



Date: _____

Series: God is Our Rescuer
Fall Year 2, Lesson 17

Don't Worry- God Will Help with Everything

Primary Scripture: Matthew 6:25-34

Key Verse: Matthew 6:33, "But first, be concerned about his kingdom and what has his approval. Then all these things will be provided for you."

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

Kids, like adults, can easily worry about the daily pressures they face. Kids today have much more attention focused on them than kids from past generations have experienced. As a result, they can feel pressure to perform. They can also be experiencing too much decision-making, even growing up too rapidly. The cause for them not to worry is based on the confidence they can have in God. If God did not spare his own Son but freely gave him up for us all, how will God not also give us all things?

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: We oftentimes do not perform well by our own works. We cannot come to God or receive Heaven. Jesus performed his work perfectly, though. He died and rose again to give us the assurance of our salvation. He shows us the immense love he has for us by trading his life for ours!

Jesus in us: Just as Jesus was sent into an anxious world, so his presence can fill our lives with a calm. Trusting in his control and provision, we can cast all our cares on him.

Jesus through us: We are called to enter an anxious world with the calming presence of Jesus Christ. Even kids can minister to other kids by sharing how God is able to provide for all our needs. So why should we worry?

Kids Church Year 2 - Lesson 17 - 1

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 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.

Newspapers and a bed sheet with a cross taped on one side (see below) are needed for this activity.

Invite a volunteer to come forward and name him "Worrisome Wilson." Sit on a chair and have Worrisome Wilson look over your shoulder as you talk about a "worrisome" story from the newspaper. Then wad up a newsheet and hand it to Worrisome Wilson. Do this repeatedly, each time adding to Wilson's armload of worry wads until they're spilling onto the floor. For example:

Hi, boys and girls. This is Worrisome Wilson. Wilson is going to look with me at this newspaper. As I notice some things on this page, it reminds me of some of my worries. Here is an article about a house burning down. Wow, what if my house burned down?

Crumple up the paper and hand to Wilson.

I don't want to think about that so I'll just wad that page up and give it to Worrisome Wilson. Worrisome Wilson, here is a "worry wad" for you to carry. Here is another article about people losing their jobs. Wow. What if my parents lost their jobs?

Crumple up the paper.

Let's read some more stories. Uh-oh. More worries here.

Crumple up page after page, frantically. Before long Wilson is overloaded with worry wads.

Boys and girls, did you know sometimes we could worry about so many things that it gets just like this? Our arms are filled with “worry wads.” We’re carrying nothing but worry. When we do that it is very difficult to praise God because we are too busy thinking about bad stuff that might happen. Are you thinking today about anything bad that could happen to you? Or something you worry about? God doesn’t want you to carry it around. He wants you to do this.

Have Wilson walk to center stage and lay the worry wads on the sheet on the floor. (The backside of this sheet will have a cross made from construction paper taped to it with duct tape. The cross will not be visible until the sheet is turned upright to show the backside.)

Boys and girls, think right now if there is anything you are worried about. God wants to take that worry out of your hands. He wants your hands and hearts free to worship him. God wants you to think about how wonderful he is, how much he loves us, and how he can take care of us no matter what. He wants us to worship him so our worries can be dropped aside.

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.

Kids, do you remember how I made “worry wads” with the newspaper? While I was doing that, did you think of anything this last week you might have worried about? Do you know that God doesn’t want us to worry? Do you know worry is a sin? Worry is sin because we are not trusting God to take care of our situation.

Let’s confess our sins of worry. If you think of something you worried about this last week like too much homework, a problem with friends, or a problem at home, then raise your hand and a helper will give you a sheet of newspaper. Think about whatever your worry was and wad up the paper. Then you can confess it to God by saying, “I’m sorry I worried. I give you my ‘worry wad’ of _____.” Then you, too, can toss the paper up here to this pile.

It might be best to have the kids come up in a line and individually toss their “worry wads” with their statements. After the roomful has been collected, ask four children to come up and each grab a corner of the sheet. As they do so, announce God’s forgiveness:

The Bible says that if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from unrighteousness. God can lift all of our worries off because he gave us Jesus, who lived and died for us and is alive right now.

