

# A Clean Slate

## LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

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

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 2:22

**Memory Verse:** Even if you wash 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 if you wash 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

-Soap and water in a small basin

-A towel

Get Ready:

-Gather all materials on a table where children can easily reach them.

-Draw a big heart on each piece of white paper using the washable markers.

Do This:

1. Tell the children to color over the heart with the markers, explaining that the marks represent mistakes or things we do wrong.

2. After they have colored the hearts, explain how sometimes we try to fix our mistakes on our own, but like the verse says, it's not enough. Then, let them try to clean their paper hearts using just the dry towel.

3. Finally, show them how washing with soap and water (demonstrate by gently washing one of the paper hearts) can make the paper look clean again, symbolizing how Jesus cleans our hearts and forgives our mistakes, giving us a clean start.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Washable markers

- A large whiteboard or poster board

- Wet wipes or a cloth

- A Bible

Get Ready:

- Write Jeremiah 2:22 at the top of the whiteboard or poster board.

- Arrange the seating so every child can see the board clearly.

Do this:

1. Ask each child to come up and draw a picture or write a word on the board with the markers to represent a mistake or something they wish they could erase or do over.
2. Once everyone has had a turn, read Jeremiah 2:22 together, emphasizing that just as we can't clean our hearts by ourselves, we need Jesus to give us a clean start.
3. Use the wet wipes or cloth to erase everything on the board, showing how Jesus erases our mistakes and gives us a clean start. Explain that just like the board is clean again, Jesus makes our hearts clean when we ask for forgiveness.

## Snack Activity: Clean Slate Cookies

You'll Need:

- Sugar cookies (pre-baked, one for each child)
- White icing
- Edible markers or food coloring pens
- Paper plates
- Napkins

Get Ready: Before the class, bake or buy enough sugar cookies for each child to have one. Set up a decorating station with white icing and edible markers.

Do this:

1. Give each child a sugar cookie on a paper plate and a napkin. Explain that the cookie represents their heart, and sometimes we make mistakes that are like scribbles on our hearts.

2. Ask the children to use the edible markers to draw or write something on their cookie that represents a mistake or something they wish they could erase.
3. After everyone has made their marks, give them white icing to spread over their cookie. Explain that just like the icing covers their drawings, Jesus covers our mistakes and gives us a clean start, just like Jeremiah 2:22 tells us. Let them enjoy their 'clean slate cookies' as a reminder of Jesus's forgiveness.

## Game Activity: Clean Slate Scramble

You'll Need:

- Chalk
- A large, open concrete area (like a driveway or a school playground)
- Wet wipes or a damp cloth

Get Ready: Use the chalk to draw a large grid on the concrete area, with each square large enough for a child to stand in. Inside various squares, draw symbols representing 'mistakes' (like a frown, a cross, or a scribble).

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that each symbol represents mistakes we make. Just like in Jeremiah 2:22, where it talks about trying to wash away our wrongs, we're going to see how Jesus gives us a clean start.
2. Have the children start at one end of the grid. They will hop from square to square, trying to avoid the 'mistake' squares. If they step on a mistake, they go back to the start, but they can wipe away one 'mistake' symbol with a wet wipe—showing how Jesus erases our mistakes and gives us a clean start.
3. The first child to reach the other side without stepping on a mistake (or after erasing a mistake they've stepped on) wins. After the game, gather the children and discuss

how Jesus cleans our hearts and gives us a fresh start, just like they cleaned the squares.

## Craft Activity: Clean Slate Boats

You'll Need:

- White paper (preferably thick like cardstock)
- Washable markers
- A spray bottle filled with water
- Paper towels
- Scissors

Get Ready: Cut the white paper into the shape of a boat. This represents our life. The boat shape can be simple, like a half-circle with a point on one end.

Do this:

1. Tell the children that sometimes we make mistakes, but Jesus gives us a clean start, just like in Jeremiah 2:22. Ask them to think of mistakes or things they wish they could do over. Using the washable markers, have them draw or write those mistakes on their boat.
2. Explain that just like the verse says, no matter how hard we try on our own, we can't erase our mistakes. But Jesus can. Spray the boats with a little water and watch as the marker starts to run, symbolizing Jesus washing our mistakes away. Use a paper towel to gently dab the water and marker off, showing how Jesus gives us a clean start.
3. Once the boats are dry, encourage the children to fold them into a simple boat shape (you may need to help with this part). Let them float their boats in a small basin of water, reminding them that with Jesus, we can sail forward without the weight of our mistakes holding us back.

# Prayer Activity: Clean Slate Prayers

You'll Need:

- Washable markers
- Whiteboard or paper
- Wet wipes

Get Ready: Write Jeremiah 2:22 on the whiteboard or a piece of paper and place it where all the kids can see it.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that just like we sometimes get dirty and need to be washed, our hearts can get 'dirty' with mistakes or wrong choices. But Jesus is like a special soap that cleans our hearts and gives us a clean start.
2. Ask each child to think of a mistake or something wrong they want to say sorry for, and write it on the whiteboard or paper with the washable markers. Remind them that it's okay to make mistakes because Jesus loves us and gives us a chance to start over.
3. After everyone has written down their mistake, use the wet wipes to clean the board or paper, showing how Jesus erases our mistakes and gives us a clean start. End with a prayer, thanking Jesus for His love and the clean start He gives us every day.