

Making Pearls

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: God's Love

Scripture: Romans 5:3-5

Memory Verse: And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. - 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

And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. - Romans 5:5

You Will Need:

- Colored paper
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Glue
- Heart templates

Get Ready:

- Cut out heart shapes from the colored paper using the templates.
- Set up a table with markers, crayons, scissors, glue, and the pre-cut heart shapes.

Do This:

1. Ask each child to choose a heart shape and write the memory verse on one side using markers or crayons.
2. On the other side of the heart, encourage them to draw or write something they love or something that makes them feel loved.
3. Once everyone is done, have them share their hearts with the group, explaining their drawing or writing. Then, discuss how God's love is even greater than the things we love or that make us feel loved, and how the Holy Spirit helps us feel God's love every day.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large heart-shaped cutout from cardboard
- Several smaller heart-shaped papers
- Markers or crayons
- Tape or glue
- A Bible

Get Ready:

1. Write "God's Love" on the large heart-shaped cutout.
2. On the smaller heart-shaped papers, write different challenges kids might face (e.g., "being patient," "when we are sad," "hard homework").
3. Place the large heart on a wall or table where all kids can reach.

Do this:

1. Read Romans 5:3-5 together, explaining that God's love helps us through tough times and makes us hopeful.
2. Ask each child to pick a small heart, read the challenge on it, and share a time they felt that challenge.
3. After sharing, they will tape or glue their small heart onto the large "God's Love" heart, showing that God's love covers and helps us in all challenges.
4. End with a group prayer, thanking God for His love and asking for help to remember His love when they face challenges.

Snack Activity: Love and Perseverance Fruit Boats

You'll Need:

- Bananas
- A variety of sliced fruits (like strawberries, grapes, and blueberries)
- Toothpicks
- Small paper sails (or paper to make them)

Get Ready: Write Romans 5:3-5 on the sails before the activity or have the kids write it if they're able. This verse talks about how suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Do this:

1. Cut the bananas in half lengthwise to make the 'boats.' Place them on plates.

2. Let the kids pick their fruits and explain how each type of fruit can represent a different aspect of God's love and our journey with Him. For example, strawberries can be love, grapes can be joy, and blueberries can be hope.
3. Have the kids decorate their banana boats with the sliced fruits to make them colorful and full of 'love.' Insert a toothpick into each banana boat and attach the sail with the verse on it.
4. As they eat their fruit boats, remind them that just like these boats are filled with different fruits, our lives are filled with different experiences. God's love helps us persevere through hard times (like the banana holding everything together), and it brings us joy and hope.

Game Activity: Hope Path

You'll Need:

- A large roll of paper (like butcher paper) or sidewalk chalk
- Markers or sidewalk chalk in various colors
- Small stones or beanbags

Get Ready: Use the paper or sidewalk chalk to create a large path that zigzags across your play area. Along the path, draw several 'stations' (simple squares or circles) and write inside them: 'Suffering', 'Perseverance', 'Character', and 'Hope'. Make sure there's a start and an end to your path.

Do this:

1. Gather the children at the start of the 'Hope Path'. Explain that just like in life, we go through different stages. We start with 'Suffering', but as we trust in God, it leads us to 'Perseverance', then to 'Character', and finally to 'Hope' in God's Love, just like Romans 5:3-5 tells us.

2. Each child takes a turn tossing a stone or beanbag onto the path. Wherever it lands, they hop to that spot. If it lands outside the path, they share a time they felt God's love or hope and then hop to the nearest 'station'.

3. When everyone reaches the 'Hope' station, gather the children and discuss how God's love helps us through tough times, turning our struggles into hope. End with a short prayer thanking God for His love and the hope He gives us.

Craft Activity: God's Love Heart Chain

You'll Need:

- Red, pink, and white construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue or stapler
- Marker

Get Ready: Cut the construction paper into strips about 1 inch wide and 6 inches long.

Do this:

1. On each strip of paper, help the children write things that remind them of God's love or phrases from Romans 5:3-5. For younger children, you can write it for them or have pre-written strips.

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 or a staple. This is the first link in their chain.

3. Next, take another strip of paper, and before forming the heart, loop it through the first heart and then secure the ends to form another heart. This creates a chain.

4. Continue adding hearts to the chain, encouraging the children to think of different aspects of God's love or to remember the scripture as they add each link.

5. Once the children have a chain of hearts, they can hang their God's Love Heart Chain in their room as a reminder of God's enduring love and the hope and perseverance talked about in Romans 5:3-5.