

Making Pearls

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: God's Love

Scripture: Romans 5:3-5

Memory Verse: God's love has been poured into our hearts. - Romans 5:5

The Children's Sermon

Sometimes, things happen in our lives that make us feel really sad or hurt. It's like when you fall and scrape your knee—it hurts a lot at first, right? But then, something amazing can happen if we let it. God can bring something good out of our pain. He has a special kind of love that can help make the hurt feel a bit better. It's like when you get a hug from someone you love when you're feeling down. That hug doesn't make the scrape go away, but it makes you feel better, doesn't it?

This idea of finding something good in the bad is what we call "Rejoicing in Suffering." It might sound strange to think about being happy when something hurts, but it's not about being happy that it hurts. It's about being able to see the good that can come out of it, with God's help.

For example, if you've ever had to miss a fun day because you were sick, that's suffering, right? But maybe during that time, you got to spend special time with someone who took care of you, read a great book, or learned a new game. That's finding something good in a tough situation. That's "Rejoicing in Suffering."

God's love is super powerful. It can take the most painful things in our lives and turn them into something beautiful. It's like when you plant a seed in the ground. The seed has to be buried and go through the dark, cold soil before it can grow into a beautiful flower. Our hurts and pains can be like those seeds. With God's love, they can grow into something beautiful in our lives.

When we talk to God about our hurts, He listens. He wants to help us see the good that can come out of tough times. This doesn't mean the hurt goes away right away, but it means we're not alone in it. And sometimes, God helps us see how we can help others because of what we've gone through. Maybe you learn to be a really good listener because you know what it's like to feel sad. Or maybe you learn to be really kind because you know what it's like to feel left out.

"Rejoicing in Suffering" also means we remember that God is with us, even when things are hard. It's like having a best friend who is always there, no matter what. This friend doesn't run away when things get tough but stays and helps you find the light in the darkness.

Sometimes, we might wonder why bad things happen if God loves us. That's a really big question, and even adults struggle with it. But one thing we know is that God's love is bigger than any hurt or pain we can face. And sometimes, the hard things help us grow stronger, kinder, and more loving people. It's like how a muscle gets stronger after you exercise it, even though it's a bit sore at first.

So, what can we do when we're feeling hurt or sad? We can talk to God about it. We can ask Him to show us the good that can come out of our pain. We can look for ways to help others because we understand what it's like to hurt. And we can remember that

God's love is always with us, helping us grow into beautiful flowers from the seeds of our suffering.

Dear Lord, thank you for always being with us, especially when we're hurting. Help us to see the good that can come out of tough times and to remember that Your love can turn our pain into something beautiful. Help us to be lights in the dark for others, showing them Your love. Amen.

Remember, "Rejoicing in Suffering" doesn't mean we have to be happy about the bad things. It means we trust that God is with us, and with His love, we can find hope and joy even in the tough times. It's like looking for the rainbow after a storm. The rain might have been cold and the thunder scary, but the rainbow reminds us of the beauty that can come after the rain. And just like the rainbow, the love and good things that grow out of our suffering can be a beautiful reminder of God's love for us.

Bible Memory Verse

God's love has been poured into our hearts. - Romans 5:5

You Will Need:

- Red, yellow, and blue washable paint
- White paper
- Paper plates

Get Ready:

- Pour each color of paint onto separate paper plates.
- Cut the white paper into heart shapes, one for each child.

Do This:

1. Talk about how God pours His love into our hearts, just like Romans 5:5 says. Explain that we're going to make a craft to help us remember this verse.
2. Have each child dip their hand in one color of paint and press it onto the heart-shaped paper to make a handprint. They can use different colors for each hand or mix colors to see how they blend together.
3. As the handprints dry, encourage the children to recite the memory verse with you. Remind them that each time they see their handprint heart, they can remember how much God loves them.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Heart-shaped sponges or paper cutouts
- Water in a small basin
- Towels for drying hands

Get Ready:

- Cut out heart shapes from sponges or paper. If using paper, choose a type that can handle getting a little wet without tearing easily.

