

*Halloween – Sunday School Lesson
For Preschool to First Grade (4-7 years)*

Theme: There is Only One God!

Teacher Pep Talk: Halloween is a good time to talk about how there is only one true God, that He loves us, and that we are to worship only Him! Little Guys need to know these basic concepts. The foundational truths that God exists, that He is loving, and that He is worthy of worship, are some of the most important lessons you will ever teach anyone.

You Will Need: A few Halloween masks (non-scary) for the “Who is It?” activity.
Large pieces of fabric and sashes for the “Dress Up” activity.

Major Points: There is only One God!
God loves us!
We are to worship only God!

Reference Verses: Deuteronomy 6:4-7, 13 and 23:5; John 3:16; Matthew 4:10; and Jeremiah 10:10 ...*the LORD is the true God...*

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Memory Verse: Matthew 4:10 *Worship the Lord ...and serve him only.*

Special Note: This year Halloween (October 31st) falls on a Sunday. The 4-7 year old children in your Sunday School class will be very excited that day about their costumes and their plans for the evening. Be positive and supportive. Remember... to Little Guys **“It’s ALL about the CANDY”... and the costumes, of course!**

Check with your Sunday School Superintendent to find out policies on letting young children dress up and/or have a party in their room. Find out if any special events are planned for children at your church. Publicize these events in your classroom! Be sure to send home flyers to the parents of the children!

When starting class, sit down with the children and welcome them. Ask them about their week. Ask what day it is. Are they doing anything special tonight? What are they dressing up as? Listen to each child... this is very important to them! Be kind and supportive.

Lesson: "There is Only One God!"

There is Only One God!

We're all Little Guys here. **How old are you?** (*Wait for answers.*) You are all very young children! And young children are marvelous because they are always learning wonderful new things!

Here in church you learn important things about God. One of the first things that the LORD our God tells us to teach our children is that **There is only One God.**

The Jewish people used to teach their little children these words about God... "Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God, the LORD is one." (*Deut. 6:4*) This was one of the first things that these children learned about God!

God Loves Us!

The next thing children learned about God was that **we can love Him back!**

God loves us! (*John 3:16 and Deut. 23:5*) And because there is only One God and because He loves us, we are to love Him back!

The Bible tells us "Love the LORD your God with all your heart..." (*Deut. 6:5*)
Can you show me where your heart is? (*Place your hand over your heart.*)

We are to Worship Only God!

There is one more thing that these young children would learn about God.

They would learn that since **there is only ONE God** and since **God loves us**, we are to **worship and serve only Him!**

The Jewish people would tell their children the words in the Bible... "Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only." (*Matthew 4:10 and Deut. 6:13*)

One special day, Jesus, God's Son, quoted these very words from the Bible. I wonder if Jesus learned them when He was a young child just like you!!

Isn't God wonderful to tell us about Himself? Let's pray and thank God for all He has taught us today!!

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you that you love us and that you teach us about yourself!
Thank you that we can learn about you!
Amen

Activities:

“Stand Up, Sit Down” –

Have everyone stand in a circle. Say the following and do the actions in **bold print**.

“In the Bible, God says that the things we learned today are to be on our hearts. He says that we are to teach them to our children. And He says that we are to talk about these things **when we sit** at home and **when we walk** along the road, **when we lie down** and **when we get up**. Let’s practice those things together!”

Repeat these words and do the actions in place:

When **we sit**...

When **we walk**...

When **we lie down**...

When **we get up**...

Next, **say the memory verse together loudly** each time as you **sit down, walk, lie down** and **get up**. Matthew 4:10 *Worship the Lord ...and serve him only.*

Or say Deut. 6:5 *Love the LORD your God with all your heart...*

(OPTION – Discuss what those things mean. For example: sitting at home during the evening, walking to school or driving down the road, when we get ready to go to bed and even when we get up in the morning. Anytime is the right time to think about God and the things we have learned about Him!)

“Who is It?” – *Mr. Rogers would love this!*

Have everyone sit in a circle. Have on hand a few non-scary masks. Turn your back and put on one mask at a time. Turn around and show the children. Slowly take off the mask and show them that you are underneath! Explain that even if you can’t see the person underneath the mask that there is always someone there. If you take off the mask, you will see the person underneath. *(Put the mask on and off a few times.)*

For older children, have someone well known to the class come into the room in costume and wearing a non-scary mask. Ask “Who is it?” and have them take off the mask and then the costume so that you can all see who it is!! *(Be surprised!)*

Play “Who is It?” by asking the children to take turns putting on a mask and letting you guess who it is. Alternatively add costume pieces as well.

Example: Have the child put on a mask and stand where you can see him/her.

Ask: Who is it?

Say: It’s a _____!! *(Name the mask: pirate, princess, etc)*

Ask: Who’s behind the mask? *(Child takes off mask)*

Say: It’s _____!! *(Say the name of the child! Be surprised!)*

Activities (continued):

Group “Dress Up” and/or “Parade”

Bring to class some large pieces of fabric (3’ x 3’ squares work great!) for capes and costumes and some long skinny pieces of fabric for sashes and belts. You may also want to bring hats, purses, gloves, tool belts, scarves, plastic tiara’s, etc.

Divide into small groups of 6-7 children with one adult or older youth to help each group. Allow the children to pick and choose from costume pieces to “dress up.” Then act out parts (EX: pirate, princess, dancer, cowboy, etc) and let others guess who/what you are!

OPTIONS: Have a snack while you are all in costume.
Have a Parade! Put on some music, sing and march around the room!
Pre-arrange with another teacher to have your children walk to that class and show them your costumes! (*Consider the Youth or Older Adults!*)

A Word on SNACKS: Remember that for Little Guys... **“It’s all about the Candy!”**

That doesn’t mean that your snacks have to be the typical “Trick-or-Treat” goodies! In fact, the parents who have to take these youngsters home later may be pleased you didn’t give them lots of candy just before lunch!

