



Date: _____
Series: God is Our Rescuer
Summer Year 2, Lesson 4

God Always Wins

Take Home Point: *God always wins.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Exodus 7-11.

Key Verse: Revelation 17:14, "The lamb (Jesus) will conquer them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings."

We will help kids know:

- Through Moses, God performed ten miraculous judgements against Egypt.
- Each one of the plagues demonstrated that the living God was more powerful than the gods of Egypt.
- We can trust God even when the odds seem overwhelming. He always wins and so do we when we follow him.

We will help kids feel:

- Confident that they can come to God with any problem.
- Motivated to share God's victory with others.

We will help kids do:

- Apply God's victory to an area of one's personal life so they might experience God's personal rescue.
- Share God's victory with someone who has a special need.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Playing an easy game of balloon volleyball makes us think we can <i>never</i> lose. Kids learn that in time, one would even lose at this game. But there is someone who always wins... and that is God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • large balloon for every 30 children • masking tape
Large Group 	4 6 8 8	<p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: “God Always Wins.” Gordy tries to hide from a bully who picks on him.</p> <p>Video: <i>The Prince of Egypt</i>. Show the section 1 hour and 30 seconds from the opening title in which Moses says, “Rameses, let my people go.” This continues through the song about the gods (6 minutes, 30 seconds).</p> <p>Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “God Always Wins” During the conclusion, 10 water balloons representing false gods are smashed over a large trashcan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy wearing a wig and sunglasses • fireman’s hat labeled “God Rescues” • large trashcan • 2 x 4-foot board to fit across the top of the trashcan • a long sharp nail hammered through the middle of the board • ten water balloons (Have several extra available.) <i>NOTE: Fill balloon with water that morning, <u>not</u> the day before, or the water balloons become too rubbery and hard to break easily.</i> • permanent marker—draw an I.D. on each balloon for an Egyptian god (See the lesson.) • video, <i>The Prince of Egypt</i>, distributed by DreamWorks Home Entertainment, 1999—order from video store or www.amazon.com
Small Group Application 	4	Review of today’s materials and popping balloons representing our problems help to reinforce the take home point: <i>*God always wins.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balloon for each child • permanent markers • a wooden ruler (one per group) • a thumb tack • masking tape

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:

- large balloon for every 30 children
- masking tape

Do the following activity in mid-sized groups of up to 30 children per group.

Using masking tape, make a volleyball court on the floor. Make the court 20 x 10-feet with a center line. This will help to keep all of the children close to the action so there is fuller participation. Use a large balloon for a volleyball.

To play balloon volleyball, all players must keep their seat on the ground though they can scoot. If anyone is not fully seated when hitting the balloon, one point is awarded to the other team. A player cannot hit the ball twice in a row but the balloon can be hit by consecutive players as many times as necessary to get it over the center line. Any time the balloon lands on the opposing team's side, it is a point.

After the game, gather the children for a brief wrap-up discussion.

How simple it seems to keep a balloon up in the air by tapping it. But was it hard for any of you? Even something simple can end up being difficult. Just like it was hard to keep the balloon in the air all the time, there will be things that come into your life that are hard. It will seem frustrating trying to deal with them, just like it was in the game. Sometimes we feel like we just can't win. Which players won in the volleyball game?

Here's an important question. Can you always win at a game and never lose?

Take volunteer responses. Help point out that, ultimately, no person ever wins all contests.

I know someone who never loses. Do you know who that is? Right, it's God. He is always victorious. Do you believe that? God wants you to believe that. He also wants you to follow him so you can be victorious, too.

In large group, we will see how God rescued the Israelites from slavery by sending 10 miraculous plagues on the Egyptians. God wanted his people to trust that he would deliver them. He wanted to show them his power and might. Today we will discover **God always wins.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



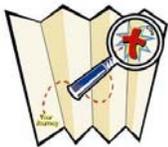
Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Puppet Presentation: “God Always Wins”—Gordy tries to hide from a bully who picks on him. He receives hope when he hears the presenter tell how ***God always wins.**

Video: *The Prince of Egypt*—show the section 1 hour and 30 seconds from the opening title in which Moses says, “Rameses, let my people go.” This continues through the song about the gods (6 minutes, 30 seconds).

Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “God Always Wins”—During the conclusion, 10 water balloons representing false gods are smashed over a large trashcan. This is symbolic of how ***God always wins** over false gods.

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 Exodus 7-11.

How many of the 10 plagues can you name? *(Water into blood, frogs, gnats, flies, death of cattle, boils, hail, locusts, darkness, and death of firstborn.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Why did God use these specific plagues? *(God used them to show power over specific false gods of Egypt.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

What do these miracles show us about God today? Can we trust God even when the odds seem overwhelming?

Yes! *God always wins and so do we when we follow him.

Application Activity:

Supplies: balloon for each child, permanent markers, wooden ruler, thumb tack, masking tape

In advance, make a “problem smasher.” To do so, insert a thumb tack through a hole in the wooden ruler. Use masking tape to wrap around the tack and ruler to hold the tack securely in place. Make sure the point of the tack is protruding through.



Ask each child to think of a special problem that he would like to see God smash. When a child can think of one, give him a balloon. Have the children imagine themselves praying to God and asking him to help them with their problems as they blow up their balloons.

Tie each balloon. Using markers, have children draw on the balloon whatever name or drawing reminds them of their problem. Invite some kids to show their balloons and share a little bit about what their problems might be.

Show kids the “problem smasher” and ask:

What did the large group presenter say the wood and spike he used to smash the water balloons remind him of? (*Jesus’ death on the cross.*)

How did Jesus defeat Satan and all false gods? (*By his death on the cross and resurrection to new life.*)

The Bible says in Revelation 17:14, “*The lamb (Jesus) will conquer them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings.*”

If Jesus is more powerful than any false god or Satan himself, do you believe Jesus is more powerful than any bad thing or problem? If so, use this “problem smasher” to pop your balloon.

Jesus is not only all powerful, but he promises to be with us always!

After all the kids have popped their balloons, have them repeat the following:

**In the middle of a fight
When you’ve lost all of your might,
Don’t take it on the chin,
‘Cuz **God always wins!***

Whenever you face problems of any kind, remember that **God always wins even in our problems.*

Closing Prayer:

Take time to pray about the problems mentioned earlier. Pair the children up to pray for each other. Thank God that he always gives us a victory when we trust in him.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

God Always Wins Puppet Presentation

Throughout this series, "God Is Our Rescuer," the presenter will wear a fireman's hat labeled "God Rescues." Today's script also calls for Gordy to wear a wig and sunglasses or some type of ridiculous disguise as he is hiding from a bully.

Supplies:

- Gordy wearing a wig and sunglasses
- fireman's hat labeled "God Rescues"
- large trashcan
- 2 x 4-foot board to fit across the top of the trashcan
- a long sharp nail, hammered through the middle of the board to make a spike
- ten water balloons (Have several extra available.) Using a permanent marker, draw identification on each balloon for an Egyptian god (See the lesson for details.) NOTE: Fill balloon with water that morning, not the day before, or the water balloons become too rubbery and hard to break easily.
- video, *The Prince of Egypt* (DreamWorks Home Entertainment, 1999)

Presenter: Hi, kids! Welcome to Kingdom Quest! We are discovering that God rescues. (Point to hat.) We are learning from the Bible how God rescued the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt. Today we will discover that **God always wins.*

Let's talk about God always winning.

Gordy: (Enters.) What's that I hear? God always wins?

Presenter: Hi, Gordy.

Gordy: Gordy? I'm not Gordy. I am uh...uh...uh...Alfred.

Presenter: Alfred? Well, you kind of look like Gordy except for the silly, goofy things you have on. What is that? A wig and sunglasses?

Gordy: What do you mean? Would Gordy ever wear something ridiculous like this? No way! Maybe the presenter would wear it, but Gordy wouldn't.

