

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SAMPLE LESSON

(Beginner Level)

TITLE – “GOD is my Father . . . and He is ONE!”

KEY SCRIPTURES: Matthew 6:28-30; Ephesians 4:6; Malachi 2:10

MEMORY VERSE: *“Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us?” (Mal. 2:10 a-b)*

LESSON AIM: Make the students aware that God, our Father, and the creator of all things, loves us, and will take care of us.

INTRODUCTION: (If possible, have a loaf of bread at the front of the class. If you know how many students will be in the class, try to have enough so that each student can have one piece of bread at the end of the lesson.)

Take a census of your students as they arrive in class:

- ❖ How many of you had bread and tea for breakfast this morning?
- ❖ How many had an orange or mango or pineapple?
- ❖ How many had porridge?
- ❖ How many had nothing yet?

Who gave you the breakfast that you had? Was it your mother, father, grandmother, sister, or auntie? Are you sure?

God’s book (the Bible) tells us that we all have the same father. What does this mean? Does your papa look like mine? Is your papa still living? Some of you no longer have a father that is alive, or maybe you have never even seen your father. What does the Bible mean?

Those who had bread and tea for breakfast, please stand up. Who made the bread for you? Did mother buy it in the market or on the side of the street? Your bread was probably made in a bakery, somewhere in the city, right? What ingredients did they use to make that bread? Flour? Salt? Bread fat (shortening or butter)? Water or milk? Where did these things come from? (Encourage students to give answers to all questions.)

Flour, salt, bread fat, water, and milk are all things made by God:

- ❖ Flour comes from wheat (a plant that grows out of the ground).
- ❖ Salt is found in the ocean and in the ground.
- ❖ Bread fat comes from animals or plants.
- ❖ All water comes from God.
- ❖ Milk comes from a cow, goat, or sheep.

Every ingredient in the foods we mentioned had to come from something that only God can make! This is what the Bible was talking about when it said that we all have one father!

BIBLE LESSON: The teacher should have a flower (or if possible, a bunch of flowers) picked this morning on the way to church, or yesterday, in preparation for class. If flowers are available in the place where you are having Sunday School, a better plan would be to have the students go around and find a flower, and bring it back to the class area. Call one student to the front of the class, and have him/her hold the flower in a cup/glass of water so that all the students can see. Act like you are talking to the flower directly, and say something like this:

"Good morning Little Flower. You sure are dressed up in a beautiful cloth this morning!" (Teacher should very gently touch the petals and leaves of the flower.)

"Did your mother make that dress for you?" (Turn to the class and ask, "Do flowers have a mother?")

"Where did she find such a beautiful color?" (Ask the class how a flower gets its pretty color.) "How long did it take her to make your dress?" (Did the flower grow overnight, or did it take some years/months/weeks/days for it to become so pretty?)

"Did you design your dress, or did your mother choose the style?" (Is it possible for a flower to think, plan, and make something for itself?)

By now, the students should be giggling at such a funny notion that a flower has on a dress, or that a flower has a mother who makes its clothes. But who DOES make the flower so very beautiful? Who decides what it will look like every day when it is so beautiful and smells so sweet? Does anyone in the class know who made this flower's colorful design?

That's right. . . God did it! The Bible (God's book) tells us the story of how God made everything. He is the Father of everything that we see and know. He made each one of us, and He told us not to worry about things, because He loves us so much that He will take care of us.

If God loves this little flower so much that He makes it beautiful every day, do you think He loves you? The flower cannot talk. It doesn't think or plan. It doesn't even know why or how it grows. But God takes care of everything for His special creation.

Look at yourself. Did you make the clothes you are wearing this morning? Did your mother make them? Where did she get the cloth? Did she weave the cloth? Did she grow the material that was used to make the cloth (cotton from a plant, silk from a worm, wool from a sheep)?

- ❖ Choose one student and bring him/her to the front of the class.
- ❖ Let them show all the other students their shoes.
- ❖ Try to decide what materials were used in making the shoes.
- ❖ List them for the students.

What about your shoes? Where did they come from? Did your Papa buy your shoes? Did he make them himself? What material was used to make these shoes (leather, plastic, or cloth)? Where did the material come from? Did your Papa make this material? Where did he find it? (They will probably answer, "in the market".)

