

What is Trust?

Lesson Scripture: Luke 8:22-25

Bible Truth: I will trust God.

Bible Story: Luke 8:22-25

Bible Verse: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. (Proverbs 3:5, NIV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: “What is Trust?”

Preparation

None

Materials

none

Presentation

Say: **I need a volunteer who really trusts me.** Allow children to raise their hands. **You need to really, really trust me.** Pick a volunteer.

Say to your volunteer: **I want you to stand in front of me and place your arms across your chest. When I say go, I want you to fall backwards. I promise I will catch you. Do you trust me enough to try?** If the child agrees, proceed with the demonstration, being sure to catch the child and not let him fall. If the child is unsure, choose another volunteer.

Ask the volunteer: **Why were you willing to fall backwards?** The child should answer that he trusted you and knew you wouldn't let him get hurt. Say: **When you trust someone, you rely on them to help you. You know that they would never hurt you. When we trust God, we remember that He knows what is best for us and that He will always take care of us.**

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Proverbs 3:5

Preparation

Write Proverbs 3:5 on a piece of poster board.

Materials

poster board
marker
small ball

Explanation

Read Proverbs 3:5 with the children. Say: **This verse tells us one thing we should do and one thing we should not do. Can anyone underline the phrase that tells us what we should do?** Allow a child to underline the phrase, "Trust in the Lord." **What does it mean to trust God?** Allow children to answer. **When we trust God, we believe that He can take care of us. When we believe that He can take care of us, we do not worry.**

Can anyone underline the phrase that tells us what we should not do? Allow a child to underline the phrase, "Do not depend on your own understanding." **What word in this phrase means to trust?** Allow a child to point to the word "depend." **Yes, when you depend on someone, you trust them. God doesn't want us to depend on ourselves. Sometimes people think they don't need God's help. They think they are smart enough or have enough money to take care of themselves. But God doesn't want us to trust in ourselves or our money, He wants us to trust in Him.**

Memorization Activity

Have children form two lines, facing each other. Give the first child in line a ball. Ask him to say the first word of the Bible verse as he throws it to the child standing across from him. That child says the second word of the Bible verse and throws the ball to the second child in the other line. Continue tossing the ball between the two lines until children have said the entire verse. If you have more words than children, they can start over. When children are familiar with the verse, hide the poster board and let them play the game from memory.

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: "Jesus Calms the Storm," Luke 8:22-25

Preparation

Read and study Luke 8:22-25.

Choose children to act out the Bible story as you narrate it. You will need at least 2 children to act out the characters of Jesus and the disciples and several children to pretend to be the storm.



Presentation

Say: **Today, we are going to learn about a time that Jesus' disciples forgot to trust Him. As I tell you the story, you can act it out.** Guide children in acting out the story as you tell it.

Say: **Jesus, together with His disciples, had been traveling to many towns teaching, preaching, and healing people. One day, He told them that they needed to travel across a huge lake to the other side. They got into a boat and began the trip.** The children pretending to be Jesus and the disciples should get into a pretend boat.

Jesus was very tired and soon fell asleep. The child playing the part of Jesus should pretend to fall asleep.

Many of the disciples had been fishermen before they became Jesus' disciples, so they were probably confident that they didn't need any help getting the boat to the other side of the lake. Ask the children playing the disciples to stand confidently.

However, the sky suddenly became dark and a huge storm began. The waves were very high, and the disciples were afraid. They thought they were in danger of drowning. The children playing the part of the disciples should pretend to be frightened and the children playing the part of the storm should make loud thunder and wind noises.

They woke Jesus up to tell him that they were all going to drown. Jesus got up and looked at the waves and the storm. He calmly told the storm to stop, and it did! The water was calm and quiet again. Children should perform these actions as you continue story.

Jesus looked at his disciples with sadness. He asked why they didn't trust Him. The disciples should have known that Jesus would never let the storm harm them. Jesus had told the disciples they were going to the other side of the lake, and He planned to get them there safely.

Discuss the following questions:

Who suggested they get into the boat? (Jesus)

Why were the disciples not scared when they first got into the boat? (Most of them had been fishermen, and they trusted in themselves to sail the boat.)

When the storm came, could the disciples take care of themselves? (No)

Instead of trusting that Jesus would take care of them, what did the disciples do? (They woke Jesus up to tell them that they were all going to drown.)

What did Jesus do? (He calmed the storm.)

Why was Jesus sad? (The disciples had not trusted Jesus to take care of them.)

Say: **Instead of trusting in ourselves, we need to put our trust in Jesus. He will always take care of us and help us.**

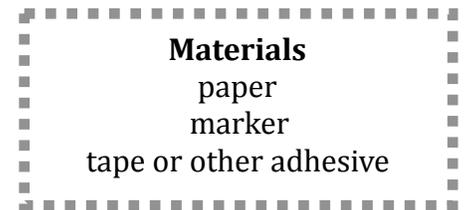
APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Creative writing, "Who Do You Trust?"

Preparation

Write the following phrases on separate sheets of paper:

Worry
Trust in Themselves
Trust in God



Attach the papers to three different walls in the room. If you are meeting outside, ask three volunteers to hold the paper signs for you.

Presentation

Say: **Sometimes it is hard to trust God. We either worry about something, or we try to fix it ourselves. I am going to read you short stories about five children. Decide if the children worried about their problems, trusted in God, or trusted in themselves.** Ask children to stand by the correct sign when they decide if the child in the story worried about their problem, trusted in God, or trusted in themselves.

- Story 1: John has always slept in the same room as his brother, but his brother is going to be away for a week. John is going to have to sleep in a room by himself. He hides a flashlight under his pillow, so he can use it if he gets scared.
- Story 2: Mary has a math test at school tomorrow. She doesn't like math and usually does poorly on tests. Mary is awake all night worrying about the test.
- Story 3: Steve and Jane can hear their parents arguing in the other room. They hate it when their parents yell at each other. They kneel by their bed and begin to pray for their parents.
- Story 4: Jeremiah has been sick for a week. He begins to think that he is never going to feel better.
- Story 5: Katrina's family is moving to a new town. She has to leave all of her friends. She prays and asks God to send her new friends.

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

None

Presentation

Say: **Some of you may struggle with worry. Instead of worrying, Jesus wants you to trust Him. When you have a problem, some of you try to fix it yourself. Instead of trusting in yourself, Jesus wants you to trust Him.** Invite children who struggle with worry or tend to trust in themselves to stand by the corresponding sign. Pray with each group of children. When everyone is finished praying, ask all of the children to stand by the "Trust in God" sign and say together, "We will trust in God."

Materials
signs used during the
application activity