However, **don’t be a spoil sport!** The idea is to show the children that you can have safe, wholesome fun together as a group at Halloween. Just use your common sense!

Some churches or organizations will have guidelines regarding snacks and treats during class. Follow these guidelines! If you wish to vary from them, be sure to get permission IN ADVANCE from those in authority over the program.

No nuts! (*I don’t care how good they taste... ☺*)

Drinks should be water based and cool. (*Actually water will be best with the treats!*)

Autumn Pumpkin Smash

(*My own recipe for a fun Trail Mix at Halloween!*)

Mix together:

Pretzel Sticks

Tiny Marshmallows

Dry Cereal (*Ex: Fruit Loops, Cheerios, Corn Flakes, Raisin Bran, etc*)

Plain M&M’s (*No Nuts! ...Did I already say that?*)

One package of those little orange sugary pumpkins they make at Halloween and nobody ever gives out because now everything has to be individually wrapped...

(*You know the ones I mean!*)

Place portions in individual sacks for each child. Make sure everyone gets a pumpkin!

MINI-CARNIVAL

Option for your own classroom on October 31st.

These 3 games will keep a group of 20 Preschool - First Grade age children occupied for at least 30-45 minutes. Set up ahead of time. Have at least 1 adult or older Youth helper for each game! Run the games simultaneously. Give out very small treats or gifts at each game. Everyone wins something if they participate!

Option: Have everyone decorate their own "Treat Sack" prior to starting the games.

Cup-Cake Walk (or Candy Walk)

Prior to Class: Write numbers (ex. 1-10) on full sheets of paper or construction paper. Decorate as you like. Cover front and back with clear contact paper. Tape the papers to the floor in your classroom in a circle. Write the same numbers on strips of paper. Put paper in hat or bowl. Have fun music available to turn on and off during the game.
During Game: Invite children to stand on the numbers. Start music. Children walk around circle in the same direction. When music stops they stop on a numbered page. Draw a piece of paper out of the "hat". Read the number. The child on that number wins a cupcake or a larger piece of candy. Other children get a small piece of candy.

No-Nose the Clown or (No-Nose the Pumpkin)

Prior to Class: Draw the outline of a clown's face on a large piece of paper. Do NOT draw the nose. Put an "X" on the face where the nose should go. Decorate as desired. (For Halloween, you may decide to draw the face of a Jack-o-Lantern, which gives you "No-Nose the Pumpkin" instead of "No-Nose the Clown".) Out of heavy cardboard cut out a nose. (A 2 inch circle for the clown, 2-3 inch triangle for the pumpkin.) Put Sticky Tack or a rolled up piece of painter's tape on the back of the nose, so that you can easily put it on and off the face. Use tape or Sticky Tack to put the face up on the wall at eye level for your students. Have a large handkerchief to use as a blindfold.

During Game: Talk like you are a worker at a carnival and say something like this:

"Step right up folks and meet No-Nose the Clown! You can see right away why he's called No-Nose, 'cause poor old No Nose has got no nose! That's right folks! Step right up! Let's see who'll be the first to help old No-Nose get a Nose!"

Hand the child the nose with the tape or Sticky Tack. Blindfold the child. Face the child toward the wall where the clown face is hanging. Allow the child to put the nose on the poster. Remove the blindfold. Give treats depending on the following points:

Position of Nose on the Paper:

Not on Paper	Do over
On Paper anywhere	One point
On Face anywhere	Two points
On X at all	Three points
Covering all the X	Three points and bragging rights!

One point = one very small treat

Two points = two very small treats

Three points = one slightly larger treat

Ball Toss

If you have boys in your room, you have to have the Ball Toss. It is essential. ☺

The premise is that you have 3 balls which you toss into 3 different buckets.

Before Class:

Choose the balls and the buckets. While it is possible to throw any size ball at any size target, obviously some combinations will work better than others! Test out your options thoroughly ahead of time. The idea is to make it challenging (but doable) for children this age (4-7 years). Bean bags which you toss into empty gallon ice cream buckets will work great. Also, old tennis balls or small rubber balls can work as well. If you don't mind setting them up over and over, you can even have them toss the ball at cans, etc.

Set Up:

Use masking tape or painter's tape to mark off a line on the floor behind which the child is to stand. Line up the buckets. I like to line them up in a line stretching away from where the child is to stand. This makes some shots more challenging than others.

During the Game:

Allow the children to stand behind the line and try and throw the ball so that it lands and stays in the bucket. Award points on some fair scale based on the way you have the buckets lined up. Make sure each child gets a token for simply participating.

Example for Points:

No balls in a bucket	Do over immediately (perhaps closer)
One ball in a bucket	One point
Two balls in anywhere	Two points
Three balls in anywhere	Three points
One ball in each of the buckets	Five points!! (And bragging rights!)

Frisbee Variation

If the children in your room are a little older, and if you have enough room, you can do a Frisbee Toss. This is fun! You only have to mark off the targets on the floor with tape. Play and score as above!

How to make a Bean Bag!

OK, so you just found out that you need to make a bean bag and you have one hour before class! Do Not Panic! (They can smell fear! ☺) Here are some easy instructions for making your own bean bags quickly. Keep them. You can use them next year!

1.) Obtain 3 old clean socks. 2.) Fill each sock with 1 – 1 ½ cups of dried beans or rice. 3.) Tie off the sock tightly in a knot just above the beans. 4.) Cut off the extra length of the sock about an inch above the knot. 5.) Now you have 3 bean bags in time for class!

If you store these in a dry place in a sealed plastic bag, they will probably last forever!