

A Clean Slate

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: Jesus erases our mistakes and gives us a clean start.

Scripture: Jeremiah 2:22

Memory Verse: Even though you wash yourself with soap and use a lot of cleansing powder, the stain of your guilt is still before me, declares the Sovereign Lord. -
Jeremiah 2:22

The Children's Sermon

We are about to begin a new year. It is time to erase the mistakes of the past year and begin again with a clean slate. Some of the mistakes we have made are more than simply making a wrong decision. There are some things that we have done that God has told us in the Bible not to do. We call that sin. Some of those sins we have done time and time again and they have left a stain upon our lives which we cannot erase. In the Bible, God said, "Even though you wash yourself with a lot of soap, the stain of your guilt is still there." We must have God's forgiveness to take away those stains – and we can have God's forgiveness because of Jesus. Jesus is like this special whiteboard cleaner. If we turn to Jesus and ask him to forgive us of our sins, he will wash away our sin and we will be as white as snow. Then we can truly start the new year with a clean slate!

Imagine you have a big, beautiful whiteboard in your room. You draw pictures, write words, and sometimes, you even make mistakes on it. When it gets really messy, you wish you could just wipe it all away and start fresh. That's what the new year feels like. It's like getting a brand new whiteboard to draw on.

But what about those tough stains on our hearts from the times we didn't listen, or we hurt someone's feelings, or we didn't do what was right? Those are like the stains that soap can't wash away. That's where our sermon comes in. It teaches us that no matter how big our mistakes, God's love and forgiveness through Jesus can make our hearts clean again.

You see, every time we say sorry to God and ask Him to forgive us, it's like He takes a magic eraser and wipes our hearts clean. This doesn't mean we won't make more mistakes, but it means we get a chance to try again, with a clean slate.

Now, you might wonder, "How do I ask for this forgiveness?" It's simple. You just talk to God. Tell Him what you're sorry for, ask Him to help you do better, and thank Him for loving you so much that He sent Jesus to make a clean slate possible.

Remember, this isn't just for the new year. It's for every day. Every morning when you wake up, God gives you a new day, like a mini new year. So, every day, you have the chance to start with a clean slate.

Let's imagine our lives as a storybook. Each day, we write a new page. Sometimes, we scribble, we make errors, and our pages get messy. But the sermon reminds us that God's forgiveness through Jesus is like getting to turn to a fresh, blank page where we can start writing a better story.

And the best part? God doesn't keep a record of the messy pages. He doesn't flip back and remind us of our mistakes. Once He forgives us, those pages are gone, like they

were never there. That's how powerful God's forgiveness is. It truly gives us a clean slate.

So, as we step into this new year, let's remember the sermon. Let's remember that no mistake is too big for God's forgiveness. Let's be brave and ask for that forgiveness, and let's help others know they can have a clean slate too.

God's forgiveness is better than any toy or game because it brings real happiness to our hearts. And when our hearts are happy and clean, we can spread that happiness to others. We can be kinder, more patient, and more loving. That's how we make the world a better place, one clean slate at a time.

Dear Lord, thank you for giving us a clean slate every day. Help us to remember to ask for your forgiveness and to forgive others too. Help us to live each new day with a clean heart, ready to love and serve you better. Amen.

So, kids, let's get excited about this new year and every new day. Let's remember the Clean Slate Sermon and know that with Jesus, we can always start fresh. Let's fill our whiteboards with love, kindness, and good choices, knowing that when we make mistakes, God is always ready to give us a clean slate.

Bible Memory Verse

Even though you wash yourself with soap and use a lot of cleansing powder, the stain of your guilt is still before me, declares the Sovereign Lord. - Jeremiah 2:22

You Will Need:

- Washable markers
- White paper
- Baby wipes or damp cloth

Get Ready:

- Gather all materials on a table where children can easily reach them.
- Write the memory verse on a large piece of paper and display it where all the children can see it.

