

Lest We Forget

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Communion

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

Memory Verse: Jesus said, 'Do this in remembrance of me.' - 1 Corinthians 11:24

The Children's Sermon

Being forgetful isn't new. It's been around since just about the beginning of time. The night Jesus was betrayed, he was eating with his disciples. He knew that he would soon return to his Father in heaven. He wanted to make sure that his disciples would remember him after he was gone, so he did something that would help them to remember. As they were eating, he took a piece of bread and he broke it and said, "This is my body which is broken for you. When you eat the bread, remember me." Then he took a glass of wine and held it up and said, "This is my blood which is shed for you. When you drink it, remember me." It has been almost 2000 years since that night and we still use that same way to remember Jesus. When we take Communion in remembrance, we eat the bread and drink the cup to remind us that Jesus suffered and died on the cross so that we might have life. As we eat the bread and drink from the cup today, we remember him.

Now, let's talk a bit more about why remembering Jesus is so important. Imagine you have a best friend who moved far away. You might keep a photo of them to help you remember all the fun times you had together. Jesus gave us Communion in remembrance as a way to keep Him in our hearts and minds, even though He's not physically here with us.

Communion in remembrance is like a special time machine. It takes us back to the time when Jesus was with His disciples, sharing His last meal before He went to the cross for us. It's a moment for us to say "thank you" to Jesus for being our best friend, for loving us so much that He was willing to give up His life for us.

When we take Communion in remembrance, it's more than just eating bread and drinking juice or wine. It's a time to think about how much Jesus loves us. It's a time to say sorry for the times we've made mistakes and to ask Jesus to help us do better. It's also a time to feel happy and thankful because Jesus is our friend and He's always with us, even when we can't see Him.

You might wonder, how do we get ready for Communion in remembrance? Well, it's like getting ready for a very important visitor. We want our hearts to be clean and our minds to be thinking about Jesus. We can talk to Jesus, telling Him about our week, our troubles, and our joys. We can thank Him for being our friend and ask Him to help us remember Him not just during Communion, but every day.

Communion in remembrance is also a time for us to feel close to other people who love Jesus. When we see others taking Communion, it reminds us that we are all part of a big family. We are brothers and sisters because of what Jesus did for us. It's like having a huge family dinner where everyone is welcome.

Dear Jesus, we remember you today. We remember that your body was broken and your blood was shed so that we might have life everlasting. Thank you.

Let's think about how special that is. Every time we take Communion in remembrance, it's like we're giving Jesus a big thank you hug. We're telling Him that we haven't forgotten the amazing gift He gave us. It's a gift that lasts forever, and it's for everyone, no matter who they are, where they're from, or what they've done. Jesus loves us all the same.

So, next time you take Communion in remembrance, remember it's not just about the bread and the cup. It's about Jesus' love for us. It's about saying thank you to Him and remembering that He's always with us, guiding us, and loving us, every single day.

And remember, even when we forget things, Jesus never forgets us. He always remembers us and loves us. Taking Communion in remembrance is our way of showing that we remember and love Him too.

Bible Memory Verse

Jesus said, 'Do this in remembrance of me.' - 1 Corinthians 11:24

You Will Need:

- Crayons or markers
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Stickers or glitter (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into large enough pieces that can be folded into card shapes.

-Write the memory verse on a sample card to show the children what they will be creating.

Do This:

1. Give each child a piece of construction paper and ask them to fold it in half to make a card.
2. Have the children write the memory verse, 'Jesus said, 'Do this in remembrance of me.' - 1 Corinthians 11:24' inside the card. Younger children may need help writing.
3. Encourage the children to decorate the front of their card with crayons, markers, stickers, or glitter, making it a 'Communion Remembrance Card.' They can draw symbols like bread and wine (or grape juice), a cross, or anything that helps them think of Jesus.
4. Once everyone is done, gather the children and ask them to share their cards and what the verse means to them. This helps reinforce the memory verse and the concept of communion.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Small plastic cups
- Grape juice
- Crackers (to represent bread)
- A children's Bible or storybook with pictures of The Last Supper
- Paper and crayons

Get Ready:

- Pour a little grape juice into each plastic cup.
- Break the crackers into small pieces, enough for each child.

