

Without Him

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: Depending on God

Scripture: John 15:5

Memory Verse: I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. - John 15:5

The Children's Sermon

Dear God, help us remember that without you, we can do nothing, but if we put our faith and trust in you, all things are possible.

Now, let's talk about how we need God in our lives, just like we need certain things to make other things work. Imagine you have a kite. You want to fly it high in the sky. But without wind, your kite won't fly. It's just like that with us too. We need God's help, like the kite needs the wind, to lift us up and help us do great things. This is what we call Christian empowerment. It means God gives us the power to do things we can't do on our own.

Think about a little seed. It's so small, right? But when you plant it in the soil, give it water, and the sun shines on it, it starts to grow. It can even turn into a big tree! The seed can't grow without soil, water, and sun. We are like that seed. We need God's love, His teachings, and our faith in Him to grow strong and do amazing things. That's Christian empowerment too. God's love and our faith in Him help us grow and do things we never thought possible.

Sometimes, we might feel small or scared, like when you're standing at the edge of a high diving board, looking down into the pool. You think, "I can't jump. It's too high!" But then, you remember your mom or dad is in the pool, waiting to catch you. You trust them, so you jump, and you're okay! That's a bit like trusting in God. When we're scared or not sure, we can remember that God is always with us, ready to catch us. This trust in God gives us the power to jump into new things, to try, even when we're scared. That's Christian empowerment - trusting God to help us and catch us when we jump.

Now, let's imagine you have a big, heavy box you need to move. You push and push, but it won't budge. Then, along comes a friend, and together, you move the box easily. God is like that friend who comes to help us. When we have God on our side, things that seemed too hard before become possible. We can share our worries with God, pray for strength, and suddenly, we're not alone with our big, heavy box anymore. God is helping us move it. That's Christian empowerment - knowing that with God's help, we can tackle big challenges.

Remember the story of David and Goliath? David was just a young boy, not a big, strong soldier. But he had something more powerful than strength. He had faith in God. He knew that with God on his side, he could do anything, even defeat a giant! And he did. That's a perfect example of Christian empowerment. David's trust in God gave him the courage and power to do something amazing.

So, what can we learn from all these examples? We learn that with God, we're never alone, and we're never without help. Just like you need wind to fly a kite, or water and sun to grow a seed, we need God to help us do big things. And just like trusting someone to catch you when you jump or having a friend help you move a heavy box, God's support and love make the impossible possible.

Dear God, thank you for being our strength and our helper. Help us to remember that with you, we can do anything. Help us to trust in you, to grow in your love, and to know that with your empowerment, we are never alone. Amen.

So, kids, next time you feel like you can't do something, remember the kite, the seed, the diving board, and the heavy box. Remember David and Goliath. And most importantly, remember that with God's help, you can do anything. That's the power of Christian empowerment.

Bible Memory Verse

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

- John 15:5

You Will Need:

- Construction paper (green and brown)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers or glitter (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the brown construction paper into trunk shapes and the green paper into leaf shapes ahead of time.
- Set up a table with all the materials spread out for easy access.

Do This:

1. Start by explaining the memory verse to the children in simple terms, such as 'Jesus is like a plant, and we are like the branches. If we stay close to Jesus, we will grow big and strong.'
2. Give each child a brown paper trunk and several green paper leaves. Have them glue the leaves onto the trunk to create their own 'vine and branches.' Encourage them to decorate their tree with markers, stickers, or glitter.
3. As they work on their craft, remind them that just like the branches need to stay attached to the tree to grow, we need to stay close to Jesus to grow in our faith. Finish by reciting the memory verse together.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Green construction paper
- Scissors
- Tape or glue
- Marker
- Pictures of fruits (either drawn, printed, or from magazines)

Get Ready:

- Cut out a large vine shape from the green construction paper.
- Prepare small fruit shapes from the pictures of fruits or draw and cut them out from paper.
- Write "John 15:5" on the vine with the marker.

Do this:

1. Show the children the vine and explain that it represents Jesus. Tell them the vine needs branches and fruits to grow, just like we need Jesus to grow in our faith and do good things.
2. Give each child a fruit shape and let them come up one by one to tape or glue their fruit onto the vine. As they do, encourage them to say one thing they can do with God's help (e.g., "I can be kind," "I can share").
3. Once all the fruits are on the vine, remind the children that just like the fruits depend on the vine to grow, we depend on God to help us do good things. Read or paraphrase John 15:5, emphasizing how we can do nothing without Jesus.

Snack Activity: Vine and Branches Fruit Snack

You'll Need:

- Green grapes
- Pretzel sticks
- A plate

Get Ready: Wash the grapes and dry them.

Do this:

1. Arrange the grapes in a cluster at the center of the plate to represent the vine.

Explain that Jesus is the vine.

2. Insert pretzel sticks into the grapes to represent branches. Share that we are like the branches.

3. As the children eat the snack, discuss how branches depend on the vine to grow, just like we depend on God. Reference John 15:5 to reinforce the lesson.

Game Activity: Vine and Branches Tag

You'll Need:

- A large open space (indoors or outdoors)
- Green construction paper
- Tape or safety pins

Get Ready: Cut out leaf shapes from the green construction paper. Each leaf represents a branch connected to the vine, symbolizing our connection to God as mentioned in John 15:5.

Do this:

1. Choose one child to be 'It' or the 'Gardener'. The Gardener holds a bunch of the green leaves.
2. The rest of the children are 'Branches', and they each get a green leaf pinned to their back or held in their hand, symbolizing their connection to the vine (God).
3. When the Gardener says 'Grow!', all the Branches start moving around the play area.
4. The Gardener tries to tag the Branches. When a Branch is tagged, they give their leaf to the Gardener and sit down, showing they've been disconnected from the vine.
5. The game continues until all Branches have been tagged. Then, discuss how important it is to stay connected to God, our vine, for growth and support.

Prayer Activity: Little Branches Talking to God

You'll Need:

- A small plant or branch with leaves
- Paper
- Crayons or markers

Get Ready: Place the plant or branch at the center of your activity area where all the children can see it.

Do this:

1. Gather the children around the plant and explain that just like the plant needs soil, water, and sunlight to grow, we need God to help us grow strong and healthy in our hearts and lives.
2. Read a simplified version of John 15:5, 'Jesus says, if we stay close to Him, like a branch is close to a tree, we will be full of life and happiness. But without Him, we can do nothing.'
3. Hand out paper and crayons or markers. Ask the children to draw themselves as little branches connected to Jesus, the big tree. While they draw, encourage them to think of things they want to ask God's help for.
4. After they finish their drawings, lead them in a simple prayer, 'Dear God, please help us to always stay close to You, like branches on a tree, so we can grow big and strong. Amen.'
5. Encourage the children to take their drawings home and place them somewhere they can see every day as a reminder to depend on God.