

## ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL PLAN - 5/22/22:

**BIG IDEA:** God's message goes everywhere.

**SCRIPTURE:** Paul Shares the Gospel: Acts 16:9-15; Matthew 28:18-20

9:30-9:40/11-11:10: Welcome in Students, play some music

GATHER in YOUTH ROOM, Coloring Sheets

9:40-9:55/11:10-11:25: **ELEMENTARY Large Group Time in Youth Room!**

- SONG
- Question time:
  - Parties are fun ways to celebrate good news! And if you had good news to celebrate, like a birthday or a graduation, you might want to send out invitations, whether it's by mail, email, or even a text.
  - **Would you invite just a few close friends?** If so, tell us why!
  - **Or would you invite everyone you know?** If so, tell us why!
  - Today, we're going to hear about how Jesus invites *everyone* to know him. . . and we get to be the ones who deliver the invitations!
- BIG IDEA - God can deliver everyone.
- SONG

**K-1st grade return to their classroom (9:30 hour)**

10:00-10:10/11:30-11:40: **ACTIVITY | Mail Carrier Thank You**

- **Who likes getting packages delivered to your house?** Birthday gifts, special surprises, or even items you may need for a family vacation are my favorite kind.
- Have you ever thought of how those packages get to your house? Mail carriers and delivery people! We are going to thank the people for delivering our packages.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Using one of [these templates](#) (or creating one of your own), have kids decorate a thank you note and encourage them to deliver it to their mail carrier or delivery person this week. Consider adding a place for families to write a note or invite their mail carrier to church with them!*

10:10-10:20/11:40-11:50: **DISCUSSION & BIBLE STORY**

**BIBLE STORY | Peter's Vision**

**Pray for our learning time together.**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Take the sheet and plush animals from the Animal Toss activity and set it up in the front of the room to help kids visualize.*

- When the church was just starting around two thousand years ago, they didn't know who they should let in.
  - Some people thought that only those who followed Old Testament law could be invited to join.
  - People who weren't traditionally taught to follow Old Testament law were called Gentiles. And throughout the land, many Gentiles heard about Jesus and wanted to follow him.
  - But some church members criticized Peter for spending time with Gentiles. They thought that God's church should only be for other people who followed the law.
- But the apostle Peter had a vision that encouraged him to share the message about Jesus with everyone — whether they followed the law or not! It went like this:
  - Peter was praying when he saw something like a large sheet coming down from heaven. And on the sheet were all kinds of animals! Cows and sheep and pigs and lizards and birds. It was like a whole zoo on the sheet!
  - Then, Peter heard a voice that told him to kill and eat these animals. He was rather hungry. But Peter was confused. Some of the animals were unclean, according to the Old Testament.
  - "No, I won't, God!" Peter replied. "I've never eaten anything unclean or impure!"
  - Then the voice from heaven said, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." The voice said this three times, then the sheet went back up to heaven.
- The Old Testament law said that certain animals were unclean to eat. But through this vision, God was saying that they weren't unclean anymore. God made them clean! Peter took this to mean that the church should welcome the Gentiles, who did not follow the law.
- Right then, three men, who were Gentiles, came to Peter, and the Holy Spirit told Peter it was all right to go with them. So Peter followed them to a man's house.
  - The man told Peter that an angel had appeared to him and told him to send for Peter, who would bring a message of good news from Jesus!
  - As Peter began to speak, everyone began to receive the Holy Spirit, just like the other members of the early church.
  - Peter then said to the people who were criticizing him, "If God gave the Gentiles the same Holy Spirit that we received for believing in Jesus, who was I to stand in God's way?"
- Everyone was amazed to see that the Holy Spirit was available to everyone.

## DISCUSSION

- **What did Peter see in his vision?**
- **How did Peter change because of his vision?**
- **Read Acts 11:15–17. What helped Peter see that welcoming Gentiles into the church was God's way?**
- **Read John 13:34–35. How will others know that you love and follow Jesus?**

- What are some ways we keep others out of our circle of friends? How about out of our church?
- What can we change to make sure we welcome everyone?
- How can we as a church show the world that we follow Jesus?

#### 10:20-10:25/11:50-11:55 BIG IDEA

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print four of the Big Idea graphic for this week on postcard paper or cardstock paper and cut them out. Make enough copies for everyone. Depending on the size of your group, the Special Messenger (SM) can either hand cards out to the kids, or hand stacks of cards to leaders to hand out to the kids.*
- **Storyteller:** We usually see the Special Messenger around this time, but I don't see them. Do you?
- **SM:** Special messenger, reporting for delivery!
- **Storyteller:** Perfect timing, what have you got for me today?
- **SM:** *(Enter and begin passing out postcards.)* This delivery is for everyone! Today, everyone gets a card! Can someone read their card for me? *(Pause for someone to read.)* That's right! God can deliver everyone!
- **Storyteller:** That's right! God can deliver everyone. That's this week's Big Idea! Hey, can I have a card too?
- **SM:** *(Hand a card to the leader.)* Sure. Here's a card for you. Now everyone, tell us what the Big Idea is. God can deliver everyone!

#### 10:25-10:40/11:55-12:10: ACTIVITY | Good News for Everyone

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *On the printable, have kids think about people that they might not typically talk to about Jesus. Have them write their name or draw a picture of a few of these people.*
- Nowadays, it's really easy for people to get deliveries, whether it's a gift or pizza. We learned today that **God can deliver everyone**, but it's not always easy to deliver that message, right?
- Sometimes we don't even know that we are leaving people out. It's important that we pay attention to the things we say and do so that everyone will know that they can have access to Jesus, just like we do!

#### MEMORY VERSE | Greeting Card Unscramble

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Write small chunks of the memory verse on the inside of blank greeting cards. After reading the memory verse for the kids a couple of times, hand out each card to different kids. Have one volunteer go around and try to collect the cards in order. Repeat as many times as you'd like!*
- **Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)**

IF EXTRA TIME... John 13:34-35

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Find John 13:34–35 in your Bible and read it with the group.*
- **What is the new command?** To love one another!
- **Why do you think Jesus said this was something new?** Think about the story of Peter and what he learned about unclean animals.
- **Why should we love one another?** *Read verse 34.*
- When we show love to other people, the world will know that we follow Jesus. Showing love to others is one way to spread the message about Jesus!