



Date: _____
Series: Signs on Believers' Hwy
Winter Year 4, Lesson 38

Jesus Heals the Official's Son

Take Home Point: *Believe Jesus – everything will be okay. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: John 4:43-54

Key Verse: Psalm 145:13, "...The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made." (NIV)

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of Jesus healing the official's son just by speaking the word.
- We can believe Jesus that, "everything will be okay," because he keeps his promises.
- Even when Jesus doesn't heal someone physically, his promise that "everything will be okay" is kept through the victory of his resurrection.




We will help kids feel:

- Confident in Jesus' promise over their lives.
- Hope for their future that, no matter what, "everything will be okay," because of Jesus' love and promises to them.

We will help kids do:

- Recall promises kept and broken in their lives.
- Create an art project that reminds them that everything will be okay.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up (15 minutes) 	3	Kids discuss big promises, small promises and Jesus' promise to us.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magic Color Scratch Paper (<i>referred to as Promise Paper in this lesson</i>) from Oriental Trading Company. Product 12/1668—www.orientaltrading.com
Large Group (20-30 minutes) 	4 7 9 9 10	Overview Puppet Presentation: "Gordy Gets More Than a Flying Elephant!"—Gordy tells the presenter his mother promised him a flying elephant. Video: <i>The Gospel of John</i> – John 4:43-54. Interactive Bible Teaching: "Signs Along Believers' Highway"—Kids review the Bible story of Jesus healing an official's sick son. Puppet Conclusion: "Gordy Gets More Than a Flying Elephant!"—Gordy learns that when we believe in the promise of Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we can trust him to answer our prayers in the best way possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy • orange construction vest • construction hat • work boots • sign on stick—one side has printed, "When you need help, look up and say..." (p. 12) Other side says, "...Believe ____ (Jesus) and everything will be ____ (okay)." (p. 13) • two or four chairs • cardboard car front • video: <i>The Gospel of John</i> by Visual Bible International, 2003--Order from: www.visualbible.com.
Small Group Application (20-25 minutes) 	4	Children write the Take Home Point on special Promise Paper and talk about times they have asked Jesus to help.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one piece of Magic Color Scratch Paper (<i>referred to as Promise Paper in this lesson</i>) for each child

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: Magic Color Scratch Paper (referred to as Promise Paper in this lesson)

Today we will talk about promises. Promises are things people say they will do and they do it. When you believe a promise it's called taking someone "at his word." (John 4: 50b NIV.)

Use one piece of the Promise Paper as a discussion starter and have kids take turns scratching their names onto it after they answer the following question.

Can you remember a promise someone made to you and kept? For example, your mom promised that she would take you out for ice cream after you practiced playing the piano. I remember when...

Share a personal experience of a promise kept to you.

Now, think of a really BIG promise that someone once made you. An example of a big promise might be like the time your parents told you that your family would take a vacation at a really cool place like Disney World. Another big promise might come from a friend who said he/she would help you with something or teach you something new. Let's go around the group again and tell each other what big promises people have made to us.

Let kids share and pass around the Promise Paper again. This time they are to draw (or "scratch") a cross on the paper next to their name. When everyone has had a turn, hold the Promise Paper up and say the following:

We call this a Promise Paper because even when things seem dark or gloomy at first, underneath there is light. Through your name, you can see the bright colors. Through the cross of Jesus, you can see the light of his life, which he gave for us to make the promise that if we **believe Jesus – everything will be okay.*

Large Group Overview: 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.*

Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Gets More Than a Flying Elephant!”—Gordy tells the presenter his mother promised him a flying elephant.

Video: *The Gospel of John*—John 4:43-54.

Interactive Bible Teaching: “Signs Along Believers’ Highway”—Kids review the Bible story of Jesus healing an official’s sick son.

Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy Gets More Than a Flying Elephant!”—Gordy learns that when we believe in the promise of Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we can trust him to answer our prayers in the best way possible.

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?/Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Have kids refer to John 4:43-54 in their Bibles.