You see, God has been taking care of you in many ways that you did not even think about.

- ❖ Plastic is made from a substance that God designed.
- ❖ Rubber grows on a tree.
- ❖ Leather comes from the skin of animals like cows, goats, and camels (sometimes even snakes and lizards).
- ❖ Who made these animals? Can you make one?

Even the shoes you are wearing show that God is taking care of you. He loves you very much.

CONCLUSION: Isn't it time that we understand who our Father really is? Don't you want to thank Him for all the ways He is taking care of you every day? Let's close our eyes, and bow our heads, and pray this prayer together. You should repeat the words after I say them:

Dear God, we are thankful that YOU are our Father.
Help us to know that you are taking care of us - **ALL THE TIME!**
Help us to remember that you love us,
 . . .provide for us,
 . . .and watch over us every day,
 In every way.
In **JESUS' NAME,**
Amen.

REINFORCE THE LESSON: When you go home today, look around the place you live and see how many things you can find that had to come from God. You should look for things like:

- ❖ The place you sleep
- ❖ What is your house made of?
- ❖ How many family members do you have? Brothers? Sisters? Aunties? Uncles? Grandparents?
- ❖ Do you use coal or wood for the fire in your kitchen?

Ask your mother/father where these things came from. If they tell you the market, ask them where the market sellers got them.

Remind your family that God is our Father, and He is the one who provides even the things we buy in the market.

MEMORY VERSE REVIEW: A good way to do this is with a "Memory Verse Choir".

- ❖ Our Memory Verse has two parts and a Scripture reference.
 - 1) Malachi 2:10 a-b
 - 2) Have we not all one father?
 - 3) Hath not one God created us?
 - ❑ Divide the class into three groups. (Younger students are probably too shy to speak out individually, so working with groups gives them courage.)
 - ❑ Name each section a different voice part (such as soprano for girls, tenor for boys, and bass for the Scripture Reference group).
 - ❑ Repeat their portion of the verse with each group, several times.
 - ❑ Give each group a chance to say their portion of the verse separately, while directing them as though you were their Choirmaster. The choirmaster should direct the verse, sometimes holding a word out a long time, and sometimes cutting the "choir" short.
 - ❑ After following this procedure for two or three times, allow the groups to say their portion of the verse together, in proper order.
 - ❑ Have each group say the entire verse (with Scripture reference).
 - ❑ Choose one student (who is very good at saying the verse) as the choirmaster for the entire class.
 - ❑ Finally, the entire class should say the verse together, in unison, as a choir would sing all voice parts in harmony.
-
-

GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH THE BIBLE: Discuss the location of the memory verse. Be sure that you have your Bible in your hand as you talk about it.

- ❖ Turn to the different sections, and allow students to come to the front and hold the Bible for you as you move from place to place in its pages.
- ❖ This will help the students learn that the Bible is something they can touch and know how to use.
- ❖ Just like we divided our verse into sections/parts, the Bible is divided into two big parts. Can anyone tell me what those two parts are called? (Old Testament & New Testament)
- ❖ What does the first section talk about? (The beginning of everything, and the promise of a saviour)
- ❖ What does the second section talk about? (The promise is here, the church is born, and the promise is coming back one day)
- ❖ Where can you find the book of Malachi in the Bible? (Close to the middle of the book)
- ❖ Which section/division is it in? (At the end of the Old Testament – the first section)
- ❖ Who wrote the book of Malachi? (The prophet Malachi wrote down what God told him to.)
- ❖ Call for different volunteers to come to the front of the class and help them find the book of Malachi, using all the information that you have been discussing.
- ❖ Finally, let volunteers come to the front of the class and say the memory verse.

NOTE TO THE TEACHER;

This sample lesson is given to help you with ideas for the methods you would use to teach a class of students in this age group. It is by no means the only way this lesson could be taught. Given the guidelines of the Christian Education text, you can choose any one of the styles suggested there to make this lesson one that your students will never forget. Pray about it, study God's Word, and let His creativity flow in your heart and life.

God Bless You!

Sis. Linda Poitras