At this time, have the children at the four corners of the sheet quickly raise it up so all “worry wads” explode into the air. Then have them hold up the sheet vertically so the cross on the backside is visible.

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.

As the offering is collected, invite some of the children to gather the “worry wads” and put them in a separate trash sack. Set the offering plates on the sheet marked with the cross, which was just used in the confession.

When we give our gifts to God it is a way to show we trust him for all we need. For example, we don’t have to hang onto our money thinking it will give us all that we need. Instead, when we give our money to the Lord, we trust *he* will give us all we need. We don’t have to worry if we will have enough if we trust in 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.

“Bag of Worry Wads.”

Divide the children into at least two teams, possibly boys versus girls. Give each team a special bag. The bags can be made with drawstring garbage sacks that are held open. Unbend a wire coat hanger and bend it into a circle. Thread the coat hanger through the garbage bag where the drawstring is located. Have one child from each team hold onto the drawstring with the bag on his back so it looks somewhat like a Santa Claus bag but will remain wired open.



Please note:

Handling newspaper will result in blackened hands. For cleanup afterwards, if you have a large group of children you might want to provide each child with a handi-wipe and some paper towels, so you don't spend 10-15 minutes washing hands. Smaller groups can just use whatever sinks are available.

The object of the game is for each team to fill its bag with “worry wads.” The kids without the bags will crumple newspapers into “worry wads” and throw them into their team’s bag. Mark off a distance between the throwers and the bag with masking tape. Create a line behind which girls and boys crumpling “worry wads” and throwing them must stand. Six feet beyond that make another line behind which the children with the bags stand. The children with the bags can move anywhere behind their line, especially up and down the line to give more of their teammates opportunities to shoot their “worry wads” into the bag. To make it more challenging, you may want the children with bags to face the wrong way. Make and modify rules as needed.

Conclude the game by saying:

Sometimes it is silly how we carry our worries around with us like a big bag over our shoulders. Satan, who wants to rob our joy, will try to convince us to worry about lots of little things. Just like these “worry wads,” which are very small and light, our worries are sometimes very small things that do not amount to much. But having a lot of them will add up. Even the big worries of life God does not want us to carry all by ourselves.

Take the bags from the kids.

Instead, he wants to take all of our worries and take care of us.

After the game take the bags of “worry wads,” tie them shut (optional), and pile them at the foot of the cross in the worship area.

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.

Read Matthew 6:25-34, using an easy to understand translation. Then present “One Day In a Lily Field” as a skit or puppet play. (See attached.)

Application:

Needed for this object lesson is a teeter-totter made from a board and a fulcrum. Additional objects will be either the puppet character from the play or simple pictures of a bird and a flower. If the previous drama had been done with two costumed characters, these characters could become objects in this lesson.

This object lesson follows a progression of five scenes.

SCENE 1:

The bird is placed on one side of the balancing board and the flower on the other. During this scene, talk about the value of the flower and the bird.

God made these living things, provides for them, and, yes, even cares for them. How valuable are they?

SCENE 2:

Place the bird and flower on one end of the teeter-totter. Talk about the value of all the flowers of the world and all the birds of the air.

God made all birds and flowers and did a magnificent job. He clothed

**the flowers with beauty, and he gave the birds McWorm sandwiches.
How important are they?**

SCENE 3:

Bring up a child who would either press down on the opposite end of the teeter-totter, or stand on it if it is appropriate. This demonstrates his value as compared to the birds and flowers. His value is immensely more – a contrast that is most important to God. Have fun with the children’s response.

SCENE 4:

Talk about how valuable this child is to God. Remove the bird and the flower, and place a cross in their place.

Is this person more valuable to God the Father than his own Son Jesus?

Let the children guess the answer.

The correct answer is not an answer of the person being more or less valuable than Jesus. The answer is being so valuable that God would send his Son, Jesus, to pay the price of punishment for this person’s sin so that he could be forgiven. It would be so that Jesus could live inside this person and work through this person.

SCENE 5:

Take the cross and demonstrate it sliding down the balancing board into the hands of the child. Explain that this is a picture of us finding our value based on how much God was willing to pay for us to buy us back from sin and the power of the devil. When we hang onto Jesus we see just how much God loves us.

