



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Have an open mind to try and learn new things in school, exploring the gifts God gave you.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn the importance of learning and working hard in school.

KEY PASSAGE:

Exodus 3. Moses and the burning bush.

MEMORY VERSE:

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." - Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

School is the place to explore your gifts, talents, and interests. It's a great place to learn and try new things as God shows you his plan for your life.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us school, a place where we can learn about your world and find our passions. Help us to discover our talents and interests this year, and show us your plan for our lives.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



MEMORY VERSE

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” - Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

“But put God’s kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all of those things will also be given to you.” - Matthew 6:33 (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

Choose three kids from the audience. Have each one “sing” the memory verse in a different musical style - country, hip-hop, oldies, opera, etc.

SMALL GROUP:

Play the telephone game with the memory verse.

BEST YEAR EVER

SKIT

NEW THINGS

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 1M/1F

CHARACTERS:

Jeff

Tina

JEFF: I love new things! If there's something new, improved, better, or different, I wanna try it! Got a new flavor of Cap'n Crunch? Great, give me some! Got a new sandwich at McDonalds? Awesome, I'll take two. If it's new, I want to try it. I don't wanna miss a thing!

TINA: I don't like new. I don't like anything new. My favorite drink as a baby was milk. Guess what it is now? Milk! My favorite food was macaroni. Guess what I like still? Macaroni! I don't like change. I don't like different. I've been watching Handy Manny since I was a toddler, and I see no reason to switch to SpongeBob, even if everyone at school does call me a baby!

JEFF: I have no idea what I'll be when I grow up. I keep finding new and exciting things to be. I wanted to be a cowboy when I was three. Then I learned about astronauts and decided to be one of them! Then I learned about fighter jet pilots and decided I wanted to be one of those. THEN, I saw professional wrestling on TV. Sorry, Mom, but I really want to be one of those when I get bigger.

TINA: I don't want to grow up. I don't want to move out. I don't want to live some place different or do anything different. Do you know how hard it was for me to go from home to Kindergarten? Then no sooner did I get used to that, some wise guy decided it was time to go to first grade. No, I'm not doing anything different. If they try to make me, well, maybe I'll be a teacher. Or an adult hall monitor.

SKIT

JEFF: There are so many exciting places I want to see. The Badlands of South Dakota. The wilderness of western Canada. The Great Wall of China. The castles of Great Britain. I want to go some place different every year, see something different. I want to see it all.

TINA: Gatlinburg. Always Gatlinburg. Always at the Edgemont Hotel. Always breakfast at the Pancake Pantry. I don't even want to go to Disney World. It's not Gatlinburg, and quite frankly, that six foot tall mouse frightens me.

JEFF: I want to explore God's entire world.

TINA: I want to stay home.

JEFF: I want to find God's plan for my life.

TINA: The only plan I have is to go home and watch Handy Manny.

JEFF: Can't wait until tomorrow. Can't wait to learn something new again!

TINA: I hope I'm sick tomorrow. But nothing weird. The same old cold will do just fine.

BEST YEAR EVER

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A football, a hockey stick, a soccer goal, orange cones*

**The exact items used in this lesson does not matter. Just have a mix of 3-4 pieces of sports equipment from different sports.*

I have a challenge for you guys. Let's imagine that we're going to meet on a playground this afternoon. We want to play a game, but we only have these items to play our game. I want you all to brainstorm and invent a whole new sport that would use these items.

Take these questions one by one, and let the kids create a new sport.

How would we play?

How would we score points?

How many people would be on a team, and what positions would they play?

What would we call our new sport?

Can any of you imagine that this might be a professional sport a hundred years from now?

It's hard to imagine it, but there was a time when people probably thought games like baseball and basketball were as silly as our little game. Who ever heard of a game where people catch balls in mitts, run bases counter-clockwise, and score runs instead of points? And who would want to play a game where you throw a ball up into a peach basket? Abner Doubleday believed in his new sport baseball, and James Naismith believed in basketball. They tried something new, and they created the games we love. It's a good reminder that we all need to take chances, try new things, and discover what God has in store for us. School is a great place to learn about science, math, writing, and other skills that might one day become our passion. Maybe you'll discover a new talent this year. Maybe you'll invent the next great American sport. Maybe you'll take a big step closer to becoming the person God made you to be! Don't be afraid to try new things. Enjoy school, enjoy learning, and let God show you his plan for your life!

BEST YEAR EVER

LARGE GROUP GAME

DADDY DIAPER DUTY

ITEMS NEEDED:

Two baby dolls
Baby doll diapers

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose two boys who have never played dolls in their lives. Bring them on stage and have a contest to see who can race to change the baby doll's diaper first. You can add more to this by making them feed baby a bottle and changing baby's outfit.

VARIATION:

A variation for girls only would be to have a timed contest to see who can build a Lego spaceship the fastest.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

You never know 'til you try something if you like it or are good at it. Guys will one day be dads and have to change diapers. You never know what God might have in store for you unless you're willing to try new things.

