



Date: _____

Series: A Miraculous Church
Spring Year 2, Lesson 58

A Miraculous Judgment— Herod's Death

Take Home Point: *Give glory to God.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Acts 12:19-25

Key Verse: Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."
(RSV)

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of Herod's judgment because he did not give glory to God.
- To give glory to God means to give God thanks and recognition for what he does through us.
- There are serious consequences to sin, especially when it does not give glory to God.
- When they trust Jesus as their Savior, they can be filled with the glory of his presence and *want* to give glory to God.




We will help kids feel:

- Convicted for times when they don't give glory to God.
- Comfort in God's forgiveness.
- Confidence in God's power to help them give glory to him in all circumstances.

We will help kids do:

- Identify accomplishments they are proud of.
- Eat "Gummy Worms" to remind them of giving glory to God.
- Act out responses that demonstrate they are giving glory to God for their abilities or accomplishments.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids talk about their accomplishments and eat "Gummy Worms."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gummy Worms
Large Group 	3 6-8 8 8-10	<p>Overview:</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: "Gordy's Big Story" – Gordy is proud that he wrote such a great story. The pastor wants to use it in his sermon.</p> <p>Video: <i>The Visual Bible: Acts --- Acts 12:19-25.</i></p> <p>Puppet Conclusion: "Gordy's Big Story" – Gordy learns that his talents come from God and he needs to give God the glory.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gordy puppet Gordy's hat with "Newsboy" on it Gummy Worms for Gordy and volunteer a piece of paper video: <i>The Visual Bible: Acts</i>, produced by The Visual Bible International 1997.
Small Group Application 	4-5	Children act out a specific talent and role-play giving glory to God for that ability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gummy Worms

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.

Supplies needed: "Sour Gummy Worms" or regular "Gummy Worms."

Say:

I will give you a "Gummy Worm" to eat when you tell us a time you did something very well and you were very proud of the outcome. For example, maybe you received a good report card, played well at a piano recital, or won a championship in a sport.

Discuss and give a Gummy Worm to each child as they share.

Does God want us to feel good about the things we do well? (Yes.)

How many of these things could you do without God? (Lead kids to conclude that only through the gifts and abilities that God has given them could they accomplish these.)

Today we will talk about how important it is to give recognition and thanks to God for the gifts and talents he has given us. We need to thank him for all of our accomplishments. This is called **giving glory to God.*

For example, have you ever heard a famous sports player on television after accomplishing something wonderful say, "I would like to thank God who gave me the gifts to do this?" This is giving glory to God.

Listen closely during the large group presentation for what worms have to do with **giving glory to God.*

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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: “Gordy’s Big Story” – Gordy is proud that he wrote such a great story. The pastor wants to use it in his sermon.

Video: *The Visual Bible: Acts-- Acts 12:19-25*

Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy’s Big Story” – Gordy learns that his talents come from God and he needs to **give God the glory.*

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 look up Acts 12:19-25 in their Bibles.

According to verse 20, why did the people of Tyre and Sidon want to meet with Herod and ask for terms of peace? *(Because their cities depended on Herod for their food supply.)*

What did the people start shouting when Herod gave his speech to them? *(Acts 12:22. This is the voice of a god and not of a man!)*

According to verse 23, why did an angel from the Lord kill Herod? *(Because he did not give glory to the true God when the people compared him to a god.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Why do you think the people praised Herod? *(Maybe they thought complimenting him would bring them favor.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Herod must have been a good speaker, but when the people praised him like he was so marvelous, he probably felt very proud of himself.

Our key verse from Matthew 5:16 says, *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (RSV)*

God gives us our gifts and abilities so that when others take notice, we can point to God as the giver of those abilities. This brings glory and honor to God rather than us.

So, tell me, what does eating “Gummy Worms” have to do with giving glory to God? *(In the Bible event, Herod died from worms because he did not give glory to God.)*

Today we are thankful that we won’t have worms eating us but that we can eat the worms as we **give glory to God.*

Application Activity:

Have kids take turns acting out a skill they do well, for example pretending to play a sport, or holding up a paper with a good grade, playing an instrument, or drawing. Have the other kids respond back to them with how wonderful they did. Then explain that the person acting out the talent should respond back to the group in a way that says “thank you” to God and gives God the glory for their success. They might say something like, “God gave me this gift,” or “To God be the glory,” or “Thank you, Jesus.” You may need to give them a few suggestions but then let them practice it. This doesn’t come naturally for most people.

Encourage kids not to put themselves down as a way of false modesty. If anyone does, explain that this is not honoring God because putting down oneself is a putting down the Creator.

Reward kids with Gummy Worms as they act out their ability.

Today we learned not to think too highly of ourselves like Herod, but to **give glory to God* for the gifts and abilities he has given us.

Closing prayer:

Thank God for the gifts and abilities he has given each of us. Ask for the Holy Spirit to help us be God-centered not self-centered, and to give God the glory for the gifts he gives us, rather than thinking too much of ourselves.

Large Group Presentation: **20-30 minutes**

Gordy's Big Story Puppet Presentation

Supplies: "Gummy Worms" for volunteer and one hanging from Gordy's mouth, "Newsboy" hat for Gordy as used in previous lessons, a piece of paper with Gordy's story written on it, The Visual Bible: Acts cued to Acts 12:19-25.

Mr. King: **Shall we call Gordy?**

Gordy comes out with a Gummy Worm hanging from his mouth.

Hi, Gordy. How are you today?

Gordy: Just great! I sure love those "Gummy Worms."