Read Romans 8:32.

“God didn’t spare his own Son but handed him over to death for all of us. So he will also give us everything along with him.”

Then take a bag of “worry wads” and place it on the other end of the balancing beam and say:

Since we are so valuable to God, these worries are handled by God and they are as light as a feather. We are so much more important to God than all of the things we worry about. When we trust God and remember how important we are to him, it is like blasting off all of those worries.

Some fun can be had as the teeter-totter is used to catapult the “worry wads.”



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.

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.

Blessing:

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

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. 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.

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One Day in a Lily Field

Puppet or Drama Presentation

Characters costume faces of a flower and a bird. They play out the following dialogue. Since newspapers were used for much of today's lesson, newspapers could even be used to decorate the characters' faces to look like a bird and a flower. Another good alternative is puppet characters, if flower and bird puppets are available.

The characters are Lillian, the flower, and Bud, the bird. Throughout the play, they will be watching imaginary people running by at great speeds, fretting with worry. Moving the head, and even ad-libbing with words like "zoom" or "swoosh," better communicates the point.

Lillian appears on stage, watching imaginary people speed by.

Lillian: **Wow! There goes another fast one. How do they do it?...
Watch out! She is going to bump into someone...
Whew! That was close.**

Bud flies to center stage.

Bud: Hey, Lillian, what are you doing?

Lillian: **I'm watching these funny things zoom around.**

Bud: What funny things?

Lillian: **Those tings there. Look! Swoosh! There goes another one.**

Bud: Oh, you mean those people.

Lillian: **Is that what they're called?**

Bud: Yes, they are people, but they are people in a hurry.

Lillian: **Where are they going?**

Bud: I don't know. They always seem to be in a hurry, though.

Lillian: **I bet they wish they were flowers. Flowers are never in a hurry. All we have to do is stay put and look good.**

Bud: Come to mention it, you are looking good these days, Lillian.

Lillian: **Why, thank you. I bet those—what did you call them—people wish they were as important as us flowers, so that they could look as good as us.**

Bud: Well, maybe that is why they are rushing around. Maybe they are trying to decorate themselves with clothes so that they will look good.

Lillian: That just might be it. Maybe they are rushing around so that they can make themselves good-looking, like me. Wow! I sure am glad that I am so important that God made me so good-looking. I don't even have to go running around to do it.

Bud: Yes, you sure must be pretty important to God. Come to think of it, I must be pretty important, too. God made all of the seeds and the worms in the world for me to have enough food.

Lillian: Wow, that is important.

Bud: Not only that, but I get to fly first class anywhere I want to get this food.

Lillian: Do you think that all of those people are running around worried about getting food?

Bud: Maybe so, I see a lot of them hurrying to this special place called McDonald's, where they get their food.

Lillian: Do they have good food there?

Bud: Not really. They don't even have McWorm sandwiches. Maybe these people aren't as important as birds.

Lillian: Well, no wonder they are always hurrying and worrying.

Bud: Yeah, they are just not as important as us birds.

Lillian: Or us, flowers! We don't hurry and look how pretty we are.

Bud: We don't hurry and we have all the McWorm sandwiches we want. Speaking, of which, makes me hungry. Lillian, I'm catching the next flight out of here. There are no worries waiting for me.

Lillian: No hurries waiting for me either! Bye, Bud.

Bud: Bye, Lillian.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- newspaper
- sheet with a cross taped to the back of it

Power of the Cross:

- enough newspaper for each child to have a sheet

Creed or Statement of Faith:

- Apostles' Creed on an overhead

Offering:

- trash bags

Learning Game:

- a special bag for each team. (Use drawstring garbage sacks that are held open with a wire coat hanger. See Lesson.)
- masking tape for marking lines on the floor
- lots of newspaper
- handiwipes and paper towels for cleanup (optional)

Bible Reading:

- puppet script (see appendix)
- puppets or characters to look like a bird and a flower

Application:

- puppets or characters to look like a bird and a flower
- teeter-totter
- cross on a stand (small)
- trash bag of "worry wads"