

Lesson Overview

✝️Sermon Title

The Unexpected Hero: God’s Big Plan for You (Based on the movie The Star)

Main Theme

Sometimes we have our own big dreams, but God has a plan that is bigger and better than we can imagine. Even if you feel small, ordinary, or stuck doing something "boring," God can use you to do incredible things!

Bible Verse

"Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails."
Proverbs 19:21 (NIV)

"This lesson is an independent work created for educational and religious ministry purposes. It is intended to be used alongside a viewing of the movie 'The Star' (© Sony Pictures Animation). This material is not officially endorsed by, affiliated with, or licensed by Sony Pictures Animation. All movie character names and references are used for illustrative purposes only."



Opening Questions

Sermons4Children .com

🤔

1. Have you ever wanted to be the "star" of a show or the captain of a team, but got stuck with a job that felt small or unimportant instead?
2. In the movie The Star, Bo the donkey wanted to do something "royal" and important. Do you remember what he wanted to do versus what he actually did?
3. If God asked you to do something huge—like save the world—do you think He'd give you a superpower, or do you think He'd just ask you to be yourself?



Modern Parable

The Benchwarmer’s Secret Mission

Leo was the smallest kid on the "Tigers" basketball team. His jersey was so big it looked like a dress, and he spent every single game sitting on the hard, wooden bench. Leo had a dream, though. He imagined the crowd chanting his name—Leo! Leo!—as he scored the game-winning buzzer-beater. But in reality? His job was to hand water bottles to the "actual" players. "I’m just a water boy," Leo sighed, kicking his sneakers against the floor. "I’m basically invisible."

During the championship game, the Tigers were down by one point with ten seconds left. Suddenly, the coach yelled, "Leo! You're in!" Leo’s heart hammered against his ribs like a trapped bird. He ran onto the court. The plan was to pass the ball to Marcus, the team's star player. But as the play started, three defenders swarmed Marcus. Marcus couldn't move! He looked panicked. Leo, standing all alone in the corner because nobody thought he was a threat, waved his arms. Marcus threw the ball.

Leo caught it. The clock ticked... 3... 2... He didn't shoot. He saw his teammate, Sam, wide open under the hoop. Leo did a bounce pass, right through the legs of a defender. Sam caught it, laid it up, and—SWISH! The buzzer rang. They won! In the locker room, the coach didn't praise the shot; he praised the pass. "Everyone was watching the stars," the coach said, grinning at Leo, "but it was the guy nobody noticed who saved the game." Leo realized he didn't need to be the loudest or the biggest to be the hero; he just needed to be ready when his moment came.



Object Lesson

The Mystery of the Missing Piece

Supply List:

- A large, 50-piece jigsaw puzzle (put together on a board beforehand, but remove one single piece right from the center/face of the main character).
- The missing puzzle piece (hidden in your pocket).

The Point: To show kids that without their specific "small" part, the whole picture is incomplete.

Instructions:

1. Show the kids the almost-finished puzzle. Ask them, "Does this look awesome?" (They will point out the hole).
2. Say, "Oh, that? It’s just one tiny piece. It’s small. It’s made of cardboard. It’s not important, right? The puzzle is still huge without it!"
3. Argue playfully that you don't need it. "Who cares about that one little spot?"
4. Finally, pull the piece from your pocket. "This piece might feel small. It might feel like it's just 'cardboard.' But without it, the masterpiece is ruined."
5. Connection: You are this piece. You might feel small, but God's picture isn't complete without you doing your part.



Sermon

Following the Wrong Wagon

Introduction:

Have you ever tried to help your parents, but ended up making a huge mess? Or maybe you planned to build a majestic Lego castle, but it fell over and became a... very modern parking lot? We all make plans. In the movie we just watched, The Star, Bo the donkey had a massive plan. He didn't want to be stuck in a dusty mill walking in circles all day. No way! Bo wanted glory! He dreamed of joining the Royal Caravan—the horses with the shiny armor, the kings with the gold, the parades! He thought, "If I can just get to that caravan, then I'll be important."

But God had a funny way of messing up Bo's travel plans. Bo didn't end up with kings and gold. He ended up with a carpenter named Joseph and a pregnant woman named Mary. I bet Bo was thinking, "Wait a minute... this lady is heavy, my back hurts, and we are walking toward a tiny town called Bethlehem, not a palace. This is definitely NOT the Royal Caravan!" Bo thought he was failing. He thought he was stuck doing the boring job. But he didn't realize that while he wanted to carry luggage for a human king, he was actually carrying the King of the Universe.

The Scripture Story: The story of Jesus' birth is found in the Bible in Luke Chapter 2.

Lessons For Us:

Just like Bo, we sometimes chase the wrong "shiny" things. We think being important means having the most followers, the best clothes, or being the funniest kid in class. We want the Royal Caravan! But God often calls us to the "stable moments." He calls us to be kind to the kid sitting alone (even if it's not cool). He calls us to help our siblings (even if it's annoying). Bo realized that protecting Mary and Jesus was the most important job in history.



Sermon Continued...