Do this:

1. Talk about how sometimes we have hard days, but God's love is always with us, helping us feel better. Explain that the heart shapes represent God's love.
2. Let each child dip a heart-shaped sponge or paper cutout into the water in the basin. As they do, encourage them to think of a time they felt sad or upset.

3. After they dip the heart into the water, hand them a towel to dry their hands and the heart (if using sponges). Explain that just like the towel makes their hands and the heart dry and warm, God's love makes our hearts feel better when we are sad.

Snack Activity: Hearts of Hope Cookies

You'll Need:

- Heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Pre-made sugar cookie dough (or homemade if preferred)
- Pink or red icing
- Sprinkles (optional)

Get Ready: Preheat the oven according to the cookie dough package instructions. Roll out your cookie dough on a flat, floured surface to about 1/4 inch thickness.

Do this:

1. Help the children use the heart-shaped cookie cutter to cut out cookie shapes from the dough. Explain that the heart shape helps us remember God's love for us, just like in Romans 5:3-5, where it says God's love is poured into our hearts.
2. Bake the cookies according to the package instructions. Allow them to cool after baking. This waiting period can teach patience and anticipation for the good things God gives us.
3. Once the cookies are cool, assist the children in spreading pink or red icing on each cookie. While they decorate, talk about how God's love covers us completely and makes us sweet and beautiful to Him. They can add sprinkles to represent the joys and blessings that God sprinkles into our lives because of His love.

Game Activity: Heart Hopscotch: Journey of Love

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- Open space (driveway or sidewalk)
- Small stones or beanbags

Get Ready: Draw a hopscotch grid on the ground but instead of numbers, fill each box with words or symbols of love (e.g., heart, cross, smiley face, etc.). Make sure to draw a big heart at the starting point to symbolize God's love as the beginning of everything.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that each symbol represents a way God shows His love to us, like through our families, friends, and the beautiful world. The heart at the beginning is God's love, which is always with us.
2. Have each child toss a stone or beanbag onto the grid to choose their starting point. Before they start hopping, ask them to say one thing they love or something they are thankful for.
3. Children hop through the grid, touching each symbol of love with their feet. If they step outside the lines, they go back to the start, reminding them that sometimes we stumble, but God's love is always there to welcome us back.

Craft Activity: God's Love Heart Chain

You'll Need:

- Red, pink, and white construction paper
- Safety scissors
- Glue stick

Get Ready: Cut the construction paper into 1-inch wide strips. Make sure to have enough strips for each child to have at least 5 of each color.

Do this:

1. Help the children write 'God Loves Me' and their name on several strips of paper using a bold marker.
2. Show the children how to form a heart shape with a strip of paper by bringing both ends together and securing them with glue to make the bottom point of the heart. Make sure the writing is on the outside.
3. Once the first heart is made, guide them to take another strip of paper, thread it through the first heart, and then glue the ends together to form another heart. Continue this process to create a chain of hearts.
4. Encourage the children to mix the colors as they add more hearts to their chain, reminding them that God's love is for everyone, no matter who they are.
5. Hang the completed heart chains around the classroom to remind the children of God's endless love.

Prayer Activity: God's Love in Our Hearts

You'll Need:

- Red and pink construction paper
- Safety scissors
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready: Cut out heart shapes from the red and pink construction paper. Make sure there's one heart for each child.

Do this:

1. Gather the children in a circle and explain that we're going to learn about God's love, which is so strong and always with us, just like Romans 5:3-5 tells us.
2. Give each child a heart and ask them to think about someone they love. Then, have them draw or write the name of the person on the heart.
3. Lead the children in a simple prayer, asking them to hold their hearts in their hands. Pray, 'Dear God, thank you for your love that fills our hearts, just like our hearts are filled with love for our families and friends. Help us to share your love every day. Amen.'