

Lesson Plan

August 2nd, 2026

This Month's Truth: I am designed for a purpose

Bible Story: The Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 7:24-29)

Theme Verse: Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven. (Matthew 5:16b)

Teachers rally with your team a few minutes before kids start to arrive: Rally is a pre-service time for you to be expectant and equipped before the kids start arriving. Go over the lesson and any ideas for the day. Pray over your space and for the kids that will be coming that they will be connected to the person of Jesus.

Share: This August we are teaching kids about how they are designed for a purpose—to do good things that honor God and point others to Him. Kids will learn that we can live like Jesus when we learn from the Bible and do what He says. When we do that, we are like a builder who built his house on a rock—a strong foundation. (Read Matthew 7:24-25.) Let's help kids know that Jesus calls them to live like Him by following and obeying God.

Pray: Lead the group in prayer, asking God to help kids understand how to live like Jesus.

Pre Service

Arrival time, please use this time to build relationships with kids and encourage them to build relationships with one another.

Service

What To Do:

- **Teacher** Start 5-minute countdown **5 minutes prior to service start time.**

Teacher Opener: (Speak in an announcer voice, like the host on a game show.) Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls! Welcome to church! If you can hear me, say, "Hey, hey, hey!" (Hey, hey hey!) My name is ____, and I am your host for today! On game shows, the host is always introducing the next contestant or next game. They will say, "Next up is ...!" and tell you what will happen next as a way to get everyone excited. In the same way, we can know and be excited

that God had amazing plans for what is up next in our lives! Say, “Next!” (Next!) Say, “Up!” (Up!) Say, “Next Up!” (Next Up!)

People Say

Game Rules:

1. Split your class into different teams. About 5-8 kids in each group.
2. Distribute a handheld dry erase board, marker, and eraser to each team. Alternatively, use paper and pencils instead.
3. Start the video.
4. Challenge teams to list five answers that match the prompt before the countdown ends.
5. Call time and display the answers.
6. Award points for each answer that matches what is on the screen.
7. Play for five rounds.
8. Tally points at the end and declare a winner.

What You Say: Let’s play a game called “People Say!” What is it called? (People Say!) We will have a little bit of friendly competition between our teams. In “People Say,” I will show a prompt like “Words that Describe ____.” Your team will have 30 seconds to list 5 words that match the prompt. After 30 seconds, I will show the answer with the top 5 words other people have put together. While your team may come up with other words that may match the prompt, only words that match what is on the screen count. Give your team one point for every word on your list that matches a word on the screen.

Leader Tip: Remind kids that if they shout words, the other teams might hear their answers.

Let’s play “People Say!” People what? (Say!) You will have 30 seconds to write 5 answers for the first prompt, which is your favorite pizza toppings! Go!

(Begin when the video ends.) Time is up! Here is the list! Favorite pizza toppings are pepperoni, cheese, mushrooms, onions, and sausage. Give yourselves a point for each matching answer. (Allow time.) Great! It is time for round number 2. Your prompt is the best part of preschool! Go!

(Begin when the video ends.) That is time! Let’s see those answers! The best parts of preschool are taking a nap, playing with toys, recess, coloring or painting, and snack time. Give yourselves a point for each matching answer. (Allow time.) Great! It is time for round number 3. Your prompt is events when kids wear special clothes! Go!

(Begin when the video ends.) That is time! Show us the answers! Events when kids wear special clothes are a performance or play, Easter, the first day of school, Christmas, and school pictures. Give yourselves a point for each matching answer. (Allow time.) Great! It is time for round number 4. Your prompt is ways to cook eggs! Go!

(Begin when the video ends.) Time is up! What are the answers? Ways to cook eggs are scrambled, hard-boiled, fried, sunny-side up, and poached. Give yourselves a point for each matching answer. (Allow time.) Great! It is time for the final round! Your prompt is words that rhyme with “grow!” Go!

(Begin when the video ends.) Time! Let’s see those answers! Words that rhyme with “grow” are throw, show, go, slow, and row. Give yourselves a point for each matching answer. (Allow time.) Teams, show me how many points your team got! (Allow teams to hold up their dry erase boards with their points.) Way to go, everyone!

That was so much fun! I hope you enjoyed “People Say!” People what? (Say!) A lot of the answers you saw may have seemed random—onions, poached, and taking a nap! But all of these lists were purposefully designed! Onions really are a favorite pizza topping. Poached really is a way to cook eggs. What might seem unplanned was actually designed with a purpose.

Much like our game, God designed you with a purpose! You are not a person with a list of random characteristics. You have been purposefully designed by God, your Creator, for a reason. We are going to learn more about this today, but for now, repeat after me: “I am designed for a purpose!” (I am designed for a purpose!) Excellent! Let’s remember that as we see what is next! Say, “Next!” (Next!) Say, “Up!” (Up!) Say, “Next Up!” (Next Up!)

Transition Script to go into the Intro Video: This just in! It is time for an update from the best newscaster around, Nicki Nevada! Nicki’s news is always nifty. Everyone, say, “That is nifty!” (That is nifty!) That is right! I will count down, then you say, “Roll it!” Ready? 3-2-1! (Roll it!)

