

Trusting God to Help Me Do the Right Thing

Lesson Scripture: Daniel 3

Bible Truth: I will trust God to help me do what is right.

Bible Story: Daniel 3

Bible Verse: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13, NKJV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: "How Strong Are You?"

Preparation

Line up your objects from lightest to heaviest weight. Be sure to have an object too heavy for any of the children to lift.

Materials
several objects of various weights

Presentation

Explain to the children that you are looking for the strongest person in the room. Allow several of the children to demonstrate their strength by picking up the various objects you have displayed. After all of the volunteers have tried, but failed, to lift the heaviest object, ask one of them to try again. This time, help them lift the object.

Say: **The only way for you to lift (heavy object) was when we worked together. It was just too big for one person. You needed help. Sometimes in life, we need help to do hard things too. It can be hard to forgive someone. It can be hard to share your toys. Whenever you struggle with doing the right thing, you can trust God to help you.**

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: PHILIPPIANS 4:13

Preparation

Write Philippians 4:13 on a piece of poster board.

On a large sheet of paper, list several things that are hard for children to do. Examples include sharing toys, studying for a test at school, obeying your parents, being kind to your brothers and sisters, etc.

Materials
Bible
poster board
markers or crayons
large piece of paper

Explanation

Say: **There are many things that may be hard for a child to do. I've written several of them this paper.** Read list to the children. **The Bible tells us that these are the right things to do, but sometimes it is really hard to do thing right thing. Can you think of anything else that you know is the right thing to do, but it is hard for you to do it?** Add children's answers to the list.

I have good news for you. You don't have to rely on your own strength to do these things. The Bible says that Jesus will help you. Read Philippians 4:13. **There is a word in this verse that tells us how many things Jesus will give us the strength to do. Can anyone underline it for me?** Allow one child to underline the word "all". **You can trust Jesus to help you do the right thing!**

Memorization Activity

Read the verse several times with the children, replacing the word "all" with one of the hard things listed on the piece of paper. For example, "I can share my toys through Christ who gives me strength." Once you have inserted all of the hard things listed, have children jump and shout, "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength!"

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: "Three Young Men Refuse to Worship," Daniel 3

Preparation

Read and study Daniel 3.

Pick three children to play the roles of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Choose some other children to play the roles of the king, guards, and a multitude of people. If possible, give each child a Bible costume to wear.

Make a large statue out of poster board or cardboard.

Presentation

Ask children to act out the story as you tell it to them.

Say: **King Nebuchadnezzar, the greatest king in the world at this time, demanded that a ninety feet tall statue be made and covered with gold. When the statue was finished, it was put in an open field for everyone to see.**

Materials
Bible
Bible costumes
poster board
marker

The king ordered all the officials in his kingdom to come and kneel before it. Among those officials were three Jewish men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

While at the open field, King Nebuchadnezzar gave this command:

“Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that I have set up. Whoever does not fall down will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.”

The music sounded. The officials fell on their knees, except for the three Jewish men. They remained standing.

Some of the officials went running to King Nebuchadnezzar. “King, at the sound of the music, three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not fall down. They refused to kneel before the statute that you set up.”

The king was furious! He ordered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego brought before him. When they were brought in, he asked them why they didn’t kneel and then decided to give them a second chance. “Be ready,” he said. “When you hear the music, kneel before the statue I have set up. For if you don’t worship it, you will be thrown in the blazing furnace. Will your God save you then?”

The three brave men answered, “King, we won’t kneel before the statue you built and worship it. We only worship the one true God. Our God is so big that He will deliver us from this blazing furnace. But even if He doesn’t, we still will not worship your statue.”

This made the king very angry! He said, “Make the furnace seven times hotter.” Then soldiers came and tied up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, so they couldn’t move. They were taken to the blazing furnace and thrown inside.

After the three men were thrown into the furnace, King Nebuchadnezzar looked inside it. The furnace was hot enough to instantly kill anyone who even got close to it, but Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were walking around inside. They were not harmed at all. The king also noticed something very strange and he asked, “Didn’t we throw three men into the furnace? There is a fourth man walking inside with them, and he looks like the Son of God.”

“Quickly!” shouted king Nebuchadnezzar, “Take Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego out of the furnace.”

When they came out of the furnace, the king saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies. Their clothes were not burned, and there was no smell of smoke on them. Only the ropes used to tie their hands and feet were burnt.

King Nebuchadnezzar said, “Their God kept them safe, because they trusted in Him.”

When you have finished telling the Bible story, lead children in a discussion using the questions below.

What was King Nebuchadnezzar's command? (Kneel before the statue and worship it at the sound of the music.)

Why was it wrong for them to obey the king's command? (God says we should only worship Him.)

What was a consequence of this disobedience? (Being thrown in the blazing furnace)

Did they make the right choice? (Yes)

Why were they able to make the right choice? (They trusted God to take care of them.)

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Story, "Madelyn Needed Help"

Preparation

None

Presentation

Show children the doll as you tell them the story below.

Materials
a doll
paper
markers or crayons

Say: I want to tell you about a little girl who needed to trust God to help her do the right thing. This little girl's name was Madelyn and she loved pretty things. Her mom also loved pretty things and had a collection of small dolls that Madelyn thought were beautiful. One night as Madelyn was looking at one her mom's dolls, she decided to hold it. All of a sudden, she dropped it and part of the doll broke. Madelyn knew the right thing would be to tell her mom, but she was afraid of getting in trouble. Instead of asking God to help her do the right thing, Madelyn hid the doll under her bed and tried to go to sleep. But all night long, God kept speaking to her heart and telling her the right thing to do. Finally, in the morning, Madelyn went to her mother and told her what had happened. When Madelyn confessed, her mother forgave her, and Madelyn knew in her heart she had done the right thing.

Madelyn learned an important lesson that day. When we need to do the right thing, we can trust God to give us the strength to do it.

Say: **Can you think of a time when you had to trust God to help you do the right thing?** Pass out paper and crayons and ask children to draw a picture of themselves when they had to trust God to help them do the right thing. If they can't think of a situation, have them draw a picture of the story about Madelyn.

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

Write the word "fear" on several pieces of paper. Make enough for each child to have one.

Materials
paper
markers or crayons

Presentation

Say: **In our story, Madelyn didn't do the right thing because she was afraid of getting in trouble. Can you think of any other reasons some children don't do the right thing?** Allow children to answer. They should include fear of getting in trouble, fear of someone laughing at them, fear of making a mistake, etc. **Most of the time, children don't do the right thing because of fear. Trusting in God is the opposite of fear. We trust that He will take care of us. Sometimes He takes away the thing we fear. Other times, He gives us the strength to get through a hard situation. No matter what happens, we know that when we do the right thing, we are pleasing God and that is what is most important in life!**

Give each child a piece of paper with the word "fear" written on it. Have them put the piece of paper under their foot and say, "I will not fear. I will trust God to help me do the right thing." Invite children to pray for any situation in their life where they are struggling to do the right thing.