God’s plan for you might not look flashy right now. It might look like doing your homework, being a good friend, or listening to your parents. But remember: You don't have to be a giant warhorse to be a hero. You just have to be willing to carry Jesus with you wherever you go.

Concluding Thought

So, next time you feel like you're just "walking in circles" or doing something that doesn't feel very special, remember Bo. He was just a little donkey who followed a weird moving Star. He didn't know the ending of the story. He just took one step at a time. And because he didn't give up, he was right there in the front row when the Savior of the World took His first breath. You are part of a massive, beautiful story that God is writing. Don't worry about being famous. Worry about being faithful. Because when you follow God, you’ll always end up exactly where you’re meant to be.

Closing Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for having a big plan for us, even when we feel small. Help us to stop chasing the 'shiny' things and start trusting You. Thank You for Jesus, the true Star. Help us to carry Your love to everyone we meet this week. We love You! In Jesus’ name, Amen."



Q & A

Sermons4Children .com

? Test your knowledge!

1. In the movie (and the sermon), what did Bo the donkey want to do at first?
    a. Join the Royal Caravan.
2. Who did Bo end up carrying instead of a King's luggage?
    a. Mary (and Jesus).
3. In our Bible verse (Proverbs 19:21), whose purpose prevails (wins)?
    a. The Lord's.
4. Where is the story of Jesus' birth found in the Bible?
    a. Luke Chapter 2.
5. Why did Bo think his new job wasn't important at first?
    a. It was hard work, no glory, and they were going to a small town.
6. In the "Modern Parable," what did Leo do to win the game?
    a. He passed the ball to an open teammate.
7. What town did Mary and Joseph travel to?
    a. Bethlehem.
8. True or False: You have to be an adult or famous to do big things for God.
    a. False.
9. What guided the animals and Wise Men to the stable?
    a. The Star.
10. What is the most important thing we can "carry" with us, like Bo carried Mary?
    a. The love of Jesus.



Game Ideas

"Follow the Star" (Blindfold Challenge)

Instructions: Choose one child to be the "Traveler" (blindfolded). Choose another child to be "The Star" (holding a flashlight or a yellow paper star). The Star stands somewhere in the room. The Star cannot move, but they can make a "ding" sound (or say "beep") every 2 seconds. The Traveler has to find the Star just by listening.

Twist: Add "Distractions"—other kids whispering wrong directions gently!

"Pack the Donkey" Relay

Instructions: Divide kids into two teams. Each team has a "Donkey" (a brave volunteer on hands and knees or just standing). At the other end of the room is a pile of "supplies" (pillows, blankets, stuffed animals, plastic cups).

Action: One by one, teammates run to the pile, grab an item, run back, and stack it on the "Donkey's" back. If the stack falls, they have to start stacking over! First team to stack all items and keep them balanced for 5 seconds wins.

"Sheepdog Roundup"

Instructions: Based on the sheep in the movie! Designate a "Pen" area (taped square on the floor). One kid is the "Sheepdog." Everyone else is a "Sheep." The Sheep must crawl on hands and knees. The Sheepdog must tag them. When tagged, the sheep must go to the Pen.

Twist: If a free Sheep high-fives a captured Sheep, the captured Sheep is free!



Craft Ideas

"Bo’s Listening Ears" Headband

Supply List:

- Grey construction paper (thick cardstock is best).
- Pink construction paper (for the inner ear).
- Stapler or tape.
- Markers/Crayons.
- Scissors.
- Optional: Cotton balls (for Bo’s hair tuft).

Instructions:

1. Cut the Band: Cut long strips of grey paper about 2 inches wide. Measure around the child's head and staple/tape to form a headband.
2. Make the Ears: Cut two large donkey-ear shapes out of grey paper. Cut two slightly smaller pink shapes. Glue the pink inside the grey.
3. Attach: Staple or tape the ears onto the headband.
4. The "Tuft": Glue a few cotton balls between the ears for Bo’s messy hair.
5. Write the Verse: On the front band, have them write: "God's Plan > My Plan" or "Proverbs 19:21".
6. Wear: Put them on and let everyone hee-haw!



At Home Connection

The At-Home Connection

Parent's Pain Point Solved: You want to teach your kids that disappointment isn't the end of the world, but you're tired and need a simple way to start that chat.

Discussion Questions:

1. "Bo wanted to be royal, but he ended up in a stable. Have you ever wanted something really bad (like a toy or a win), didn't get it, but something okay happened instead?"
2. "Why do you think God chose a donkey, a smelly stable, and a scary night to bring Jesus into the world? Why not a castle?"
3. "What is one thing you are 'planning' for tomorrow? Let's pray that God uses that plan for something good."

Family Activity: The "Plan B" Pizza (or Toast)

Supplies: Bread (or pizza crust), sauce, cheese,and toppings.

Action: Let the kids "plan" a face on their pizza/toast using toppings. Before you bake/toast it, "accidentally" bump the tray (gently!) so the toppings shift a little.

Lesson: Bake it anyway. Eat it. Ask: "Did it turn out exactly how you drew it? No. Does it still taste amazing? Yes!" Remind them that even when life gets messy or shifts, God still makes it good.