



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

Always Talk to God, Our Rescuer

Take Home Point: *Talk to God, even about little things. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Joshua 9:3-27. Joshua is tricked by strangers.

Key Verse: Philippians 4:6b "...But in every situation let God know what you need in prayers and requests while giving thanks."

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of Joshua being tricked by the strangers from Gibeon.
- We need to be in prayer about all aspects of our lives.
- We can make good decisions by considering what the Lord would want us to do.




We will help kids feel:

- Aware that God wants us to talk to him about big things and little things in our lives.
- Joy in knowing the Lord's companionship in our every day events.

We will help kids do:

- Identify typical fun things they do with their friends and learn to pray about those events.
- Trust Jesus as Savior and also as the one who can lead them in the little, day-to-day things.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids discuss various situations, even the “little” things, where seeking advice from God is the very best solution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> several sheets of copy paper for each group pencils or markers
Large Group 	4 7-9 9-11 12	Overview Puppet Presentation: “What Does God Have To Do With It?”—Gordy is tangled up in a yo-yo string. He forgot to consult with God in an issue with his friend Jimmy. Dramatic Presentation: “Strangers From Gibeon” – The Bible event is told as a narrator interviews a stranger who tricked Joshua. Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “What Does God Have To Do With It?”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gordy with a yo-yo tangled around his face and arms very ragged robe and sandals for actor bread spray-painted to look moldy some type of bag resembling a worn wineskin (This might be made out of a mylar balloon spray-painted brown.)
Small Group Application 	4-6	Kids discuss how they hear advice from God. God’s main way of giving advice is through the Bible. He also gives us the Holy Spirit to help us with the decisions we need to make. God wants us to talk to him in prayer about every day situations so he can lead us.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> paper pencils, crayons, or markers

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Each group will need several sheets of copy paper and a marker to play a game similar to "Pictionary." This game is written as two teams competing against each other, but if you prefer, you may have all the kids in your group try to guess.

Today let's guess some favorite games we like to play with our friends. We can't tell each other what those games are, though. We're going to have to *draw* them.

We are going to play a game called "Draw and Guess." I will divide the group into two teams. Each team will take turns having one person draw a picture of something he likes to do with his friends while everyone else on his team tries to guess what he is drawing. You only have one minute to draw while the others guess. I will be keeping track with my watch *(or by silently counting to sixty)*.

After playing the game with everyone getting a turn, conclude with the following thought to prepare the children for today's lesson:

We have a lot of wonderful things we can do with friends. Did any of you do some of these things this last week? Here is the real question. Did you ever stop to talk to God about these things that you do with friends? Did you ever tell him you were thankful? Did you ever ask him what he thought about what you were doing?

Do you think God wants you to be able to play soccer with your friends? Sure, he does. Have you ever asked God how he wants you to play soccer? What do you think he would say?
(Good sportsmanship, sharing, not bragging, etc.)

These little things we do from day to day may not seem important enough to talk to God about, but he does want us to talk to him about them. That way he can be a part of everything we do.

In today's Bible event, we will see how Joshua forgot to check with God about something that seemed to be a little thing. Because of his mistake, Joshua got tricked by some strangers. God showed Joshua that he wanted to be part of his peoples' plans every day, even in little ways. We should **talk to God, even about little things.*

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Overview

Puppet Presentation: “What Does God Have To Do With It?” – Gordy is tangled up in a yo-yo string. He forgot to consult with God in an issue with his friend Jimmy.

Dramatic Presentation: “Strangers From Gibeon” – The Bible event is told as a narrator interviews a stranger who tricked Joshua.

Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “What Does God Have To Do With It?”

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Joshua 9 in their Bibles.

What had God told Joshua to do with the people of the land when the Israelites moved in? (*Joshua 9:24. Drive them out and destroy them.*)

Why do you think God told them to do this? (*Because they worshiped false gods and would lead the Israelites to worship false gods.*)

How did the strangers from Gibeon disguise themselves? Why? (*Joshua 9:3-5. They put worn-out sacks on their donkeys, used old wineskins that were split and patched, and wore old sandals and tattered clothes. They wanted to trick the Israelites into thinking they had come from a long way away.*)

What did Joshua fail to do in making his decision? (*Joshua 9:14. He didn't ask the Lord's guidance.*)

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

What do you think the Israelites learned from this event? *(They learned how important it was to ask God for his guidance even in the things that seem so simple.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

How do you hear advice from God?

God's main way of giving advice is through the Bible. Also, when we trust in Jesus and know him as our rescuer and as the one we want to follow, he gives us the Holy Spirit to help us with the decisions we need to make in our lives.

God wants us to talk to him about every day situations so he can lead us. Oftentimes, he uses the truth from the Bible, which is in our heart after we read and study it. He helps bring to our minds just the right things we should do.