Play Intro Video

What You Say: Gee, that news was nifty! Neena and Neemee really needed to work on their listening skills. If you can hear me, touch your ears and say, “I’m listening!” (I’m listening!) When it comes to God, we can also work on our listening skills. God has amazing plans for our lives, and we can live them out when we listen to and follow what He says. God gives us an amazing

example of how to live through His Son, Jesus. We can read about Jesus in the Bible, listen to and follow what the Bible says, and live like Jesus. Say, "Let's live like Jesus!" (Let's live like Jesus!)

Worship

What You Say: Who is excited for worship this morning? Let's all stand up and worship together!

What To Do:

- Turn lights off
- 2 songs of worship
- **Teachers and Small Group Leaders worship with the kids, modeling what it looks like to give God our praise. Stand in the front of the room, or next to the kids- but not in the back.**
- Dismiss the kids back to their seats when the songs are over

What To Do:

- Have the kids **open up** a physical Bible and find the Bible story for that day.
- Use the Bibles provided in the classroom if a kid does not have their own Bible with them.

Transition Script to go into the Bible Story Video: (Open the Bible to Matthew 7:24-29.) Next up are two contestants! Wait, I mean two people from today's Bible story. Next up are two builders in a story Jesus told. Jesus told parables, which were stories to help people understand the kingdom of God. Today's Bible story comes from the book of Matthew. Which book? (Matthew!) Let's see what comes next! Say, "Next!" (Next!) Say, "Up!" (Up!) Say, "Next Up!" (Next Up!)

Play Bible Story Video

Questions to consider asking after the video:

- What is something that you learned about God from the video?
- What is something that you learned about people?
- What can you take away from the video?
 - How can you apply the lesson from today into your life?

Making The Connection Script: Turn to your neighbor and say, “You are designed for a purpose.” (You are designed for a purpose.) Point to yourself and say, “I am designed for a purpose.” (I am designed for a purpose.) God has a plan and purpose for each of us. In fact, everything Jesus said had a purpose behind it. In today’s Bible story, Jesus explained that when we listen to Him and do what He says, we are like the builder who built his house on the rock—the strong foundation. Jesus taught that wise people choose to trust Him, listen to, and obey His commands. Jesus calls us to live like Him, and that starts with having the right foundation—a relationship with Him. Say, “Let’s live like Jesus!” (Let’s live like Jesus!)

Use the Three Circle Graphics on the Playlist

(Circle two) Like in Jesus’s story, our lives will have winds and storms because of sin. Sin is when we choose to do what we think is best rather than following what God says is best. Sin separates us from God and keeps us from living out our purpose the way He designed. Sin deserves to be punished, and no matter how hard we try, we cannot fix our sin problem on our own. Maybe your family has gone through a hard time. Maybe you made a bad decision and have to face the consequences. Those are all storms. Repeat after me, “We all face storms!” (We all face storms!)

(Circle three) But just like a house stands strong because it is built on the right foundation, we can stand strong when we stand on our foundation with Jesus. How do we know we have a foundation with Jesus? Ask, “How?” (How?) The Bible tells us that when we ask Jesus to forgive our sins and trust Him, He will forgive our sins! Jesus can forgive us because He paid the price for our sins when He died on a cross and came back to life.

Jesus took the punishment we deserved for sin when He died, but He showed He is more powerful than both sin and death when He came back to life! When we trust in Jesus, we are no longer separated from God and can live in the way He designed. He changes our hearts, helping us want to follow and obey His words. This is how Jesus wants us to live—to do what He says out of a heart that loves and follows Him. Say, “We can live like Jesus!” (We can live like Jesus!)

(Circle one) And that starts with having the right foundation—a relationship with Jesus. When we are in a right relationship with God—the relationship that He designed from the beginning—we can know that we can survive anything the storm throws at us! When God made the world, He made people to know, love, trust, and follow Him. Jesus promised that one day He would return and make everything new! Everyone who trusts and follows Jesus will get to enjoy a perfect relationship with Him forever. But for now, we can enjoy following Him and living

like Him! Living right with God is living in God's design and purpose. And that is the best place to live! Everyone, say, "Let's live like Jesus!" (Let's live like Jesus!)

If you have any questions about what it means to ask Jesus for forgiveness or have a relationship with Him, please come talk to me or your leader! We would love to share how much Jesus loves you and what He has done for you.

So if you ever wonder, "Who should I look up to?" think of the foundation the wise builder built upon—think of Jesus! Remember that life works best when we live according to God's purpose and plan for our lives. Jesus is our ultimate example, and we can live like Him when we trust, listen to, and follow what God says. Repeat after me, "Let's live like Jesus!" (Let's live like Jesus!)

Theme Verse Review:

Theme Verse Motions:

Let your light shine before others, (Move your arms in a circle toward each other with palms facing forward, crossing in front of your body.)

so that they may see your good works (Move your arms in a circle toward each other with palms facing up, crossing in front of your waist.)

and give glory to your Father in heaven. (Push your hands up to the sky with palms facing in.)