BEST YEAR EVER

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Have an open mind to try and learn new things in school, exploring the gifts God gave you.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn the importance of learning and working hard in school.

KEY PASSAGE:

Exodus 3. Moses and the burning bush.

INTRO

Imagine if we all grew up to be what we wanted when we were very little. What if we all grew up to be the people we wanted to be when we were 3? We would have a world filled with astronauts, ballerinas, cowboys, football players, princesses, and ninjas. Sounds kind of cool doesn't it? But if that were the case, think of all the people we'd be missing.

There would be no one to build the stadium to hold the football games or the auditoriums that house the ballet. There'd be no vets to take care of horses or craftsmen to make their saddles. There would be no engineers or rocket scientists to make a way to send our astronauts into space. And princesses would not have fancy gowns by brilliant designers to wear to the ball. Everyone would be living out in the open with no way to fulfill their dream, and we'd all be living in constant fear of ninjas!

God has a plan for every one of us. He's given each of us different skills and talents, and he wants us to discover those so we can use them to fulfill his plan for our lives. Very often, the thing you think you want to do as a kid is much different from what you really do as an adult. God has surprises in store for all of us, but it takes a willing heart to let God show us those surprises and lead us in new directions. Opening ourselves up to those surprises is part of making this the best school year ever!

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Today's story is about a man who thought he knew what the rest of his life would be. He thought he would be tending sheep in the wilderness, supporting his family in a quiet land. Instead, God had a big plan in store for the man named Moses.

READ Exodus 3

MAIN POINT

Moses was an Israelite, born to one of the slave families in Egypt. As a baby he was adopted by the princess of Egypt. He grew up in the palace and lived a life of luxury, but after killing a cruel slave driver, Moses ran away. He got married, he became a shepherd, and he spent 40 years tending sheep.

Then God showed up and changed the course of his life forever. Moses wasn't sure he wanted to be that leader. He told God all the areas he was weak and felt ill-equipped to be the leader God wanted him to be. Over and over, God answered Moses and told him he could do it. This was God's plan, not Moses'. God would give him the skills and tools he needed. And surprise! Moses became the leader Israel needed at an important time in its history.

You all have a lot of school years ahead, and a lot of learning ahead. You can shut your minds now, focus on only one thing, and maybe you will fulfill the dream you have right now. But if you try new things, if you explore God's world and the talents he's given you, you might find yourself just as surprised as Moses and discover a whole new purpose for your life!

DRIVE IT HOME

Our world depends on many different people with many different skills. God gave us all different talents and skills and interests so that we wouldn't end up with a world of astronauts, ballerinas, cowboys, football players, princesses, and ninjas. We discover those gifts and talents by learning and trying new things. There's no better place to do that in school, where we are exposed every day to new things in science, math, language, history, art, music, and other subjects.

It's not easy to try new things, or to pay attention when the teacher talks about something that doesn't interest us. Not everyone gets excited by math. Not everyone is interested in history. But unless you give those subjects your very best try, you may miss out on something God wants you to discover.

This year, ask God to give you an open heart and mind about every subject you study. Give math, art, music, science, and all those other subjects your very best effort. Ask God to show you where you are strong and where you are weak. If you discover something you really like, ask questions about that subject. Hit the library. Ready more about it. Don't limit your learning to the classroom.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

God has a plan for all of you. Whether you become a doctor or an engineer or a preacher or something much more humble, God has a plan to use you to share his love with others. Don't treat school as something to get through so you can go home and play. School is the place to find your passions and find God's will for your life. Ask God to help you explore those passions as part of the best school year ever!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us school, a place where we can learn about your world and find our passions. Help us to discover our talents and interests this year, and show us your plan for our lives.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



BEST YEAR EVER

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER

What do you want to be when you grow up?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Matthew 6:33

Play the telephone game with the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Bring a crazy food (like seaweed chips) and ask the kids who would like to try it (be careful of food allergies with this activity) Say: It can be scary to try something new, but it's not always a bad thing is it? Or if you don't want to bring crazy food, go around the group. Introduce yourselves, and tell everyone something "scary" you would like to try - sky diving, surfing, skiing, singing on stage, etc.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Who was Moses?

What was Moses' job?

How did God appear to Moses?

What "job" did God give Moses?

How can school help us to discover new interests and goals for ourselves?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for making each one of us unique. Help us to use our time in school to learn and grow and discover the gifts you have given us.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER

What do you want to be when you grow up?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Matthew 6:33

Play the telephone game with the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Go around the group and play the “I’ve Never...” game. Each person says something they’ve never done like, “I’ve never cooked before,” or “I’ve never roller skated.”

Anyone who has done that thing needs to stand up. If they haven’t done it, they stay seated. Go around twice, and see who has done what.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Exodus 3

Who was Moses?

How did Moses respond when God told him to save Israel?

What did God say when Moses tried to say he wasn’t the right person to save Israel?

How can school help us discover the gifts and interests we have?

What gifts has God given you that you’ve already discovered?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for making each one of us unique. Help us to use our time in school to learn and grow and discover the gifts you have given us.