Application Activity:

Have children pair up and compose a story. You will give them the framework for their story (see below). Older children can write a few sentences to tell the story. Younger children can draw a simple picture to illustrate their stories. Introduce this in the following way:

Think of one of the fun things you like to do with your friends that we drew pictures for in the warm-up activity. I want you to make up a story about two friends who are playing together, doing one of the fun things you like to do. One of the friend's names is Casey and the other is Jordan. These can be either girls' or boys' names; so whatever you choose to make them, they can be.

Make your story about a time when Casey and Jordan were playing your favorite game. What were they playing? How were they playing it?

During this time Jordan had a special problem. What kind of problem do you think he or she had? Did it seem like something little or something big? How did Casey help him or her?

The Bible says in Philippians 4:6b, *"...But in every situation let God know what you need in prayers and requests while giving thanks."*

Knowing that, get with a friend and make up your story. Then together write your story down or draw pictures so you can tell it to the rest of the group.

Invite the children to share their stories with one another. Discuss how we should ****talk to God, even about little things.***

We can always remember that since God gave his Son Jesus to be our Savior, he wants to be part of our lives every day. And he wants to talk to us even about little things.

Closing Prayer:

Close with prayer, covering as many everyday events and decisions the children can think of. Invite God to lead and guide them.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

What Does God Have To Do With It?

Puppet Presentation

Mr. King: Well, kids, should we ask Gordy to come out? Gordy, are you there?

Gordy: *(Appears with a yo-yo tangled around his face and arms then ducks down again.)* Yes, I am.

Mr. King: Come on out. It's time for Kingdom Quest.

Gordy: No, thanks. I'll just stay back here.

Mr. King: Gordy, what's wrong? Do you have a problem?

Gordy: No, no problem.

Mr. King: Well, then come on out.

Gordy: Well . . .okay.

Mr. King: Gordy! What's that yo-yo doing all around your face?

Gordy: I had an accident. Well, it wasn't an accident exactly. It was on purpose.

Mr. King: You wrapped that yo-yo around yourself on purpose?

Gordy: No. My friend, Jimmy, did.

Mr. King: Why did he do that?

Gordy: I just asked him if he wanted to play yo-yos, and he said, "Sure."

Mr. King: So you played yo-yo together?

Gordy: Sure. I showed him all of my yo-yo tricks, and while I played, he watched.

Mr. King: Did he get to play with your yo-yo?

Gordy: Of course not. It's my yo-yo. The best way for us to play yo-yo is for me to do it and for Jimmy to watch.

Mr. King: Did he want to do it?

Gordy: I guess so, but I don't think he can do it very well. He just grabbed my yo-yo when I was doing "walk the dog" and he did a yo-yo trick!

Mr. King: What's that?

Gordy: "Wrap the Gordy!" Look at it. It's a mess!

Mr. King: Well, it doesn't sound like very much fun for either one of you. Let me ask you something. Did you talk to God about playing yo-yos with Jimmy?

Gordy: God? What does God have to do with it?

Mr. King: It says in the Bible that in every situation we should let God know what we need in prayer, and we should give thanks.

Gordy: I know, but this is yo-yos! This doesn't count. It's a little thing.

Mr. King: It looks to me like it didn't end up being a little thing. Maybe God is trying to tell you something.

Gordy: Yeah, like don't play with Jimmy!

Mr. King: No. Maybe God is trying to show you that he even wants to be with you when you are playing yo-yos. How do you think God would want you to play yo-yos?

Gordy: Oh, I suppose he would want me to share.

Mr. King: I think you are right.

Gordy: But doesn't God have more important things to do than to play yo-yos with Jimmy and me?

Mr. King: It might seem like a little thing, but even in those little things God wants to be a part of our lives. He wants us to pray about *all* things and listen to him show us how the love of Jesus can be a part of everything we do.

Gordy: Even yo-yos?

Mr. King: Even yo-yos, Gordy. Listen to today's Bible event. Joshua made a mistake and didn't check with God about a decision he thought was pretty small. God wanted to be with him, though. God wants to be with you and me, and he wants to rescue us.

Gordy: Rescue us even from getting tangled up by yo-yos?

Mr. King: Yes. Rescue us from getting tangled up by our own selfishness. Let me help you unwind here. After you listen to the Bible event, then maybe you will take God with you the next time you play yo-yo.

Strangers From Gibeon

Dramatic Presentation

The large group presentation will involve one of the ragged strangers from Gibeon who tricked Joshua. This person may be costumed simply with a very ragged robe and sandals. He could have some bread spray-painted to look moldy and some type of bag resembling a worn wineskin. (This might be made out of a mylar balloon spray-painted brown.)