Do This:

1. Give each child a piece of white paper and ask them to draw or write with the washable markers things they think are mistakes or things they wish they could erase (for younger children, they can just make marks on the paper).
2. Talk to the children about how sometimes we make mistakes, but Jesus can erase them and give us a clean start, just like we will clean the paper.
3. Use the baby wipes or damp cloth to wipe the children's papers clean, showing them how Jesus cleans our hearts and gives us a fresh start. Encourage them to see how the paper looks clean again, symbolizing how Jesus erases our mistakes.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- White paper
- Washable markers
- Baby wipes

Get Ready:

- Cut the white paper into large, easy-to-hold pieces for little hands.

Do this:

1. Tell the children that sometimes we make mistakes, but Jesus loves us and gives us a chance to start fresh.
2. Give each child a piece of white paper and washable markers. Ask them to draw or scribble on the paper to represent making mistakes.
3. After they have finished drawing, give them a baby wipe to clean their paper. As they wipe away the marker, explain that just like the paper looks clean and new again, Jesus erases our mistakes and gives us a clean start.

Snack Activity: Clean Slate Cookies

You'll Need:

- Plain sugar cookies (store-bought or homemade)
- White icing
- Edible markers

Get Ready: Prepare a clean, flat surface for decorating the cookies. Make sure each child has a small plate and a napkin.

Do this:

1. Talk to the children about how sometimes we make mistakes, but Jesus loves us and forgives us, giving us a clean start, just like in Jeremiah 2:22. Explain that the cookies represent our hearts, and sometimes we make them 'dirty' with mistakes.
2. Give each child a cookie and let them use the edible markers to draw or write symbols of mistakes or things they wish to erase.
3. After they've finished, help them cover their cookie entirely with white icing, erasing the drawings. Explain that this is like Jesus covering our mistakes and giving us a

clean heart. Share the cookies and enjoy the sweet reminder of Jesus's forgiveness and love.

Game Activity: Clean Slate Hopscotch

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- A small stone or beanbag
- A damp cloth

Get Ready: Use the sidewalk chalk to draw a hopscotch grid on the pavement. Inside each square, write a simple 'mistake' kids might make, like 'not sharing' or 'being unkind'. At the start, draw a heart to represent Jesus's love.

Do this:

1. Each child takes a turn tossing the stone or beanbag onto the hopscotch grid, aiming for any square.
2. The child hops through the grid, skipping the square their stone landed on. When they reach the end, they turn around, pick up the stone, and hop back.
3. When they return to the start, they use the damp cloth to erase the 'mistake' written in the square where their stone had landed, symbolizing how Jesus erases our mistakes and gives us a clean start. They say, 'Thank you, Jesus, for a clean start.'
4. The game continues until all the 'mistakes' are erased.

Craft Activity: Clean Heart Craft

You'll Need:

- White paper plates (1 per child)

- Washable markers
- Baby wipes

Get Ready: Write 'Jesus gives us a clean start' on the top of each paper plate with a permanent marker before the class.

Do this:

1. Tell the children that sometimes we make mistakes, but Jesus loves us and can erase our mistakes. Explain how Jeremiah 2:22 tells us that even if we try to clean our sins, only God can truly make us clean.
2. Ask the children to draw or scribble 'mistakes' (anything they want) on the paper plate using washable markers.
3. After they have made their 'mistakes,' give them each a baby wipe. Let them wipe their plates clean, showing how Jesus erases our mistakes and gives us a clean start. Emphasize that just like the plate becomes clean, Jesus makes our hearts clean when we ask for forgiveness.

Prayer Activity: Clean Hearts with Jesus

You'll Need:

- Washable markers
- White paper
- Baby wipes

Get Ready: Before the activity, write Jeremiah 2:22 on a large piece of paper and display it where all the children can see. Prepare enough white paper and markers for each child, and have baby wipes handy.

Do this:

1. Give each child a piece of white paper and ask them to draw or scribble something on it using the washable markers. Explain that the marks on the paper are like the mistakes we make.
2. After everyone has made some marks on their paper, talk about how sometimes we feel sad or sorry for the things we do wrong, just like the marks on our paper. Then, read Jeremiah 2:22 together, emphasizing that no matter what we do, Jesus can make us clean again.
3. Use the baby wipes to clean the marks off the paper, showing them how Jesus erases our mistakes and gives us a clean start. End with a simple prayer, thanking Jesus for His forgiveness and clean hearts.