

Jesus Sends Out The Twelve

UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Telling others about Jesus

Scripture: Mark 6:8-9

Memory Verse: Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. - Mark 6:8

The Children's Sermon

But then Jesus gave them further instructions. "Take nothing for your journey except a walking stick – no food, no traveler's bag, and no money. You can wear sandals, but no extra clothing." No food, no money, no extra clothes – how could the disciples possibly make this journey? They found people who would welcome them and they stayed with them in their homes. These people fed them and gave them everything they needed for the journey. The Bible tells us that the disciples went out telling everyone they met to repent of their sins and turn to God. They also cast out many evil spirits and they healed many sick people. In other words, they did exactly what Jesus told them to do and he gave them the power to do it.

Jesus' Instructions for Disciples were very clear. He wanted them to trust Him completely. He was teaching them to rely not on what they had, but on what He could provide. This was a big lesson for them. Imagine being told to go on a trip without packing any snacks or clothes. That sounds pretty scary, right? But Jesus knew what He was doing. He wanted His friends to learn to trust God for everything.

Jesus' Instructions for Disciples also included telling people to change their ways and to believe in God. This was a very important job. The disciples had to talk to strangers, share God's love, and help people feel better. They had to be brave and kind. They were like messengers for Jesus, spreading joy and hope wherever they went.

Now, you might wonder, how did the disciples feel about Jesus' Instructions for Disciples? They might have been nervous or scared at first. But they also trusted Jesus. They knew He was with them, helping them along the way. And as they followed Jesus' instructions, they saw amazing things happen. Sick people got better, sad people felt happy, and many people started to believe in God's love because of the disciples' words and actions.

Jesus' Instructions for Disciples weren't just for them back then; they are for us too. Jesus wants us to share love, be kind, and help others. We might not travel with just a walking stick and no snacks, but we can still spread joy and kindness everywhere we go. We can tell our friends about Jesus, help someone who is sad, or share what we have with those who need it.

Sometimes, following Jesus' Instructions for Disciples might seem hard. We might wonder, "Can I really make a difference?" But remember, Jesus doesn't ask us to do it all alone. He is with us, giving us courage and love to share. Just like the disciples, we can trust that Jesus will help us do great things.

Let's think about how we can follow Jesus' Instructions for Disciples in our own lives. Maybe we can start by being a good friend, listening when someone needs to talk, or sharing our toys. It doesn't have to be something big; small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

And when we're not sure what to do or if we're feeling scared, we can talk to Jesus. We can pray and ask Him to help us be brave and kind. Jesus loves to hear from us, and He's always ready to help us follow His instructions.

So, let's go out and be like the disciples. Let's share love, be kind, and help others. Let's follow Jesus' Instructions for Disciples and trust that He will be with us every step of the way. And remember, even the smallest act of kindness can show someone the love of Jesus.

Father, thank you for Jesus' Instructions for Disciples. Help us to trust you like the disciples did. Show us how to share your love and kindness with everyone we meet. Thank you for being with us and for giving us the power to make a difference. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Remember, following Jesus' Instructions for Disciples is all about love, kindness, and trust. It's about believing that we can make the world a better place, one small act of kindness at a time. Let's go out and live like Jesus' disciples, spreading joy and love everywhere we go!

Bible Memory Verse

Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. - Mark 6:8

You Will Need:

- Staffs or long sticks (one per child)
- Play money

-Various bags (backpacks, purses, etc.)

Get Ready:

-Gather all materials and set them in the activity area.

-Create 'journey stations' around the room with different challenges or tasks.

Do This:

1. Explain the memory verse to the children, emphasizing trust and reliance on God during our 'journeys'.

2. Have the children form small groups and give each group a staff. Explain that they will go on a journey around the room, visiting each station, but they must leave behind the play money and bags as a symbol of relying on God and not on their possessions.

3. At each station, have a simple task or challenge that relates to the story or the concept of trust in God. After visiting all stations, gather the children and discuss what they learned about trust and how they can apply this lesson in their lives.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Small backpacks or bags

- Basic supplies (like a pair of sandals, a stick, a tunic, and a belt)

- Printable "mission cards" with simple tasks or kind acts written on them (e.g., share a kind word, help someone with a task)

- A map of your classroom or church area

- Stickers or stamps for completing tasks

Get Ready:

- Prepare the small backpacks or bags with the basic supplies to simulate what might have been carried based on Mark 6:8-9.
- Write or print out the "mission cards" with tasks that reflect sharing kindness and the message of Jesus.
- Create a simple map of the area where the activity will take place, marking specific locations where the tasks should be performed.
- Set up a "home base" where students will start and return after completing their missions.