The following script highlights the main points of the Bible event and need not be read verbatim. A narrator tells the entire story using the interview with the stranger to make the event come alive. (Another option to free actors from using scripts is to copy them on overhead transparency and show the script on a back wall. Actors can look over the audience and read their parts.)

Narrator: As you remember from last week, Joshua and the Israelites are to take possession of the promised land that God had given them. They were to drive out all of the people who worshiped false gods. God wanted them to do this because those people would lead the Israelites away from him. If the Israelites stayed with these people and married them, soon the Israelites would worship false gods also.

God had provided mighty miracles to give the Israelites this land and drive away the other people. But a strange thing happened one day. Some strange men came into camp. (*Stranger enters.*) Well, it looks like we even might have one of them here. Excuse me, sir, could we talk to you for a moment?

Stranger: Yes, but just for a moment. I must see Joshua and the leaders of Israel.

Narrator: You look like you're in pretty sad shape. Who are you, and how did you get in such bad shape?

Stranger: As you can tell, my clothes are in tatters. My shoes are full of holes. My donkeys carry only ragged sacks. Even look at the leather bottle from which I drink. It's dried and cracked. The little bit of bread I have is—yuck—dry and moldy.

Narrator: How did you get this way?

Stranger: We got this way because we have been traveling from such a great distance. We have come from a far off country to talk to Joshua and the leaders of Israel.

Narrator: How far away is it?

Stranger: Well, when we started our trip our bread was fresh out of the ovens. Now it is rotten. These leather bottles were new, but now look how torn they are. Our clothes and shoes have worn out. We have come such a long way so we might tell Joshua that we don't live near him. He shouldn't worry about us. We don't even live in this promised land that his mighty God has promised to give to him.

Narrator: Why do you want to talk to him?

Stranger: We want him to make a promise of peace with us. We want him to promise that he won't attack us or destroy us. We live so far away that it should be no problem for him to ignore us and make an agreement of peace.

Narrator: Well, I suppose that seems fair enough.

Stranger: It is fair. I hope Joshua will believe me. I must go now and talk to him. If you see him tell him this is just a small matter. He can easily make an agreement of peace.

Stranger exits.

Narrator: Boys and girls, do you think Joshua is going to make an agreement of peace? Do you think he should believe the strangers? (Takes responses.) How many people think the stranger is telling the truth? How do you know? How many think he is trying to trick Joshua? Why do you think that? Let's see what happened.

Stranger returns to talk to the group.

Stranger: Ha! Joshua believed us. We really didn't live a long way away. We live right here in the promised land. We were scared of the Israelites. We knew God was giving them mighty victories and driving the people away so his people would have this land.

We tricked Joshua by pretending to have traveled a long way. How do you like my moldy bread and worn sandals and clothes? Maybe it was the worn out leather bottle that convinced him.

Anyway, Joshua has given us the promise of peace that he would not destroy us or drive us off the land.

Narrator: There you have it. Since Joshua promised in the name of the Lord God that the strangers could stay, he could not break his promise. They did decide to take those people and have them as servants. They were to cut the wood and carry the water. Many of them did these kinds of jobs to help take care of all the work that needed to be done at the tabernacle as they prepared the sacrifice for God. Even still, they learned an important truth. They should **talk to God, even about the little things*, so he can show them the right decisions to make.

That is what God wants us to learn today. **Talk to God, even about the little things.*

What Does God Have To Do With It?

Puppet Presentation Conclusion

Mr. King: Gordy, what do you think about the Bible event today?

Gordy: That was sneaky how those strangers from Gibeon tricked Joshua.

Mr. King: It sure was.

Gordy: Yeah, but Joshua should have known better. There was a sure fire way to tell if all their stuff was really worn out after traveling so far.

Mr. King: How's that?

Gordy: Joshua could have checked their yo-yo strings. If they were worn out then they really had been traveling a long way.

Mr. King: Gordy, that's ridiculous. They didn't even have yo-yos back then.

Gordy: I know, Mr. King. I'm just teasing. He should have known by checking with God.

Mr. King: Right. And how do you do that?

Gordy: Well, you pray to him don't you?

Mr. King: Right! God speaks to your heart and he speaks to us through the Bible.

Gordy: And I guess that's how he helps me make decisions even about little things.

Mr. King: That's right. You can always remember that since God gave his Son Jesus to be your Savior, he wants to be part of your life every day. And he wants to talk to you.

Why don't you close us in prayer.

Gordy: Okay. Dear God, thank you that you want us to talk to you even about the little things. Help us not to make decisions without first thinking about what you want us to do. Thank you that you are our friend every day, and especially that you gave us your Son Jesus to be our Savior. In his name we pray, Amen.