



Date: _____

Series: Aliens in a Strange Land
Fall Year 4, Lesson 26

Remain Faithful— Not a Hair Will Be Lost

Primary Scripture: Luke 21:10-19; John 15:20

Key Verse: Luke 21:18-19, “But not a hair on your head will be lost. By your endurance you will save your life.”

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

American culture today is becoming more and more antagonistic to Christianity. We are in a post-Christian era. As such, our children will grow up having to take a stand for their faith. They need to know that they will face certain discriminations, ridicules, or insults. Biblically speaking, this is to be expected. But Jesus assures them that “not a hair will be lost.” In other words, they will have life with him now and forever, even if, in extreme persecution, they lose their lives in this world.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus took persecution, insults, and sin on himself when he died on the cross so that we can receive forgiveness.

Jesus in us: Jesus gives us strength to take a stand for him.

Jesus through us: One of the most important reasons why the Lord allows persecution is so that the witness of our faith becomes all the more bold and effective.

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: eight adhesive nametags with one of the following words printed on each: "make fun," "trick," "hate," "arrest," "hurt," "beat," "jail," "kill"

Ask for a volunteer to come join your team. Say to the child when he/she comes forward:

Okay, I want you to know that as a member of my team, you have special privileges. Here they are.

Peel off nametags one at a time and place them anywhere on the child as you describe each activity, as follows.

As part of my team, you will be made fun of. Ha, ha. You will be tricked. People will hate you. You will be arrested. People will hurt you. They will beat you. You will be sent to jail. And you could be killed.

So, how do you feel about being on my team so far?

Allow the child to answer.

Does anyone else want to join our team? This is a real team. Does anyone want to guess what team this is?

Take answers.

It's Jesus' team. In John 15:20, Jesus says, "*Remember what I had told you: 'A servant isn't greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.*"

In other words, if people made fun of Jesus and tried to hurt him, then people who are ungodly will make fun of you and try to persecute you. They will trick you, hate you, arrest you, beat you, put you in jail, and possibly kill you.

But there is one more thing you get when you join this team. No matter what, Jesus will make sure that not a hair on your head will be lost. Even if you are killed, you will still be alive because, after you die, you will be face-to-face with Jesus. You will be friends with him forever, and no one can ever take that away. The reward of being with Jesus forever is so much more valuable than anything we could ever have here. Being a part of his team is the best team we can belong to, and we will still be part of his team after we die.

So, no matter what happens to us, we will worship God. Let's do that now.

Ask the volunteer not to remove the stickers yet. They will be removed during the *Power of the Cross*.

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.

Invite the volunteer from the *Attention Grabber* forward. Peel off the nametag that says "make fun."

Did people ever make fun of Jesus?

Put the nametag on the cross. Peel off the nametag that says "trick."

Did they ever try to trick him?

Put the nametag on the cross.

Repeat the process of peeling the nametags off one by one, asking the question about Jesus, and putting them on the cross.

What did Jesus do after people did all of these mean things to him? In Luke 23:34, it tells us what he said when he was hanging on the cross. He said, “*Father, forgive them. They don’t know what they’re doing.*” So if anyone ever makes fun of you because you are a follower of Jesus, what would you do for that person? Could you say, just like Jesus, “Father, forgive them”? We can say that because we were forgiven first by Jesus.

Let’s pray silently for people who have been mean to us or hurt us.

Pause.

Let’s pray together.

Dear Jesus, thank you for forgiving us for the times we have hurt you or persecuted you. Please forgive us for times when we may have felt badly about you or didn’t stand up for our faith in you. Thank you that you forgive us. When people do bad things against you, you turn around and do good things for them. Thank you.

Now we think about people who sometimes make fun of us or try to hurt us. It makes us angry, and we want to get even. But that doesn’t really help them or us. Help us forgive them. Help us to remember that, no matter what, you will be with us. Help us to always trust you and your way of doing things. And help us to pray for those who persecute us. In Jesus’ name, we pray. 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.

Your choice of music.

Offering:

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

In the offerings today, point out to whom the offerings go, especially if your church supports persecuted churches. Or check the website for persecuted churches at <http://www.persecutedchurch.org/index.cfm>. You may want to send the offering to one of these churches for that day.



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.

Supplies:

- *hair cut into five lengths: one inch, two inches, three inches, four inches, five inches*
- *five prizes, each one a little better than the other; for example, a small candy mint, a Tootsie® roll, a Blow Pop®, a miniature chocolate bar, a regular size candy bar*
- *an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper for every team of six kids*

Lost and Found Hairs

Place the five hairs randomly around the room. Have the prizes on hand.

Explain that you have a "lost and found" in the room and that there are five missing hairs. The hairs are various lengths: one inch, two inches, three inches, four inches, and five inches. These are very precious hairs, and you don't want even one hair to be lost. Ask the children to search the floor for the lost pieces of hair. The person who finds the one-inch hair gets the best prize. The person who finds the two-inch hair gets the next best prize, and so on.

Gather kids together to discuss the Learning Point:

How did you feel as you were looking for the hair?

Allow the kids to answer.

