



Date: _____

Series: Lookin' for a Leader
Summer Year 3, Lesson 9

Small People Can Do Big Things with God's Power

Primary Scripture: Philippians 4:13

Key Verse: Philippians 4:13, "I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me."

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

Kids need to make a difference. Especially as Christians, kids need to know that God will use them for the building up of his Kingdom. He will use their gifts and abilities to bring his witness and love to the world. In today's Kids Church, we examine David and Goliath from the perspective of God using David not only to defeat a giant, but also to become a victor to the entire country. David was but a young adolescent at the time. David's strength was his reliance upon God and using the gifts that he had; and so it is with our kids. Today they will take time to share experiences of how God has helped them to help others

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus defeated sin, death, and the power of the devil when he gave his life for us on the cross. We receive this fact through a childlike faith.

Jesus in us: When we are weak and not relying on our own resources, then we are strong because we rely on the presence of Jesus in our lives.

Jesus through us: Jesus can even use children to be witnesses for him.

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.

Supplies needed: hoola-hoop, the following words printed on 3-inch x 5-inch adhesive backed nametags or cards backed with masking tape:

PRAYER
SERVICE
WITNESS
GOD'S WORD
LOVE

Invite a child up and place these stickers on the child as you talk about how God can use each one of us to do special things for him.

Place the PRAYER sticker on the child's forehead to remind us that our prayers are sent to God on behalf of others. Place the SERVICE sticker on one of the child's hands demonstrating how we can reach out to serve others. (Give specific examples.) Place the WITNESS sticker on the other hand showing how we can reach out to share the message of Jesus to others. Place the sticker of GOD'S WORD on a leg demonstrating that we can stand on the promises of God's word. Place the LOVE sticker on the child's heart showing that we can have love for God and for others because of Jesus.

Then say:

Today we will learn how God can use all of us to serve him. The first step to serving him is to give him all of ourselves. We do that when we worship him.

Have the child stand in a hula hoop as a picture of us standing in an offering plate to God. We offer all of who we are for God's service when we worship.

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.

Take examples from the audience of things that we often do wrong and that we need to pray about. When we confess these things, it shows that we depend on God for forgiveness and the power to do things his way. It is worth mentioning that we often do not use our gifts and abilities for serving God like we could.

Dear God, Please forgive us for the things we have done wrong this week like...(pause while kids confess to God in their hearts). We want to do things your way. Sometimes we don't use the gifts you have given us to serve you. Remind us of the blessing it is to give you glory and honor with our gifts and abilities. Thank you that you love us and forgive us through Jesus. In his name we pray, Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want 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.

Ask:

Can kids like you make a difference for good in the world? How? Or are you just too young to make a difference?

Lead kids to the conclusion that one way they can make a difference in the world is through their offerings, in Jesus' name. Update them on the status of your current missions project.



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 One Finger Lift”

Challenge the kids with the following question.

Do you think you could lift someone off the ground with just your two index fingers?

Show the children what fingers you are referring to by folding your hand together with the exception of the two pointer fingers extended and pressed together.

Does anyone want to try?

A volunteer may come up while a person lies perfectly still on the ground with their arms tight to his/her sides.

Lifting a person with two fingers is obviously impossible. It seems impossible to accomplish this feat since the fingers are so small and the person is so big. I want to show you how you can lift a person with just two fingers.

Invite eleven children forward and have them kneel around the person lying on the floor. Make sure one person is at the head and all other children are side by side down the length of the person. Have them fold their hands, extend their two pointer fingers and place their fingers underneath the person. The points at which the fingers are placed underneath the person need to be evenly distributed and especially located at the shoulders, back, thighs, and calves.

On the count of three invite the kids to lift the person one foot off the ground and hold him there for five seconds. The kids should slowly lay the person back down.

A special note of caution needs to be taken so that the person is not dropped or picked up too high. Also, be aware of appropriate contact points around the person's midsection.

A second level of the challenge is to do the same task with an adult, possibly the Kids Church leader. (More children need to be added if they are going to lift an adult.)

Then say:

Today we are learning that small people can do big things with God's power. Though these fingers are small, when they are joined together they can produce a powerful effect. What do you think would be some of the things that we could all do together that would make a big impact in God's Kingdom?

Take some examples from the kids. These examples could include prayer, mission projects, or service projects.

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 Philippians 4:13: ***"I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me."***

Then show the video *The Animated Stories from the Bible: David and Goliath* from Nest Entertainment.

Application:

How could David a young boy, defeat Goliath the giant? *(He knew God was mighty and would be with him. He used the knowledge and the skills God had given him to do what God called him to do.)*

How does God do the same thing in our lives? *(He can use our gifts and abilities and through his power, do mighty things.)*



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.

Read again Philippians 4:13: ***“I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me.”***

Invite children forward to talk about ways that they have done things that helped others. Refer to the stickers used earlier in the service (PRAYER, SERVICE, WITNESS, GOD’S WORD, and LOVE.)

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:

Attention Grabber:

- 3-inch x 5-inch cards backed with masking tape or blank adhesive backed nametags printed with:
 - PRAYER
 - SERVICE
 - WITNESS
 - GOD'S WORD
 - LOVE
- hula hoop

Bible Reading:

- video *Animated Stories from the Bible: David and Goliath* from Nest Entertainment
www.nestfamily.com

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