What miracle did Jesus do in Cana? (*John 4:46. His first miracle was changing water into wine.*)

Do you think the official was at the wedding to see Jesus’ miracle? (*Only Mary, the servants and Jesus’ disciples knew Jesus changed the water into wine. See John 2:7-11.*)

How do you think he knew Jesus could do miracles? (*The official heard people in Cana talk about what Jesus did.*)

Why do you think Jesus told the official, “If people don’t see miracles and amazing things, they won’t believe.” *(Jesus probably knew this man had not seen his miracles, but believed.)*

What did Jesus say to the official when he asked Jesus to come with him to Capernaum and heal his sick son? *(John 4:49-50. “Go home. Your son will live.”)*

How did the man demonstrate that he believed Jesus? *(He did what Jesus said and left. He didn’t have to see Jesus perform a miracle, he believed Jesus would keep his promise.)*

What happened to prove Jesus kept his promise? *(John 4:51-53. The official’s servants met him on his way home to Capernaum and told him his son was better. When the official asked what time the boy became better, they told him it happened about the same time Jesus said, “Your son will live.”)*

What did the official do because of Jesus’ promise? *(John 4:53. He and his entire family became believers. They didn’t just believe Jesus’ words, but they now believed IN Jesus.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

Supplies: Promise Paper for each child

Give each child a piece of Promise Paper. Ask kids to make a special sign that reminds them of the Take Home Point today. Have them write on the paper ***Believe Jesus—everything will be okay.**

Option Note: *You may write these words out on a piece of paper or create labels before class. This will be especially helpful for the younger children and for those churches with limited working time.*

While kids are drawing and writing, discuss the following:

Would you share a time God was faithful to you and kept his promise so that everything turned out okay?

Can you share any time when you asked Jesus to help you? What happened? How did he make everything okay?

Shepherd, please share your own testimony. If kids cannot recall any specific incidents, ask them to think of some of Jesus' promises such as: Whoever believes in Jesus will have eternal life; God is always with them and will never leave them; All things work for good to those who love God and are called according to his purposes, etc....

Our key verse from Psalm 145:13 (NIV) says, "...The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made."

**Do you believe God loves you and will keep his promises to you?
What do you think is God's most important promise?**

If any child is unsure of his/her faith in Christ, this lesson is a wonderful opportunity to help them understand what it means to believe in Jesus. Emphasize that believing in Jesus means that we recognize that we have sinned against God and our friendship with him is broken. The only way it can be fixed is for Jesus to take our sin away from us. He already did this by dying on the cross. The Bible promises that all who believe in him will not die but have eternal life (John 3:16).

Have kids restate the Take Home Point: ***Believe Jesus – everything will be okay.**

Closing Prayer:

Encourage each child to give thanks to Jesus for making everything okay for them. Thank God that we can trust his promises, especially the promise of salvation.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Signs Along Believers' Highway Series

The book of John points to miracles as signs and proof that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. The imagery of road construction signs will be used to exemplify the signs that Jesus performed as told in the book of John. The road worked on is referred to as "Believers' Highway" to show we are all on a journey in our faith.

The presenter is dressed in an orange construction vest, hat and work boots and holds a different road sign each week that is fitting with the Bible event. Another important prop is the simulated car set-up with two or four chairs facing the audience and a cardboard car front (See lesson 34). Shepherds and children are both involved as observers on the highway. They are called up to drive the car and answer questions, give feedback and interact with or about the event.

This series uses "The Gospel of John," DVD series as a visual to show the events of the Bible.

Supplies: orange construction vest, construction hat, work boots; sign on a stick—one side has printed, "When you need help, look up and say..." Other side has printed, "...Believe _____ (Jesus) and everything will be _____ (okay)," two or four chairs; cardboard car front.

Gordy Gets More Than a Flying Elephant! Puppet Presentation

Presenter: Kids, shall we call Gordy?

Kids call for Gordy. Gordy, Gordy, Gordy!

Gordy comes onstage.

Presenter: Hi, Gordy! Today we're talking about promises.

Gordy: I know! That's what we were doing in small group.

Presenter: What was the promise you talked about?

Gordy: My mom once said that I could have a flying elephant, but I'm still waiting.

Presenter: What? Why did she promise you that?

Gordy: Well, I told my mom that I would keep my room picked up for a week.

Presenter: What did she say?

Gordy: That would be wonderful.

Presenter: Yeah...

Gordy: She hoped I could do it.

Presenter: Yeah...

Gordy: But then she said something about it probably happening at about the time when she would see an elephant fly. So I believed her.

Presenter: Believed what?

Gordy: That if I kept my room picked up for a week, she would give me a flying elephant.

Presenter: I'm not sure that's what she meant. So, did you keep your room picked up?

Gordy: Yeah, I kept my dirty clothes off the floor.

Presenter: Good.

Gordy: I put them on my bed.

Presenter: That's not picked up.

