



In the World—Not of the World

UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON

Theme: We are called to be separate from the world.

Scripture: John 17:14-19

Memory Verse: “They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.” John 17:16,18

Get Ready: Click [here](#) to get your complete supply list for this lesson.

The Children’s Sermon

You’ll Need:

- An empty water bottle half full of water
- Food coloring
- Cooking oil

Get Ready: Before class, add a few drops of food coloring to the water in the bottle, then fill the rest of the bottle with cooking oil and seal it shut.

Do This:

SAY: There are two things in this bottle. Can you guess what they are? (Allow kids time to respond.) **This part is colored water** (point to the colored water), **and this part is oil.** The thing about water and oil is that even when they’re put into the same

container, they don't ever mix. They remain separate from one another. Now, watch what happens when I shake the bottle. (Shake the bottle.) The water and oil appear to mix together. But, let's see what happens after we let the bottle sit for just a minute. (Let the bottle sit.) Look! The water and oil have become separate again. That shows us that even when they were all mixed together, they were never really a part of each other.

This bottle is a pretty good picture of what Jesus wants us to be like in this world we live in.

Before Jesus died on the cross, He prayed for His disciples. He prayed that as they lived in the world, they would not become part of the world. He wanted them to add the gifts He had given them to the world – just as the water added some color to the oil – but He did not want them to become stained by the world. He wanted them to remain the person God made them to be. He wanted them to know His love and to share that love with others.

This prayer is for us too. Jesus said that just as his Father sent him into the world, he has sent us into the world. We must live in this world, but Jesus has called us to be separate. Just as this colored water remains separate from the oil, Jesus wants us to live in the same bottle, but remain separate from the world.

PRAY: Dear Jesus, help us, as we live in this world, to remain faithful to your call to be separate from the world.

Bible Memory Verse

“They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.” John 17:16,18

You’ll Need:

- **A Bible**
- **A large playing area**
- **Masking tape**
- **Jumbo craft sticks - 7 per group**
- **A thin marker**

Get Ready: Before class, create a large circle on the floor using masking tape.

Create a set of seven craft sticks per group. Write a short segment of today’s Bible memory verse on each craft stick.

Do This:

Lead kids in these steps:

- Invite a child to read the Bible verse out loud to the class.
- Invite kids to stand on the outside of the masking tape circle, or “world,” as you read the first part of the verse: “They are not of the world...”
- Have kids hop over the line into the circle as you read the next part: “even as I am not of it.”
- Encourage kids to recite the verse along with you as they hop in and out of the “world” on the floor.
- Form 2-3 groups and give each group a set of craft sticks.

- Invite kids to put the craft sticks in order of today's Bible memory verse.
- When they've put them in the correct order, remove a craft stick from the group.
- Continue several rounds as time allows.

ASK:

- How can we show Jesus' love to others in the world?
- What does it mean that Jesus has sent us into the world?

SAY: Great job learning today's Bible memory verse! When we stay close to Jesus, He fills us with his joy and we can share that joy with others.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A Bible
- A large poster board or butcher paper
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers
- Tape

Get Ready: Before class, draw a picture of the world on the large poster board or butcher paper and tape it to the wall. Cut crosses out of construction paper, one for each child.

Do This:

Lead kids in these steps:

- Read John 17:14-19 out loud.

SAY: Today we're learning that Jesus prayed for His disciples because He knew they would be different from everyone else in the world because they loved Him. But they still had to live in the world, which can be hard sometimes for people who love Jesus.

- Give each child a cross and invite them to decorate it with drawings or words that describe following Jesus.
- When kids are finished decorating their crosses, help them tape each cross to the large world poster.

SAY: Jesus says that we are to act differently than others because His love shines through us.

- Use the marker to draw stick figures among the crosses on the poster.
- Explain that we are surrounded by people in the world who do not know and love Jesus.
- Point to each cross and explain that when we love Jesus and live in the world, we are His, and we have to show and tell others about Him.

SAY: We aren't supposed to live like people who don't love Jesus. Instead we are to show and tell others of Jesus' love and kindness.

ASK:

- How can you show Jesus you love Him?
- Why do we want to be set apart from others in the world?