Matthew 5:16b (Hold your hands out like a book.)

What You Say: We are going to learn a verse from the Bible that will help us remember that we are designed for a purpose. Part of that purpose is to live like Jesus! Say, "Let's live like Jesus!" (Let's live like Jesus!)

Play Theme Verse Video

What You Say: This Bible verse is awesome because it reminds us that when we follow God's design and do things His way, we are sharing God with others—like shining a light in the darkness! You know who is perfect at shining God's light in the darkness? Jesus! He is our greatest example, and He helps us trust, listen to, and obey God. Let's live like Him! Say, "Let's live like Jesus!" (Let's live like Jesus!)

Large Group Closing:

What You Say: Say, “Next!” (Next!) Say, “Up!” (Up!) Say, “Next Up!” (Next Up!) Next up is living like Jesus! God has a purpose and plan for you—to listen to and follow what He says. When we follow God’s plan and live life the way He designed—trusting in Jesus and following His example—we will find ourselves on a firm foundation no matter what storm comes our way. Let’s live like Him! Repeat after me: “Let’s live like Jesus!” (Let’s live like Jesus!) Let’s pray in 3-2-1.

Closing Prayer: God, thank You for sending us Your Son, Jesus. Thank You that we have Jesus as our ultimate example for how to live our lives. We trust that Your way is the best way, God. Help us live like Jesus so that our lights may shine and point others to You. Amen.

Transition to Small Group Time: Split the kids into small groups. This can be done either by age, grade, or gender.

Small Group Time:

Option #1: Connection Questions

What To Do: Next up, let’s make some discoveries about how we can live like Jesus together!

1. What is something cool you have designed or think you could design, and what would the purpose be? (Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)
2. The Bible tells us we can live like Jesus when we live according to God’s purpose and design. Let’s open our Bibles to **Matthew 7:24-25** and read about it together. (Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the passage aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the passage aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the passage so everyone can follow along together.) The wise builder built his house on the rock, which is a good foundation. This helps the house stand strong when storms come. Jesus says we are like the wise builder when we listen to His words and follow them. Doing that is like building our lives on a rock instead of sand. That means, when we follow what Jesus says to do in the Bible, it’s like we are building our whole lives on a firm foundation. So when storms come, like when we face hard things or are dealing with difficult feelings, we can stand firm knowing our trust and our foundation is in Jesus. What can help us trust and follow Jesus when life gets hard? (Allow kids to answer and share your own. I can read my Bible, I can pray to God for help, and so forth.) If you want to know more about how to respond to Jesus or understand what He did for you, please talk with me!

3. We learned today that we can know that we can live like Jesus when we trust, listen to, and obey what God says. When we trust and follow Jesus, He is our strong foundation, and He helps us know how to live. What are ways we can live like Jesus? (Allow kids to answer and share your own. Answers may include I can obey God; I can love and care for others; and so forth.)
4. The Bible tells us when we live like Jesus, we are living according to God's design and purpose. Next up, let's live like Jesus! Say that after me: "Let's live like Jesus!" (Let's live like Jesus!) What is one way you can live like Jesus this week? What is something you learned today? Is there anything you have questions about? (Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)

Option #2: Jesus is my Foundation!

What To Do: Today we are going to be making a craft that will help us remember our Bible story. This paper tells us how to make Jesus our foundation. Let's read each line together. (Point out to the kids what each line says.)

At the bottom of our paper it says "Matthew 7:24". Let's read that verse together. (Open your Bibles and read this verse together.) Jesus gave us commandments, things to follow, to help us as we have a relationship with Him. This paper will help us remember them. Then we will be able to put them into practice as our Bible verse tells us to do.

Loud And Clear: Your rocks look so good! When you go through your own storm—like a hard time in your life—look at this rock. Let the Bible verse and commandments remind you that, with Jesus, you can stand firm no matter your circumstances. Say, "Let's live like Jesus!" (Let's live like Jesus!)

Option #3: Activity Page

What To Do: This activity page helps us remember some big things we have learned about today. As you color and work on activities, talk to a friend about some of your favorite parts of our time together.

Leader Tip: Get to know the kids better. Ask them what they remember about the Bible story or remind them they can be like the wise builder and live like Jesus. And when we live like Jesus, we live according to God's design and purpose!

Loud And Clear: God has designed you for a purpose. That purpose is to live like Jesus! Build your house on a strong foundation, which means trusting Jesus while you listen to and obey God. When you do this it shows others what it means to live like Him! Say, “Let’s live like Jesus!” (Let’s live like Jesus!)

Close out in prayer:

What To Do:

- Ask for any specific prayer requests
- Pray with the group
- Lead the group in the prayer below.

What You Say: God, thank You for designing each of us for a purpose. Thank You for sending us Your Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. He lived as the best example and is Someone we can always look up to. Please give us courage to show others what it means to live like Jesus. Amen.

Dismissal:

Leader Tip: Work with your team to dismiss the kids in a fun, manageable, and safe way. As kids leave, make sure they have all of the crafts and papers. Share with the person picking them up something positive you observed today. Invite them back next week.