

**2014 Creative Festivals Lesson Plan:
Preschool to Kindergarten**

Theme:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."

Luke 10:27

Goal:

To help the students understand the theme well enough to express it in art, photography, poetry, or creative writing.

Objectives:

The students will be able to:

- Talk about ways in which they can show God they love Him.
- Recite the meaning of the theme in a simplified version, "Love God and love others."
- Sing a theme song using hand motions.
- Demonstrate the proper way to make the sign of the cross.
- Recall that the sign of the cross is also a prayer reminding us to love God with all our mind, heart, soul & strength.
- Differentiate between acts of love and behavior that would make Jesus unhappy.

Time: 40-45 minutes

Materials:

- Children's Bible
- Lyrics & hand motions to the theme song, "God is the Boss" by Gigi Shadid (attached)
- Downloaded version of the theme song (above), which can be obtained from the Dept. of Christian Education website :
<http://www.antiochian.org/festivals/cf> (Under "Resources" click on "Theme Song")
- "Sign of the Cross" handout (attached)
- 2014 Creative Festivals logo icon
- ½ Sheets of red and green construction paper, one pair per student
- Supplies to use for work on Creative Festival project (if time permits.)

Opening Prayer:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

Introduction:

- Read the theme verse from Luke 10:27: “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.*”
- Explain briefly that these are the TWO greatest commandments that God gives us: Love God and love others. Jesus is telling us that He wants us to care about other people, too, not just ourselves.
- Have students repeat the phrase, “Love God and love others.”

Creative Festivals Theme Song: “God is the Boss”:

- Review the correct way to make the sign of the cross and explain what the three fingers mean (*Trinity*) and two fingers mean (*two natures of Christ-Jesus is fully God and fully man*).
- Connect the sign of the cross with the theme verse. Explain how when we make the sign of the cross, we can remember to love God with our whole mind, heart and soul, and strength. “Hallow my thoughts” (*Mind*), “Cleanse my heart” (*Heart and Soul*), “Take the heavy weight off of my shoulders” (*Strength*).
- Before playing the theme song, teach your students the hand motions to the song (attached). Please note: there is an instructional video on YouTube teaching the hand motions to “God is the Boss” –search: Gigi Shadid or go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Wljk5aYq0Y>
- Play the theme song, “*God is the Boss*” at least two times.
- Pass out the “*Sign of the Cross*” handout which will reinforce the point visually.

Discussion:

Ask the children, “How do we SHOW GOD we love Him? (*Obtain responses.*)

Possible responses may include:

- *By coming to church*
- *Making the sign of the cross*
- *Kissing an icon*
- *Praying, etc.*

Simple Prayers:

Have your students repeat these two simple prayers with you.

“Lord have mercy” and “Thank you, God.”

One way we SHOW GOD how much we love Him is by saying “**Thank you, God**” each and every day. Do we say “Thank you, God” when we wake up to enjoy a new day? Do we thank him before *and* after meals? Do we thank him at the end of each day for our many blessings? Let’s practice saying “Thank you, God” every day.

The Good Samaritan

- Using a children’s Bible, read to them the story of the Good Samaritan.
- Explain to the students the desirable behavior displayed by the Good Samaritan compared to the priest and Levite; being kind, helping, giving water, cleaning his wounds.
- Show students a full-page copy of the logo icon. Who do you see in the icon? (*Christ is the Good Samaritan, and the one in need is “Adam” who represents all mankind.*)
- Who is our neighbor? (*Obtain responses. The children may say that their neighbor is someone who lives next door, etc. Explain that God wants us to treat **everyone** as our neighbor.*)
- What does it mean to “love your neighbor as yourself”? (*Obtain responses.*)
Tell the children what the “Golden Rule” is: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” (*Simply put, treat others the way **you** want to be treated.*)
- Whatever we do to others, it is as if we are doing it to Jesus. So, if we are going to say that we love God, then we have to show God’s love to others like our brothers, sisters, parents, friends, neighbors, etc.

“Golden Rule” Role Play Scenarios:

- What if you fell off your bike/tricycle on the side of the road? How would you want to be treated? What if you saw it happen to someone you didn't know very well in your neighborhood?
- What if someone at school was not being included at recess or some other class activity? What would you do? How would you want to be treated if that happened to you?
- What if you dropped your lunch in a puddle, on the way to school? What if it happened to someone else? Would you share your lunch with them? What if it happened to someone who had been mean to you before? How would it feel to share with someone who had been mean to you?