In Jesus’ name,

Amen



BEST YEAR EVER

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

1. God appeared in a burning bush to speak to:
A. Noah
B. Moses*
C. Elijah
2. Moses' job was:
A. a king.
B. a farmer.
C. a shepherd.*
3. God asked Moses to:
A. save Israel.*
B. build an ark.
C. challenge King Ahab.
4. God has a plan for:
A. pastors and missionaries.
B. only the chosen few.
C. everyone.*
5. School is a great place to:
A. discover the talents and passions God has given us.*
B. catch a nap.
C. learn to make paper footballs.

MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With Your Kids

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: LEARN SOMETHING NEW



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Today we talked about when God called Moses and how school can be a place to learn about our talents and abilities. School gives us exposure to math, science, the arts, and other subjects, allowing us to discover new talents and explore new things. School can be a place where we discover our gifts and find the path God wants us to follow.



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Talk to your kids about how you ended up in your career. What gifts made you ideal for this profession? When did you decide this was what you wanted to do?



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What's your favorite subject in school, and why?
- What's your least favorite subject in school?
- Why is it important to do your best in all subjects, whether you like them or not?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

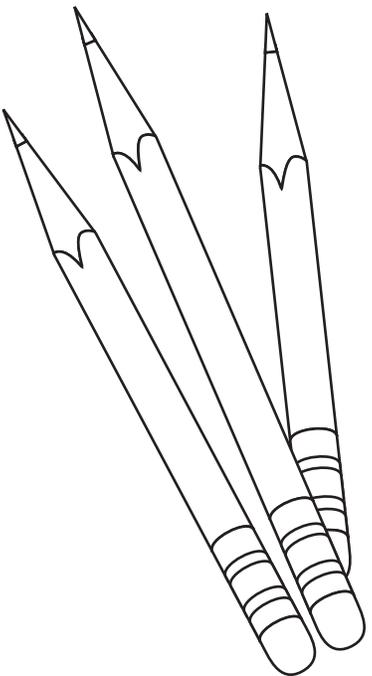
"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." - Matthew 6:33 (NIV)



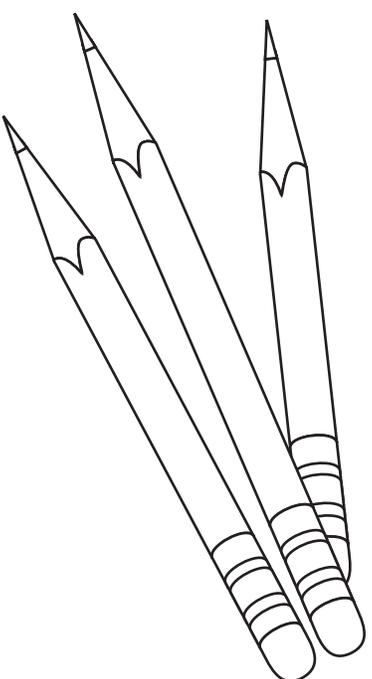
PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

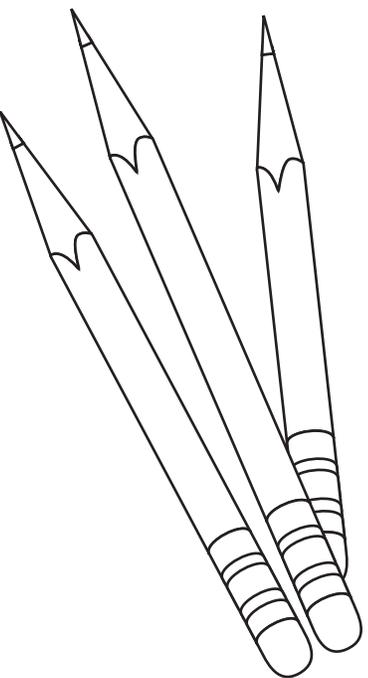
God gave us all unique gifts and talents to fulfill his plan for our lives. If you haven't found that plan, ask God to reveal it to you. It's never too late!



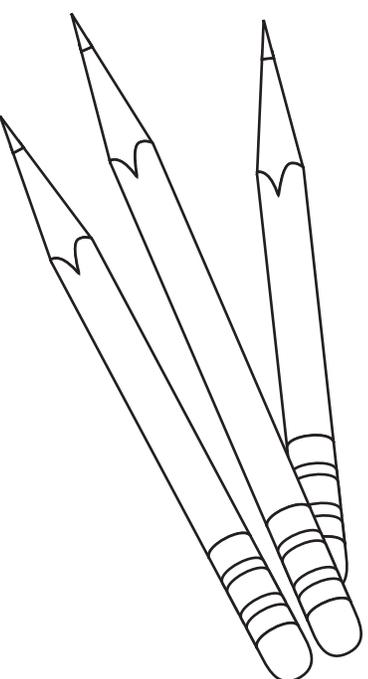
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CRAFT PROJECT

Supplies:

Markers/Crayons

Paper

Have the kids make a drawing of themselves in some profession that they are interested in. As they draw, challenge them to think about how God could use them in that profession and to draw themselves doing that work for God.