Mr. King: **I can tell. Were you saving this one** (point to Gordy's mouth) **for later?**

Gordy: Oh, thanks, I wouldn't want that one to escape!

Gordy pretends to eat the "Gummy Worm."

Mr. King: **Gordy, what was the accomplishment you shared in small group?**

Gordy: Mr. King, isn't it obvious?

Mr. King: **I am sure it is, but it's early in the morning and I think I may need some help.**

Gordy: If you can't tell, I am the "Newsboy." The pastor said I am the best newsboy he's ever seen.

Mr. King: **Really?**

Gordy: After he saw what I wrote last week, he told me he wants to use my story in his sermon sometime!

Mr. King: **Are you serious?**

Gordy: He even said he wants to publish it in a book. I bet that book will be famous and I will get a million dollars!

Mr. King: All this is because you are such a good writer!

Gordy: Of course, and I did all by myself!

Mr. King: Do you have a copy of your story that I could read?

Gordy: Sure do. All genius reporters carry a copy of their big stories.

Mr. King: Can I read it?

Gordy: Could I read it to you? Here hold this for me.

Gordy retrieves the paper and Mr. King holds the paper up while Gordy reads it.

“Peter Escapes”

They threw Peter in jail.
An angel busted him loose.
Everyone was sleeping, so they got killed.
There was a stupid girl who wouldn't let Peter
inside when he was outside. Wow! Are girls
dumb!
The end.

Mr. King: Gordy, I think you might have missed the point.

Gordy: Should I have said girls are really, really dumb?

Mr. King: Gordy, that's not fair or true. There were some true things in your story though, and you are a good writer.

Gordy: Thank you. I did this all by myself!

Mr. King: All by yourself?

Gordy: Yep. No one helped me.

Mr. King: Let me ask you another question. Who gives you the ability to do something really well?

Gordy: I just learned this myself.

Mr. King: But, who gave you the ability to learn it?

Gordy: My teacher did.

Mr. King: Who gave you the chance to go to school?

Gordy: My parents did.

Mr. King: Who gave you the ability to learn and write?

Gordy: Who's left?

Mr. King: Boys and girls, who gave Gordy his ability to write? (God.)

Gordy: Oh, I guess God gets some credit.

Mr. King: Gordy, God gets all the credit. He gets all the credit for giving us our gifts and talents.

Gordy: I get it. But it really isn't that big of a deal.

Mr. King: Wait a minute, Gordy. It is a huge deal. You see, there are consequences when we think that God has nothing to do with our lives and we have done everything all by ourselves.

Gordy: You mean God gives us our talents?

Mr. King: Right. As a matter of fact, you need to watch this next video. This talks about what happened to someone who did not trust God and didn't give God the credit for his accomplishments.

Gordy: Let's watch it. But I want to get some more "Gummy Worms" to eat as a snack during the movie.

Mr. King: Hurry, we are going to watch it right now.

Video

Watch the *Visual Bible: Acts* produced by The Visual Bible International, 1997. Show Acts 12:19-25.

Gordy's Big Story

Puppet Conclusion

Gordy: Oh, man, I just caught the last of that!

Mr. King: What part was that?

Gordy: The part where that man died and the worms ate him. Cool!

Mr. King: I am not sure that was cool. It sounds like a terrible death to me. But, it is true that we have consequences when we sin.

Gordy: I don't understand what he did. I think I missed some parts.

Mr. King: Let, me call up an eyewitness to help you out. Who remembers the story and can help out Gordy?

Bring up a volunteer.

Can you tell Gordy the name of the king who did not give glory to God? (Herod.)

(Optional background information: This Herod's grandfather was the king who killed all the babies when he heard there was a newborn king after Jesus was born. This was Herod Agrippa, nephew of the Herod who Jesus was sent to during his trial.)

Mr. King: Can you tell Gordy what the people said about Herod after his speech? (He speaks like a god and not a man.)

Gordy: Why was Herod put to death? *(He did not give glory to God. He should have told the people he was not a god, only a man.)*

Give the volunteer a 'Gummy Worm' and have him/her sit down.

Gordy: That seems like a pretty bad judgment to be killed and eaten by worms.

Mr. King: We have consequences for the sin that we do.

Gordy: What about me? Do you think worms will eat me if I don't give glory to God?

Mr. King: What God wants is for you to realize how important this is. He wants you to come to him for forgiveness when you do act prideful. Then you will receive power to give God glory.

Gordy: Maybe I need to pray and ask God to forgive me. I think I got a little carried away with myself.

Mr. King: That is great. God wants you to do wonderful things, but he doesn't want you to get so full of yourself that you don't give God glory for your gifts.

Gordy: What do you mean when you say I "get full of myself"?

Mr. King: That's another way of saying that we only think about what we have done. We forget our talents come from God. God wants us to be filled with his presence. When we trust Jesus as our

Savior, we realize that Jesus gave his life for us. Jesus lives in our lives and this fills us with God's glory.

Gordy: I think I have felt that before.

Mr. King: Yes, you can feel it when you trust Jesus as your Savior. To give God glory, you might tell others that God gave you the talent and God is working through you.

Gordy: Even in my writing?

Mr. King: Even in your writing. Why don't you pray for all of us to give God glory?

Gordy: Okay. Dear God, thank you for Jesus. If there are times that we have not given glory to you, please forgive us. Thank you that Jesus gave his life for us and fills us with your glory. Help me to give you glory in everything I do, even my writing. I still hope that the pastor will use my story in his sermon, and if so, I will tell everyone that you helped me do it. In Jesus' name, Amen.