Remember the “Golden Rule”: *Treat others the way **you** want to be treated.*

“Red or Green” Activity:

Give each child a half sheet of red and green construction paper. Use these scenarios (and any others you may come up with), both good and bad things to do, and have them hold up either the red or the green paper. (*Red if it’s something we shouldn’t do, green if it’s something we should do.*)

Some examples may include:

- Visit someone in the hospital (*green*)
- Hit your brother (*red*)
- Tell a lie (*red*)
- Help set the table (*green*)
- Share your toys (*green*)
- Make fun of someone (*red*)
- Donate your warm winter coat to a charity (*green*)

Creative Festival Project:

At this point, you may wish to have the children work on their Creative Festival project if time permits. If you do not have enough time remaining, schedule work on the project for the following week.

Closing Prayer:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ our God, help us to love You with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind. Help us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

“God is the Boss”

By Gigi Shadid

When you make the sign of the Cross, *(make the sign of the cross to the beat)*
You remember that God is the Boss.*(point both index fingers upwards)*

You say hallow my thoughts and cleanse my heart, *(cross your forehead, then chest)*
Take the heavy weight off of my shoulders.*(cross your right shoulder, then left, then the middle of your chest)*

Hallow my thoughts and cleanse my heart, *(cross your forehead, then chest)*
Take the heavy weight off of my shoulders.*(cross your right shoulder, then left, then the middle of your chest)*

Watch my hands as they go, *(wiggle your fingers up and down, then right, then left)*
Up and down, to and fro,*(wiggle your fingers up and down, then right, then left)*

Hallow my thoughts and cleanse my heart, *(cross your forehead, then chest)*
Take the heavy weight off of my shoulders.*(cross your right shoulder, then left, then the middle of your chest)*

Three for the Trinity, *(put your fingers together as if you were going to make the sign of the cross, then take your thumb, index and middle finger open and close it, open and close it to the beat)*

Two for the Natures of Christ, *(take the other two fingers that are resting and have them come from the palm of the hand to the normal sticking out position, back to the palm, and sticking out again)*

Fully God and fully man,*(hook your two index fingers together to the left, then to the right)*
Now wouldn't you say that was nice?*(put your hands on your slightly bended knees and criss-cross them back and forth while shaking your head from left to right in a funny way) ☺*

When you make the sign of the Cross, *(make the sign of the cross to the beat)*
You remember that God is the Boss.*(point both index fingers upwards)*

You say hallow my thoughts and cleanse my heart, *(cross your forehead, then chest)*
Take the heavy weight off of my shoulders.*(cross your right shoulder, then left, then the middle of your chest)*

Hallow my thoughts and cleanse my heart, *(cross your forehead, then chest)*
Take the heavy weight off of my shoulders.*(cross your right shoulder, then left, then the middle of your chest)*

(NOTE: You may repeat the song so the children sing it twice all the way though.)

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I shall love the Lord my God
with all my



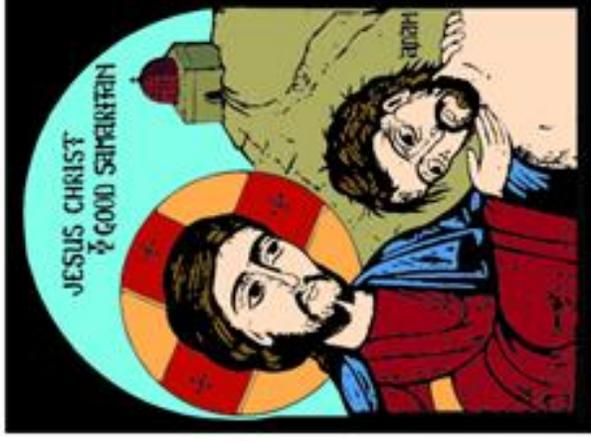
MIND, HEART & SOUL,



and with all my
STRENGTH.

YOU shall love the
LORD

with all your soul,
with all your mind;



your God with all your heart,
with all your strength,
with all your mind; and your

NEIGHBOR
as yourself.

-- Luke 10:27