



Date: _____
Series: God's Power (Summer)
Year 4, Lesson 8

Trust God to Help

Primary Scripture: Matthew 9:18-31

Key Verse: Psalm 62:8, "Trust him at all times, you people. Pour out your hearts in his presence. God is our refuge."

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids need to grow in their trust in God. Like adults, they encounter difficult situations. Sometimes, they can be consumed with worry or feel anxious about things that they can't even easily identify. When this occurs, they need to learn to stop immediately and trust God to take care of them. Even when life is moving smoothly, they need to remember him and trust him to lead and guide them. Each instance in life can be another test and opportunity for us to more fully trust God. This trust in him comes through faith in Christ.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Through Jesus' death and resurrection, he took the punishment of our sin and gave us instead the promise of life with him.

Jesus in us: Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, dwells in us so that we might better trust his leading and guiding.

Jesus through us: A powerful witness to the presence of Christ is the way in which Christians endure the trials and struggles of life.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Say to the kids:

I am going to show you certain actions, and I want to see what you think they might mean.

Kneel with your head bowed and your hands folded.

What do you think I'm doing? *More than one answer may be taken.*
Right, praying. It can also mean that I am asking.

Get down on your hands and knees with one hand outstretched, as if reaching for something.

Who can guess? Right. This could be begging or pleading.

Stand up and walk with your eyes closed. Stumble with your hands out in front of you, trying to feel your way through the dark as if you are blind.

Who can guess what this demonstrates? Right. This would be blindness and searching for someone.

Each of these positions show how several people in the Bible reached out to find Jesus. One man begged Jesus to heal his daughter. A woman pleaded with Jesus to heal her. She was afraid to even say anything, so she just touched the edge of his clothes. Also,

two men were blind and they searched for Jesus so they could be healed.

The way we look on the outside tells us a lot about what is happening on the inside. That is why we want to do all we can in worship to show that we respect God by being reverent, giving attention, and not goofing around. We want to show our dependence and trust in him. Sometimes we do this in the way we hold our hands. In some churches, hands are folded.

Fold hands.

In other churches, hands are upraised.

Raise hands.

Sometimes, we can even kneel.

Kneel down.

Today, let's learn to trust God by giving him our worship and praise. Psalm 47:1 says, "Clap your hands, all you people. Shout to God with a loud, joyful song." Let's show what's going on in our hearts by how well we use our hands and our voices as we praise God now.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Have you ever wondered why people fold their hands in church? One reason is that it helps remind us to control our hands and not bother the people around us. However, there is another very important reason. Remember, what you do with your body sometimes tells what is going on in your heart. What do you think you are saying in your heart when you fold your hands and you talk to God?

Allow children to guess.

You are saying, "I'm helpless. I need you." You see, when your hands are locked together, it's like saying, "I can't do anything with my own hands."

We often fold our hands when we come to God and say, “I’m sorry. Will you please forgive me?” We fold our hands when we ask for forgiveness because we are helpless to fix it. There is no way we can be good enough on our own power to earn our own way to heaven. We cannot erase anything bad that we have done. But Jesus can. That is why he went to the cross for us. What did he do with his hands?

Allow a child to answer.

Right. He put them all the way out like this.

Extend arms out.

When he died on the cross, Jesus welcomed all of us into his family by saying, “I’m taking away your sin.” So when we come to him, we put our hands together and say, “I’m helpless, and I need your forgiveness.” Let’s pray now.

Dear God, we don’t have the power to earn our way to heaven. We don’t have the power to erase our sin by doing enough good things. So we depend on you. We remember some of the things that we have done that may have hurt others or hurt you, and we are sorry for them. We remember things like hurtful words or hurtful actions. We remember things that we did that were selfish and did not show our love for you at all. We remember times when we even complained or were ungrateful. Please forgive us. We trust in Jesus as our Savior and ask that he would fill us with his power so that we could be MORE than helpless – we could be helpful to you. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Supplies needed: a piece of candy

Invite a student forward who might feel comfortable hugging you.

Without using any words or moving your lips, how would you tell me, “I care about you,” or “I love you?” What action could you do? *This may stump the child. But they might give a hug or say, “A hug.”*

Good. A hug is way of saying you care. Is there anything else? How about this?

Reach into your pocket, pull out a piece of candy and give it to the child.

Sometimes by giving presents, we tell another person that we like them or care about them. And for some people, it is even a way to say, “I love you.”

Hold up the offering plate.

What are we saying to God when we bring him our offerings?

Allow a child to answer.

Right. We are saying, “I love you, God, and I’m thankful for all you have given me.”

Let’s bring our offerings up, and let’s not make a sound because we are telling him that we love him by our actions and by what we are giving him.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

“What’s in the Refrigerator?”

Supplies needed: masking tape

In advance, make two parallel lines on the floor with masking tape. If possible, make the lines about 20 feet apart.

Have the kids find a partner.

The youngest in each group will think of one word that is a type of food. For example, the word could be “apple.” The other person is going to think of a word that goes with it, such as “pie.” That makes “apple pie.” If one person says “banana,” the other person may say “bread” or “split” to make “banana bread” or “banana split.” You can use the word “and,” if you want. One person may say “hamburger,” and the other person may say “fries” to make “hamburger and fries.”

Okay, first, the youngest person in each group can pick a word and share it with his/her partner.

Give them a few moments. Then allow the partner a moment to think of a word that goes with the first word. Have them tell their partners.

Let’s share a few examples.