In the World Not of the World

You'll Need:

- "In the World Not of the World" video lesson
- Something to play the video

Do This:

Show the video.

ASK:

- How can you show you belong to Jesus?
- What makes us different from other people in the world?

Set Apart Snacks

You'll Need:

- Sandwich bags - 1 per child
- Goldfish crackers
- Teddy Graham crackers
- Pretzel sticks
- M&M's

Get Ready: Have kids wash their hands before the snack.

Do This:

Follow these steps to enjoy the "Set Apart" Snacks:

- Give each child a sandwich bag before scooping a cup of each snack into their bag.

- Remind kids that today we're learning that we're called to be separate from the world, while living with others in the world. That means that even though all of these snacks can be mixed, they can also be separated from each other by how they taste.
- Enjoy.

ASK:

- **Why are we "set apart?"**
- **How can you show Jesus' love to others?**

SAY: **Jesus lives in our hearts, so we are set apart from the world. But we still live in the world, and get to tell others about His love.**

Virtual Lesson Tip

You can do this activity with the entire family.

We Are Different

You'll Need:

- **A large playing area**
- **Masking tape "world" from earlier**

Do This:

Follow these steps to play the "We Are Different" game:

- Have kids spread out in the "world" on the floor.
- Call out physical characteristics that make children different from each other (example: wears glasses, has blonde hair, has brown eyes, etc.)

- Each time you call out a characteristic, those kids should group together inside of the “world.”
- Play several rounds as time allows.

ASK:

- How do you feel when you hear Jesus loves you?
- Why do we want others to know that Jesus loves them?

SAY: We are set apart to share the good news of Jesus. Let’s remember that in our actions today.

Set Apart Shakers

You’ll Need:

- Small bottles of water - 1 per child
- ½ cup of cooking oil - per child
- Glitter and large sequins
- Duct tape
- A funnel
- Food coloring

Get Ready: Before class, empty half of each bottle of water to make room for the oil.

Do This:

Lead kids in the following steps to make the “Set Apart Shaker” crafts:

- Give each child a half-filled water bottle.

- Invite kids to add a few sequins, or glitter to their water.
- Offer food coloring to any child that wants it.
- Use the funnel to add cooking oil to each child's water bottle, then seal the top.
- Finish the craft by wrapping the lid of each bottle with duct tape to keep all of the liquid in.
- Invite kids to shake their bottles and watch the water and oil separate over and over again.

SAY: Great job making your set apart shakers! Take these home as a reminder that when we follow Jesus, we are set apart in the world.

Virtual Lesson Tip

You can do this activity with the entire family.

Set Apart Prayers

You'll Need:

- A large playing area
- Masking tape "World" from the Bible Interactive Experience

Do This:

Lead kids in these steps to pray:

- Invite kids to line up around the world.
- Have each child share one way they can share Jesus' love in the world with others. Then have that child step into the world.
- Close in prayer.

PRAY: Dear God, thank You for calling us to be Yours in this world. Help us to honor You in all that we do as we show others Your love. In Jesus' name, amen.

Time to Praise God

You'll Need:

- **Song:** "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"
[Words and Music](#) (pdf)
[MP3](#) Accompaniment Track
- **Song:** "I'll Be a Sunbeam"
[Words and Music](#) (pdf)
[MP3](#) Accompaniment Track

SAY: When we follow Jesus with our hearts, we're able to worship Him in the World. Let's give God honor and praise now.

Lead children in singing "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" and "I'll Be a Sunbeam."

If You Have Extra Time...

Use these activity sheets to fill in any time and keep kids learning.

- [Coloring Page](#)
- [Crossword](#)
- [Fill in the Blank](#)
- [Multiple Choice](#)
- [Word Search](#)

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- **A thin marker**
- **A large poster board or butcher paper**
- **Construction paper**
- **Scissors**
- **Markers**
- **Tape**
- **"In the World Not of the World" video lesson**
- **Something to play the video**
- **Sandwich bags - 1 per child**
- **Goldfish crackers**
- **Teddy Graham crackers**
- **Pretzel sticks**
- **M&M's**
- **Masking tape "World" from the Bible Interactive Experience**
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- **A funnel**

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AT HOME LESSON

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