

C.S. Lewis | Lesson Plan

Why is it important to stand up for what you believe in?

Through learning about the life of Christian author C.S. Lewis, students will understand the importance of courageously standing up for their beliefs. They will recognize that those who refuse to compromise their convictions have the power to inspire others and make a positive difference in the world.

Learning Objectives:

- Investigate the life experiences and literary accomplishments of author C.S. Lewis.
- Examine Lewis' spiritual journey to become one of our time's greatest Christian authors.
- Describe the concept and importance of respectful debate.
- Recognize the importance of standing up for their beliefs, even when they are alone in their convictions.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Debate:** A discussion between two or more people in which they express different opinions about something.
- **Anonymous:** Not identified by name.
- **Atheist:** Someone who does not believe in God.
- **Compromise:** To settle a dispute by mutual concession.

Educational Standards: CCRA.L.1, CCRA.L.2, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.W.4, CCRA.R.7, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.SL.4, CCRA.W.2

Academic Subject Areas: Biography, Judeo-Christian Values, Character Development

What You'll Need

- Video: *C.S. Lewis: The Great Christian Author* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *C.S. Lewis: The Great Christian Author* (Click [Here](#))
- Two or three different colors of construction paper cut into small squares or sticky notes

Lesson Plan (45 minutes)

Warm-Up: (15 minutes)

1. Before class, cut two or three different colors of construction paper into small squares, enough for each child to have one of either color (colorful sticky notes may also be used). Place squares in clear view of all students.
2. Invite each child to come and choose one square that will represent the color they think would be the best paint color for a car.
3. When every child has a square, encourage volunteers to explain why the square color they chose is the best option.



4. After all volunteers have shared their thoughts, ask students if anyone changed their opinion based on what a classmate said.
5. Explain that in any discussion or debate, it is important for people to be true to what they believe, even if they stand alone.
6. Ask students if they have heard of the author C.S. Lewis and encourage them to share any prior knowledge they have of him. Explain that they will watch a video to learn how C.S. Lewis remained true to his beliefs and shared those beliefs with others.
7. Distribute the “C.S. Lewis Worksheet” and read the questions aloud so that students know what to listen for as the video plays.

Watch and Complete: (20 minutes)

1. Show the video, pausing at key moments to discuss the information presented and answer questions as they go along.
2. Assist students in understanding the questions and completing the worksheet, if needed.

Wrap-Up: (10-15 minutes)

1. Allow students to complete the worksheet independently.
2. Invite students to share their answers with the class. Assist students in filling in any blanks they may have missed.
3. Wrap up the lesson on C.S. Lewis by having students reflect on the profound impact of standing up for their beliefs and the power of respectful debate. Understanding the life and work of C.S. Lewis provides students with a clear example of how courage and conviction can inspire others. If time permits, facilitate a discussion using the following guiding questions:
 - How did C.S. Lewis’s beliefs influence his writing? Think about a time when your beliefs influenced something you created or did. What was it, and how did it make you feel?
 - Why is it important to stand up for your beliefs, even when others might disagree with you? Can you think of a situation where you stood up for something you believed in? How did you handle it, and what was the outcome?
 - C.S. Lewis used his imagination to create stories that teach important lessons. How can you use your imagination to inspire others?
 - Share an example of a time when you had a discussion with someone who had a different opinion. How did you ensure the conversation was respectful?
 - C.S. Lewis’s journey showed that it’s okay to change your mind about what you believe. Why is it important to be open to new ideas and perspectives?
 - Have you ever changed your mind about something important? What made you change your opinion, and how did you feel about it afterward?
 - Respectful debate allows people to express their opinions and learn from each other. How can you practice respectful debate in your daily life?
4. Explain that learning about C.S. Lewis is important because his life and work exemplify

key values such as bravery, integrity, and the power of storytelling. Through his journey from atheism to becoming one of the greatest Christian authors, students see that personal transformation and steadfast faith can lead to influential contributions in literature and society. C.S. Lewis's ability to articulate and defend his beliefs serves as a powerful lesson for students about the importance of standing up for what they believe in, even when it is challenging.

Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 minutes)

Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.