Did it seem like an impossible task? Jesus speaks about hair in the Bible. He says that he knows you so well that he has counted all the hair on your head. In today's reading, he says that he will make sure that not even a hair is lost. But, do you think he was talking about the real hair on our heads? I think we may lose those often.

He was using a saying of the day that meant that no lasting harm would happen to those who trust in him. Does that mean that they

would never have anything bad happen to them? No, as a matter of fact, he told them that they could expect bad things to happen if they follow him, especially in the last days before his return. However, they'll have life with him now and forever.

Hair Match

Divide the kids into groups of six. Give each team a sheet of paper. Ask that three of the team members pull a hair from their heads and place it on a piece of paper on the floor.

Have two teams of six pair up. Team A will look at team B's hairs and try to guess which hairs belong to which team member. Then team B will look at team A's hairs and try to guess whose hair is whose.

Gather kids together to discuss the Learning Point:

God knows the hair on every head. That is how well he knows you. And there is not another person in the world that has the same kind of hair as you. That shows how much God would care for you if he knows your hair and wouldn't let any one of them be lost.

Bible Presentation:

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 Luke 21:10-15.

What did Jesus tell us in these verses? He said that if you follow him, there will be times when some of you will be arrested and even put into prison. You will be put on trial, and you will have to explain yourself and what you believe. Are you to worry about what you will say? Are you to worry about whether or not you will be safe? Jesus said, "I'll give you the words and the wisdom, and none of your enemies will be able to prove you wrong."

Dayna and Heather's Story

This is the story of how that happened not long ago. This story is about two young ladies named Dayna Curry and Heather Mercer. Dayna and Heather were two ordinary girls. When they were in college, they discovered that they wanted to go into mission work. They loved Jesus very much, and they knew that many people in the world had never heard the truth about Jesus. Many had not heard of him at all.

While at college, they were part of a church that helped people go to other lands and share Jesus. When people go as missionaries, they often go to help the people with their problems. They show God's love to the people in special ways. Then the people are ready to hear about Jesus, who is the reason for the missionaries' kind actions.

Dayna and Heather became workers with an organization called Shelter Now International. They went to the country of Afghanistan where they helped teach children in school. They worked with children who had no parents and were living on the street. They helped feed the widows, and they helped women learn how to use their sewing skills to make a living. After they made friends, then they could talk to them about Jesus.

In the year 2001, the Taliban ruled the country of Afghanistan. These were Muslims who had very strict rules for people to follow. Muslims believe in the god Allah, and they believe Mohammed is his prophet. They believe that they must do many religious things to earn their way to heaven. They do not believe that Jesus is God's Son, and they do not believe that Jesus died on the cross to forgive all of our sins. Instead, they make very strict rules against anyone who tries to help someone become a follower of Jesus.

On August 3, 2001, Dayna and Heather were arrested for preaching Christianity to Muslims. They explained that they were just answering questions about Jesus and showing a DVD of the *Jesus* film in someone's home. They were not trying to trick anyone into following Jesus. They were just telling the truth. They seemed to be falsely accused. No charges were given to them. Though they were treated pretty well in prison, it was still scary. Whenever they could, they would make up songs and sing their Christian songs. They spent most of their time praying. As days went on, they were questioned more and more. They became very afraid.

Dayna said, "For a month and a half, I was afraid they would kill us. I was afraid we'd spend our whole lives in prison. Sometimes I was shaking with fear. But then I remembered that the Bible says, 'If you lose your life, you'll find it. But if you save your life, you'll lose it.' When I finally said, 'If I die, I die for Jesus. And if I live, I live for him,' then I wasn't afraid anymore."

What do you think happened after they were arrested? In their church back in America, people began to pray. They took turns so that every hour of every day, someone was always praying for the girls. They were reminded not just to pray for the girls but also to pray for the country of Afghanistan. While they were in jail, the attack happened on September 11, 2001. This is when the planes dove into the buildings in New York and Washington DC. The Taliban were the

people who supported those attacks. They would soon be at war with America.

What would happen with Dayna and Heather? Does anyone want to guess?

Take answers.

Soon the war came to their town. An angry guard with a rifle burst into their room. They had only a moment to grab a few blankets, their Bibles, and some valuables and tuck them into their clothes. They were leaving but did not know where they were going. Loaded into a van, they sat on top of rocket launchers. While they bumped along the road with their capturers, running from the enemies, the girls sang songs and read the Bible. They remembered that God would be with them.

By morning, they were at a prison in a town about eighty miles away. There, a battle began. American bombs were falling. When they looked out the window, they saw the Taliban running. Then it became quiet. For thirty scary minutes, there were no bombs or gunshots. "What was happening?" the girls wondered. Suddenly, a soldier came in who had been fighting against the Taliban. He said, "You're free! You're free! The Taliban has left."

There were no Americans to pick them up. And the Americans did not know how to find them. How could they be rescued? Where would they find the American soldiers? In the middle of the night, they went to a deserted field. Dayna took her headscarf off and began a fire. Others who waited with them put wood on the fire. The American helicopters were looking for a sign of where they would be. Then they saw the light of the fire. They landed there and rescued Dayna Curry and Heather Mercer.