Presenter: Now wait a minute, Gordy.

Gordy: ALFRED!

Presenter: Okay, now wait a minute, Alfred. What's the big idea?

Gordy: Well, since I'm Alfred, I don't have to worry about Big Bad Bubba.

Presenter: Who's Big Bad Bubba?

Gordy: Big Bad Bubba is the bully of ball field nine, and he loves to come and pound on Gordy. Since I am Alfred, and not Gordy, maybe I can win.

Presenter: What do you think, boys and girls? Do you think this is going to help Gordy win against Big Bad Bubba? (Wait for audience response.) Sorry, Gordy, it sounds like it won't help.

Gordy: It won't?

Presenter: No, you need someone on your side that always wins.

Gordy: Even against Big Bad Bubba?

Presenter: Especially against Big Bad Bubba. Talking to the audience...Boys and girls, I would like to teach you a cheer. It goes like this.

**In the middle of a fight
When you've lost all your might,
Don't take it on the chin,
'Cuz...**

Gordy: 'Cuz what?

Presenter: "'Cuz **God always wins.*" Let me say it again and you finish the last line, **God always wins.* (Repeat the verse.)

Gordy: Can God win even against Big Bad Bubba the bully?

Presenter: He sure can.

Gordy: But how?

Presenter: I don't know exactly, but I do know this. You can tell God what you are afraid of and ask him for his power to help you. You can then trust him and his power and follow his ways.

Gordy: What if I get clobbered?

Presenter: God can protect you. In the end, God will bring judgment on people who do evil. In the Bible event today, you will hear what God did to those who worshiped false gods. God already won the victory by giving his Son Jesus to die on the cross. When we trust in Jesus, he gives us victory in our spirits, even if our bodies might be bruised.

Gordy: You mean clobbered?

Presenter: *God still always wins. Today's Bible event is about how the true God beat the false gods of Egypt. God rescued his people from slavery.

Gordy: Can we watch that part in *The Prince of Egypt* movie?

Presenter: Yes. Afterwards, we are going to check the Bible for more detail. We will even count the plagues God used against Egypt and how each plague beat a false god of Egypt.

Gordy: Cool! Let's roll it!

Video

Show the video, *The Prince of Egypt*. Show the 6 minute, 30 second section in which Moses says, "Rameses, let my people go." This section starts 1 hour, 30 seconds from the opening title and continues through the song about the gods.

God Always Wins

Puppet Presentation Conclusion

Gordy: Wow! That pharaoh sure was dumb not to let the people go.

Presenter: That's because his heart was hardened. But because of his hardened heart, God showed he would always win against the pharaoh and his false gods.

Gordy: Well, how did he do that?

Presenter: Each one of the plagues God sent on Egypt was against one of the false gods that Pharaoh and the Egyptians worshiped.

Gordy: Do you know what the plagues were?

Presenter: Yes, from the Bible in Exodus 7-11, I will name the plague and then tell you the Egyptian god. These false gods had no power. Instead, God showed his power over them.

Let's imagine these water balloons are the false gods. What do you think I should do to them?

Gordy: Smash 'em!

Presenter: Okay, I will smash them. Kids, you can help, too. After each time I introduce a false god of Egypt, you say, “**God always wins!*”

Up front, place the 2 x 4-inch, three foot board with the spike upward across a large trashcan. When the balloon is thrown down on the spike, the trashcan will catch the water. YOU PROBABLY WANT TO TRY THIS AHEAD OF TIME.

Use ten water-filled balloons marked with a permanent marker that identify each with one of the Egyptian gods. The name of the god, a picture of the plague, or a face can be drawn or written on the balloon.

Presenter: The first plague was water turning into blood. This was against Osiris the Nile god. (Hold the balloon over the board.)

The kids chant “**God always wins!*”

The presenter smashes the balloon on the spike. He then continues through the following list. After each plague is read with the god that it was against, the children chant “***God always wins!**” and presenter smashes a balloon.

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|-----|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Water into blood | (Against Osiris, