have them lay out their pieces to form an apple with a leaf and seeds on top.
2. Using the fabric glue, instruct the kids to glue the leaves at the top of the red apple shape and the black seeds in the center. Allow a few minutes for the glue to dry.
3. While the glue is drying, discuss Philippians 1:18 and how it teaches us to rejoice in the fact that Christ is proclaimed, regardless of the circumstances. Encourage the kids to think of ways they can share the message of Jesus with others, just like spreading seeds.
4. Once the glue has dried, help them attach the safety pin or pin backing to the back of their apple.
5. Conclude by giving each child a copy of Philippians 1:18. Ask them to decorate around the scripture on their paper using markers. Encourage them to pin their apple pin to their bags or clothes as a reminder to rejoice in sharing the message of Jesus, just like spreading seeds of faith.

Snack Activity: Joyful Apple Pins

You'll Need:

- Red and green apples
- Peanut butter (or any nut-free alternative)
- Pretzel sticks
- Raisins
- Small paper flags (create these by cutting paper into small rectangles and attaching them to toothpicks)

- Markers

Get Ready: Write 'Philippians 1:18' on each paper flag with the markers. Wash and dry the apples.

Do this:

1. Cut the apples into slices thick enough to resemble the shape of a pin or badge. Each slice represents the foundation of our joy in Christ, no matter the circumstances, just as Paul writes in Philippians 1:18.
2. Spread peanut butter on one side of each apple slice. This acts as the 'glue' that holds our joy together, symbolizing the strength and unity in Christ.
3. Decorate the peanut butter side with raisins and pretzel sticks to create a joyful face or design. This step allows the children to express their joy creatively, reflecting the message of rejoicing in every situation.
4. Insert the paper flag into the top of the apple slice. This flag stands as a reminder of the source of our joy, the Gospel, as celebrated in Philippians 1:18.

Game Activity: Joyful Messenger Relay

You'll Need:

- A bag of apples
- Permanent markers
- Small pins or stickers to attach to the apples
- Two baskets

Get Ready: Write 'Joy in Christ' on each apple using the permanent markers. Then, attach a pin or sticker to each apple. Place the apples in one basket at the starting line, and set the empty basket at the finish line, creating two stations for a relay race.

Do this:

1. Divide the children into two teams, and have each team line up behind the starting line. Explain that the apples represent the message of joy in Christ, as mentioned in Philippians 1:18.
2. On 'Go,' the first child from each team will pick an apple from the basket, race to the finish line, and place the apple in the empty basket. They will then race back to tag the next team member, who will do the same.
3. Continue until all team members have completed the relay. The team that finishes first, with all apples successfully transported, wins. After the game, gather the children and discuss how spreading the joy of Christ is like passing the apple in the relay, emphasizing the importance of sharing our joy in Christ with others, as inspired by Philippians 1:18.

Craft Activity: Joyful Apple Pins

You'll Need:

- Red, green, and brown felt sheets
- Safety pins
- Fabric glue
- Scissors
- Black marker
- Template of an apple (optional)

Get Ready: Cut out apple shapes from the red felt sheets using scissors. If needed, use an apple template for consistency. Cut small leaves from the green felt and stems from the brown felt.

Do this:

1. Glue the brown stem and green leaf to the top of each red apple shape. Allow the glue to dry.
2. On one side of the apple, use the black marker to write 'Phil. 1:18' to remind us of the joy in proclaiming Christ, no matter the circumstances.
3. Attach a safety pin to the back of each apple with fabric glue. Allow it to dry completely before wearing your joyful apple pin.

Prayer Activity: Joyful Messengers

You'll Need:

- Red and green construction paper
- Scissors
- Safety pins or pin backings
- Markers
- Glue

Get Ready: Prepare a sample apple pin by cutting out an apple shape from the red construction paper and a leaf from the green. Glue the leaf to the apple and attach a safety pin to the back.

Do this:

1. Read Philippians 1:18 together and discuss what it means to rejoice in Christ being proclaimed. Explain that just like teachers use symbols (like apples) to represent their role, we can use symbols to remind us to share the joy of Jesus with others.
2. Have each child cut out their own apple shape from the red construction paper and a leaf from the green. They can then glue the leaf to their apple.

3. Encourage the children to write 'Rejoice!' or 'Phil. 1:18' on their apple with markers. After they've finished decorating, help them attach the safety pin to the back. Conclude by praying together, asking God to help you all be joyful messengers of His love and truth.