Gordy: That's what my mom said, so I put them under my covers.

Presenter: I still don't think that counts.

Gordy: Well, I didn't get that flying elephant either.

Presenter: I don't think that is what she promised. I think that was just a saying.

Gordy: Well, she probably doesn't have a flying elephant anyway.

Presenter: Today, Gordy, we will see that Jesus can give something much better than a flying elephant.

Gordy: Now I'm listening.

Presenter: Yes. Jesus says, "Believe me and I will answer you."

Gordy: You mean, believe Jesus and get a flying elephant?

Presenter: No. Believe Jesus and everything will be okay. You see, today's Bible event is about a very serious subject.

Gordy: But I'm serious about flying elephants.

Presenter: Enough with the elephants, Gordy. Today's event is about an official whose son was very sick. He believed that Jesus had the power to heal him. Do you think he was disappointed?

Gordy: I bet not, and that gives me an idea.

Presenter: We'll talk more about your idea and this Bible event after we watch it. This comes from the Gospel of John 4:43. Watch and we'll talk about it when we get back.

Video

Show *The Gospel of John* DVD, produced by Visual Bible International, 2003. Show clip of John 4:43-54.

Signs Along Believers' Highway

John 4:43-54

The presenter returns with the sign. Be careful to show only the front of the sign for now until the back is needed for the game.

I need two kid volunteers and a shepherd to come up, get in the car and get ready to drive.

Have volunteers come onstage and arrange them so the kids appear to be driving.

On Believers Highway, kids can drive just as well as adults because we are all growing and moving on our spiritual journeys. We are all learning to trust Jesus, the Messiah and Son of God. So buckle your seatbelts and let's go for a ride. Let's ask our people in the car a couple of questions.

Question #1

The official came to Jesus and told him of his sick son who was about to die. Where did he ask Jesus to go? (*To Capernaum, the place where the sick little boy was.*)

Question #2

Did Jesus go to the man's home? (*No.*)

Question #3

Instead, what did Jesus tell the man to do? (*Go home, your son will live.*)

Question #4

When the official was on his way home, who did he meet and what happened? (*He met some of his servants who told him his son had been healed. The boy was actually healed at about the same time that Jesus told him, "Your son will live."*)

Question #5

As a result, who ended up believing in Jesus? (*The official and his entire family.*)

There is a rhyme on my sign. The front says, "When you need help, look up and say..." and the back says, "Believe _____ and everything will be _____." Who can guess what words are missing? (*Believe _____ (Jesus) and everything will be _____ (okay).*)

Dismiss volunteers to return to their seats.

Gordy Gets More Than a Flying Elephant!

Puppet Conclusion

Gordy: I think I get it.

Presenter: **Good, Gordy.**

Gordy: All I need to do is believe Jesus and he will give me a flying elephant.

Presenter: **Kids, do you think that's right?** (*No.*)

Gordy: Why not?

Presenter: **Jesus wants us to believe him and we are to pray about whatever we need. But when you believe Jesus, that means that you trust him to answer in the best way possible.**

Gordy: You mean like if he decided *not* to give me the elephant?

Presenter: **Right.**

Gordy: But what if I'm sick?

Presenter: You should come to him in prayer and believe Jesus.

Gordy: Does that mean I'll get better every time?

Presenter: It means this. That everything will be okay.

Gordy: Like, if I'm healed.

Presenter: Yes. You may be healed just like the official's son. But even if you're not healed in a miraculous way, Jesus still promises that everything will be okay.

Gordy: How will it be okay?

Presenter: Remember that Jesus gave his life for you, Gordy, and every person here. Whenever a person believes in Jesus, he/she will live forever with him. Even if something very bad happens and someone is very sick or even if they die, it would be okay because Jesus died and rose again. That means that even if we die, we are alive again in heaven forever.

Gordy: That sounds pretty good. Do you think they have flying elephants in heaven?

Presenter: I couldn't say. But I bet it will be a very special place with even better stuff than flying elephants.

Gordy: That's pretty cool.

Presenter: Gordy, why don't you pray so that we all can remember how important it is to believe Jesus and know that everything will be okay.

Gordy: Dear God, thank you for Jesus. Thank you that Jesus did miracles like healing that guy's son, so his whole family believed in Jesus after that. Help us to believe in Jesus now. Help us always believe him especially when we need help. Thank you for making sure that everything will be okay. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

**When you
need help,
look up and
say...**

**Believe (*Jesus*)
and everything
will be (*okay*).**