



Date: _____
Series: God's Big Gift
Winter Year 2, Lesson 46

You Can Count on God to Rescue You

Primary Scripture: Daniel 6

Key Verse: Daniel 6:27, "He saves, rescues, and does miraculous signs and amazing things in heaven and on earth. He saved Daniel from the lions."

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

Today's Bible event focuses on the life of Daniel and the ways which God rescued him and other faithful men. Children, especially those at elementary age, need models and heroes to look up to. This is true especially today when heroes are sometimes people with big egos and little character. Daniel and his faithful peers provide an example of depending on God, even when it is difficult to do so. They trusted God to rescue them and were even able to trust him if God chose not to rescue them (Daniel 3:18). Kids need confidence that God can and will rescue and free them from those who challenge God.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus is our ultimate rescue and deliverance. Through his death and resurrection in our place, we have been set free even if we lose our life here on earth.

Jesus in us: Jesus gives us God's power to remain faithful, so that we might always depend on God's amazing rescue and salvation.

Jesus through us: Following Jesus sets us apart from the crowd. He can give us confidence that gives us a contagious witness.

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.

Refer to Daniel 6.

Daniel was given the order that, if he continued to pray and not bow down to the king, he would lose his life. Worship was so important to him, though, that he continued to pray as he always had (Daniel 6:10).

This is how he prayed. He got down on his knees three times a day. Let's try that now and see how it makes us feel.

Wait as all kids kneel down. Then continue:

Getting on one's knees reminds us that we are honoring someone more important than us. The one we are honoring is God. On our knees, let's invite his presence.

Offer an invocation prayer. Then have kids return to their seats. Say:

Have you ever done anything really risky? Have you taken your bike down a steep hill or tried something daring with your skateboard? How about this... How many of you would try skydiving or bungee jumping?

Did you know that in Daniel's time, worshiping God was just as dangerous as those things? That is because the king did not allow it.

Daniel risked his life to worship God. He was arrested and tossed in a den of lions to be eaten.

What do you think God did? He protected Daniel. We may never have to risk our lives to worship, but then again, some day we might. What would you do if you had to risk your life to worship God?

God says that it is worth you risking your life to worship him. He says, “When you worship me you are saying that you count on me. You trust me. If you do so, I will rescue you. I sent you the best rescue of all, and that is my Son, Jesus. He gave his life for you.”

Let’s worship God!

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 a child come forward and stand close to him/her. Talk about what it is like for two friends to be close to each other.

What is it like, though, when those friends have an argument or a fight? What happens when one hurts the other’s feelings? It is easy for those friends to feel farther apart.

Take a step away from the volunteer.

Did you know that God wants us to stay close to him? Sometimes, though, there are things that can make us farther apart. Some of those things are when we disobey God and sin. That is why it is important for us to go to him and tell him about it. God forgives us because he loves us and gave us Jesus. When we tell God about our sin, he takes it out of the way so we don’t need to be embarrassed or ashamed. We don’t need to be far from God.

Have the volunteer return to his/her seat.

Let's remember now some of the things that we might have done wrong that make us feel farther away from God. Let's confess them as sins and pray for his forgiveness, trusting that Jesus will give it to us.

After a silent prayer or a collective confessional prayer, announce God's forgiveness through Jesus.

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.

For the offering today use a hula hoop. Say:

When we give our offering to God it is just like we are stepping into the offering plate. Imagine this hula hoop as the offering plate. As you put your money in it, it's like putting in a little piece of you.

If you brought your offering, come and stand in the hula hoop as you place your money in the offering bucket (Also inside the hula hoop). Giving your money is one of the ways that you say, "I count on you, God. I know that you rescue me."



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.

“The Hula Hoop Rescue Train”

Needed: two or three hula hoops

This game first needs to be demonstrated with three people, who form a line (not a circle) by joining hands. One person reaches his hand through a hula hoop, then without letting go of the hand of the person on the other side, works his body through the hula hoop (dropping his head and stepping through with his legs) so that the hula hoop is now on his other arm, and passes the hoop to the next person. All of this should be done without breaking the hand chain.

When the third person in the line has stepped through the hula hoop, that person grabs the hula hoop with his free hand, leads the whole line to a fourth person, hands the hula hoop to that fourth person, and grabs the fourth person's free hand. The fourth person, now a part of the “freedom chain,” hangs the hula hoop on a free arm and steps and ducks through it, weaving it back onto the chain of four. When it gets to the other end, that person will then hand the hula hoop to a fifth person and grab the fifth person's free hand, freeing him/her to be part of this chain. As the hula hoop travels back and forth, it continues to collect people, freeing them to be part of the chain.

A good way to demonstrate kids being set free is to have the kids scattered around the room and “frozen” until one of these freedom chains comes over to hoop them. Two or three freedom chains may start at the same time with three people. See which freedom chain can grow the fastest.

Gather kids together again and say:

Just as we are set free when the hula hoop comes over us and we hang on to the freedom chain, we help free other people. God is the one who rescues us. When he does this, we hang onto other people in the church. Therefore, we can help God rescue other people.

Today we are learning how God rescued Daniel and some of his friends. Even though they were locked up, God made them free. He makes you and me free on the inside when he hoops us with his love.

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.

Watch the twenty-four minute video *The Animated Stories from the Bible: "Daniel"*.
Order from http://www.nestfamily.com/store/product_detail.asp?productID=DND



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.

Let kids share any stories about someone they have known who has been miraculously saved because of their faith in God.

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:

- hula hoop

Learning Game:

- two or three hula hoops

Bible Reading:

- video, *The Animated Stories from the Bible: Daniel*, produced by animated Bible Stories II, 1993 –order from:
http://www.nestfamily.com/store/product_detail.asp?productID=DND

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