Do this:

1. Begin by reading Mark 6:8-9 together and discuss the simplicity and focus of the disciples' mission. Emphasize reliance on God and the importance of sharing the message of Jesus.
2. Divide the students into pairs and give each pair a backpack or bag with the basic supplies, a set of "mission cards," and a map. Explain that they are to complete as many kind acts from their mission cards as possible within a set time limit.
3. Send them out on their mission. As they complete each task, they should mark it off their list and can return to "home base" for a sticker or stamp to celebrate their completed missions.
4. Once all pairs have returned, gather the students to share their experiences and reflect on how it felt to spread kindness and the message of Jesus through simple acts. Discuss how this relates to the disciples' mission in Mark 6:8-9 and how they can continue to tell others about Jesus in their daily lives.

Snack Activity: Missionary Sandals Snacks

You'll Need:

- Graham crackers

- Peanut butter (or any nut-free alternative)
- Pretzel sticks
- Fruit leather or roll-ups
- Plastic knives for spreading
- Paper plates

Get Ready: Lay out all your ingredients on a clean table. Make sure each child has a paper plate and a plastic knife.

Do this:

1. Tell the kids they'll be making edible 'sandals' to help remember how Jesus sent out His disciples with nothing but a staff and sandals, as mentioned in Mark 6:8-9. Explain that the sandals represent being ready to go anywhere to share the good news of Jesus.
2. Each child takes a graham cracker and breaks it in half to create two 'sandals.' They then spread peanut butter (or a nut-free alternative) on each cracker half.
3. Use pretzel sticks as the 'straps' of the sandals by pressing them gently into the peanut butter. Then, cut the fruit leather into thin strips to make additional straps or decorations for the sandals.
4. As they eat their snacks, encourage the kids to think about where they can 'go' to share the love of Jesus, just like the disciples did, with only their faith to guide them.

Game Activity: Journey of the Disciples

You'll Need:

- A pair of sandals for each team
- A backpack for each team

- Items to represent provisions (e.g., bread, staff) - these can be drawings or small objects

- Printouts of Mark 6:8-9

Get Ready: Create a course in your outdoor area or large indoor space with specific stations that represent different towns Jesus' disciples might visit. Place the 'provision' items and a backpack at the starting line. Divide the children into teams, and give each team a pair of sandals and a printout of Mark 6:8-9.

Do this:

1. Each team reads Mark 6:8-9 together to understand what Jesus instructed His disciples to take for their journey. Discuss the importance of relying on God and the hospitality of others.
2. One member from each team puts on the sandals and the backpack, then races to collect a 'provision' from the first station, returns to tag the next team member, who then does the same. This continues until the team has collected all provisions.
3. After collecting all items, the team gathers to share what they've collected and discuss how each item (staff, bread, etc.) could symbolize what we need to spread the word of Jesus today (e.g., 'staff' for support, 'bread' for the Word of God).
4. The game concludes with each team praying together, asking for God's guidance as they share His word, just like the disciples.

Craft Activity: Traveler's Shoes: Spreading the Good News

You'll Need:

- A pair of old sneakers or canvas shoes (one per child)

- Permanent markers or fabric paint
- Stickers with Christian symbols or verses

Get Ready: Gather all materials and cover your work area with newspapers to protect surfaces.

Do this:

1. Read Mark 6:8-9 together as a class. Discuss how Jesus sent out the disciples with minimal supplies, trusting God to provide for them. Emphasize the importance of spreading the Good News.
2. Encourage the children to think of ways they can spread the Good News in their daily lives. As they think, have them decorate their shoes with the markers, fabric paint, and stickers. They can write messages of hope, draw crosses, or even illustrate scenes or symbols that remind them of Jesus' teachings.
3. Once everyone has finished decorating their shoes, gather the group and have each child share their design and explain how it represents their commitment to telling others about Jesus. Conclude with a prayer asking for God's guidance as they 'walk' in their faith and share His love with others.

Prayer Activity: Sharing the Journey: A Prayer Walk

You'll Need:

- A map of your local area or community
- Sticky notes
- Pens or markers

Get Ready: Mark on the map various significant places in your community (like schools, churches, parks, friends' houses, etc.)

Do this:

1. Read Mark 6:8-9 together, focusing on how Jesus sent out the disciples with minimal supplies, trusting in God and the hospitality of others. Discuss how we can tell others about Jesus in our own community.
2. Have each child write a short prayer or blessing for one of the marked places on a sticky note. The prayer should be for the people who visit or work there, asking God to help them feel His love and maybe even come to know Jesus through the actions and words of believers.
3. Go on a 'prayer walk' around your community, either physically walking to those places or moving around the map if an actual walk isn't feasible. At each stop, have a child read their prayer out loud, and then 'leave' the sticky note on the map. If you're able to visit the actual locations, you can stick the notes in a prayer journal instead of leaving them there.
4. Conclude with a group prayer, asking God to work in your community and to give each of you opportunities to share His love and the message of Jesus just like the disciples.