Take three or four examples. Then have the youngest person in each group stand behind one of the lines and his/her partner stand behind the other line. Say:

Everyone will pretend to be blind. You will take your hands and hold your palms out, extended just a bit so if you bump into anyone else, you won’t get hurt. The goal is for your hands to connect with your partner’s. The way you will find your partner is that each of you will say your word and you will listen for your partner until you connect. For example, one person will say, “apple” while his/her partner says, “pie.”

All of you, please close your eyes. When I count to three, you will pretend not to see anymore– no cheating. Then you will start walking toward the middle, listening for your partner. Once you connect with your eyes closed and both hands touching, then you can open your eyes and go to the side of the room. Ready? One, two, three.

If there is enough time, the game can be played again.

Learning point:

In today's Bible event, we will hear about some blind people who called out for Jesus to save them.

Do you think it was a good fit when Jesus met someone who was blind and had a great need and they came together? Yes. In order for this game to work, both you and your partners called out for each other. How many of you think God calls out for us? In John 10:3, it says, *"He calls his sheep by name and leads them out of the pen."* That means that God calls each of us by name, and he leads us.

Should we call out for God? Yes. The Bible tells us in Psalm 50:15, *"Call on me in times of trouble. I will rescue you, and you will honor me."* So God calls out to us, and we call out to him. We are both blessed in doing this.

There were other people in today's Bible event that also had great needs. They were not blind, but something else happened to them that caused them to have a very hard time. Watch and see what those were. Do you think it will be a good fit when they see Jesus?

Bible Reading:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Needed: video called The Visual Bible: Matthew Vol. 2 ISBN 1-889710-07-5 (order from http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=41).

Show portions containing scripture from Matthew 9:18-31.

First read Psalm 62:8

"Trust him at all times, you people. Pour out your hearts in his presence. God is our refuge."

Then say:

Let's meet some people who trusted in God and poured their hearts out to him. They did this by turning to Jesus. They found that he was their refuge. That means that he was the one who could rescue them.

Show the *Visual Bible: Matthew* video containing the scripture portions from Matthew 9:18-31.

Application 1:

Review panel

Supplies needed: eight pieces of candy

Invite four kids forward who would like to be part of a review panel and earn a piece of candy as they answer a question about today's Bible event. If they can't answer the question, they can ask a friend. The friend gets candy, too.

Question 1:

A man came to Jesus, and he was very worried. He needed Jesus' help because someone close to him was very sick. Who was sick? *(The man's daughter.) What did he ask Jesus? (He asked him to heal her.)*

Question 2:

As Jesus followed the man that needed his daughter to be healed, a woman who had been sick a long time did something to receive healing from Jesus. What did she do? *(She touched his clothes.)*

Question 3:

What was wrong with the two men who cried out to Jesus for mercy? *(They were blind.) What did Jesus do? (He healed them.)*

Question 4:

1 Peter 2:24 says, "Christ carried our sins in his body on the cross so that freed from our sins, we could live a life that has God's approval. His wounds have healed you." What did Jesus do to heal us from our most critical illness of sin? *(He died on the cross.)*

Application 2:

God Stories: *(In place of Witness and Tell)*

Supplies needed: a red flag, a yellow flag and a green flag, three chairs on the stage

The most important thing that God wants us to learn today is that we are supposed to trust him not only during hard times, but also when things are going well. So today we will look at three different times when we trust God.

Hold up the red flag.

We can trust God when things are going really bad.

Hold up the yellow flag.

We can trust God when we are scared about something in the future or scared about something that isn't even real.

Hold up the green flag.

And we can trust God when things are going great.

Flags like this are used in racing. Red means "stop." Yellow means "caution or slow down." And green means "go."

I am going to select a panel of kids that can give us examples of when we should have the red flag waved. That means we should stop right where we are and trust God. Think of a time when you had to trust God during a very hard time – maybe it was when someone was sick or someone close to you died. Or maybe you were sick, sad, or lonely. Can I have three volunteers from the audience who are willing to tell their storyies about what happened?

Have three children come up and sit in the chairs on stage. When a child tells his/her story, he should stand and talk to the group using the microphone. After each child tells his/her story, wave the red flag and explain that this means that we should stop when we feel like this, and we should trust God.

When we wave a red flag, we should say a prayer like this: "God, I need you, and I trust you to help me. I pray in Jesus' name, who gave his life for me."

Dismiss the first panel.

Now, think about a time when you were afraid of something that you thought might happen. Maybe you were worried about a test. Or maybe you were afraid of something in the dark. That is a time when we need to trust God, as well.

Let three children come up and tell their stories. After each child tells his story, wave the yellow flag.

Note: *If the child talks about something she feared in the dark, do not discount the fear that she experienced. On the other hand, be careful not to say something that may cause fear in other children. Focus on how to handle the fear by trusting in Jesus.*

When we wave the yellow flag, we can say a prayer like this: “I trust God, and in Jesus’ name, I tell those fears to go away.”

Dismiss the panel.

When things are going wonderfully, we don’t want to forget about God. We still need to trust him. Can you think of an example when things were going really well and you still trusted God? Maybe you went on a fun vacation. Or maybe you did really well in school. Or maybe you did something fun with a good friend.

Let three children come up and tell their stories. After each child tells his story, wave the green flag.

When we wave the green flag, we can say a prayer like this: “Dear God, thank you that everything is going great. I trust you in good times and in bad times. Help me serve you in all that I do. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Dismiss the panel.



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Kids shared their stories in Application 2.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Offering

- a piece of candy

Learning Game:

- masking tape

Bible Reading:

- video called *The Visual Bible: Matthew Vol. 2* produced by Visual Bible International, ISBN 1-889710-07-5 (order from http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=41)

Application 1:

- eight pieces of candy

Application 2:

- a red flag, yellow flag and a green flag
- three chairs on the stage