- Open the children's Bible or storybook to the page showing The Last Supper.

Do this:

1. **Story Time**: Gather the children and show them the picture of The Last Supper. Read or summarize 1 Corinthians 11:23-25, explaining that Jesus shared bread and juice with His friends to help them remember Him and His love for us.
2. **Communion Simulation**: Hand out the small pieces of crackers, explaining this represents the bread Jesus shared. Then, give each child a cup of grape juice, explaining this represents the cup Jesus shared. Emphasize the importance of remembering Jesus' sacrifice and love for us when we eat the bread and drink the cup.
3. **Creative Reflection**: Ask the children to draw a picture of what they think The Last Supper looked like or how they feel about remembering Jesus in this special way. Encourage them to share their drawings and thoughts with the group.

Game Activity: Communion Quest

You'll Need:

- Large paper plates (at least 20)
- Markers
- Small plastic cups filled with grape juice
- Pieces of bread
- A large open space

Get Ready: Before the game, write different parts of 1 Corinthians 11:23-25 on the bottom of the paper plates. Hide the plates around your play area along with the cups and bread pieces. Make sure to scatter them so that they're not all in one place.

Do this:

1. Divide the children into teams of three or four. Explain that they are going on a quest to find the elements of Communion (the bread and the cup) and to discover the meaning of Communion as described in 1 Corinthians 11:23-25.
2. On 'Go', teams race to find the hidden plates, cups, and bread. Each team must find at least one plate with Scripture, one cup, and one piece of bread to complete their quest.
3. Once a team has collected their items, they come back to the starting point to 'share' their Communion. This means they read the Scripture aloud together, and then, as a symbol, they can pretend to eat the bread and drink from the cup (or actually do so if appropriate and allowed).

The goal is to help the children understand that Communion is about remembering Jesus and what He did for us, just like the Scripture says. It's a fun way to learn a serious truth!

Craft Activity: Communion Cup and Bread Plate Craft

You'll Need:

- Paper plates (small size)
- Plastic cups (clear)
- Markers or crayons
- Glue
- Cotton balls or white tissue paper
- Purple construction paper

Get Ready: Cut the purple construction paper into small squares to represent grape juice. Tear the cotton balls or white tissue paper into pieces to represent pieces of bread.

Do this:

1. Color the rim of the paper plate with markers or crayons to decorate it as a special plate for the bread of Communion.
2. Glue the pieces of cotton balls or white tissue paper onto the center of the plate to represent the bread.
3. Take the clear plastic cup and decorate it with markers or crayons, making it look special for Communion. Then, glue the purple construction paper squares inside the cup to represent the grape juice.
4. Talk about 1 Corinthians 11:23-25, explaining how Jesus shared bread and wine with His disciples during the Last Supper, reminding them to remember Him whenever they eat the bread and drink the cup.

Prayer Activity: The Last Supper Prayer Craft

You'll Need:

- Paper plates
- Grape juice
- Small pieces of bread
- Crayons or markers
- Glue

Get Ready: Before the class, read 1 Corinthians 11:23-25 to familiarize yourself with the Scripture about Jesus' Last Supper. Prepare a small table to represent the table at the Last Supper with a paper plate, a cup of grape juice, and pieces of bread for each child.

Do this:

1. Start by explaining to the children that during the Last Supper, Jesus shared bread and wine with His disciples, telling them to do this in remembrance of Him. This is why we have Communion, to remember Jesus' love and sacrifice.
2. Give each child a paper plate. Ask them to draw what they think the Last Supper looked like on their plate using crayons or markers. Encourage creativity!
3. Once the drawings are complete, place a small piece of bread and a cup of grape juice on each child's plate. Lead a simple prayer, thanking Jesus for His sacrifice and asking for help to remember Him in our daily lives. Invite the children to eat the bread and drink the juice as a way to remember Jesus, just like the disciples did.