When Dayna came back to the United States, she told the reporters, "This is not about us. This is about Jesus, the miracles he can do, and the way he answers prayer... Even if we had died in prison, even if the Taliban had killed us, God would still be good. God would still be who he says he is."

Read Luke 21:16-19.

"Even parents, brothers, relatives, and friends will betray you and kill some of you. Everyone will hate you because you are committed to me. But not a hair on your head will be lost. By your endurance you will save your life."

These words, Jesus tells us, describe what it's going to be like for some people who might be persecuted or put to death because of Jesus. But Jesus says this, "Not any of your hair will be lost, even if you're put to death." That is another way of saying there will be no lasting damage. You would be living with Jesus forever.

Jim Elliot – Not a hair on his head was lost

For Internet illustrations, please check www.lastrefuge.co.uk/data/article/waorani.

This is the story of Jim Elliot. The Waorani people lived in the high mountains in remote places in the country of Ecuador.

Show the kids the location on a map.

In all of history, there has never been a group of people where so many people died in a village because someone from their own village or a neighboring village killed them. What a horrible way to live. But it was true. Oftentimes, when someone wronged another person, the person that was wronged would get even by sneaking in the night with a spear to stab the person that wronged him. Then family members of the one who was killed would go after the one who did it.

They were constantly worried about being raided by war parties from other villages. So they didn't keep many possessions. They were always ready to move, and they moved often. Thirty or forty people would live as a tribe in one place. Then a few months later, they would burn their homes and move to a new place where they built new homes. They had gardens planted all over the jungle, so they always had places to find food when they were moving and hiding. It was a terrible way to live. What do you think they needed?

Allow the children to answer.

Yes, they needed more than anything else to know the power of forgiveness. They needed to know that God had loved them so much that he gave his Son Jesus who was killed for their sins. God himself would not get even with them if they would turn to Jesus and trust him as their Savior. They would be able to be filled with love and forgiveness for their enemies instead of hate and vengeance. But they had never heard of Jesus. Most of the people that went into the jungles to talk to them about Jesus were killed. So people were afraid to talk to them.

In January 1956, five men who were working together to share Jesus' love with these people figured out a way to make contact. Here's what they did. They flew over in a plane, and they dropped gifts near the village. They used a loud speaker from the plane to tell the Waoranis that they were friends. They gave them gifts such as buttons, a kettle, a machete, and even a picture of them. The Waoranis sent gifts back.

On January 2, 1956, the plane landed. The men brought in supplies and began to make a tree shelter. They shouted Waorani phrases into the jungle until finally, some friendly women and a young man came out of the jungle. They gave the man a brief ride in the airplane. They seemed to be friendly. The next day, they didn't see anyone else, but they spent it quietly.

On Sunday after the men had their worship service, they radioed their wives and said that they would radio again at 4:30 that afternoon. But when 4:30 came, the wives heard nothing. They were worried. They sent another plane in to see what had happened.

Then they found the tragedy. The Waorani people had killed all five of the men with spears or machetes. These men who wanted to help them learn about Jesus paid the price, and it cost them their lives. But the Bible says that that can happen sometimes, and it still gives the promise that not a hair on your head will be lost. In other words, your life will still be saved because you will be in heaven with Jesus forever. And it also promises that God can even use what happened to help more people.

You see, two years later, Elisabeth Elliot who was married to Jim Elliot, one of those five missionaries, and Rachel Saint, one of the sisters of the missionaries, came back to that area. One of the villagers named Dayuma had left the village for some time and had met friends in other places in Ecuador. When she went back to her people, she found that they still had many revenge killings. She was weary of all the spearing and living in fear. She went back out to invite Elisabeth Elliot and Rachel Saint to come live with them. But these people had killed the husband and brother of these ladies. Would they possibly go back to help?

Allow the children to guess.

Yes, they did. It was the first time there was peaceful contact between the Waoranis and anyone from the outside. The two ladies settled into a life with the killers of their loved ones and then showed them God's love. As they did, they explained forgiveness and how God had forgiven them and how we can forgive others. The Waoranis knew they were telling the truth about forgiveness because Elisabeth

and Rachel had forgiven them. Forgiveness was a whole new idea. And for the first time ever, the Waoranis began to have peace. They began to trust Jesus as their Savior.

The murder of five missionaries was very terrible, but it became something God used that was very wonderful. These people learned about forgiving others and accepting the forgiveness offered to them by Jesus.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.



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.

Ask the kids to share times when they have stood up for their faith.

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:

- eight adhesive nametags with the following words printed on them: “make fun,” “trick,” “hate,” “arrest,” “hurt,” “beat,” “jail,” “kill”

Offering:

- determine if you’d like to give the offering to a persecuted church – see <http://www.persecutedchurch.org/index.cfm> for information on persecuted churches

Learning Game:

- hair cut into five lengths: one inch, two inches, three inches, four inches, five inches
- five prizes, each one a little better than the other; for example, a small candy mint, a Tootsie® roll, a Blow Pop®, a miniature chocolate bar, a regular size candy bar
- an 8.5” x 11” sheet of paper for every team of six kids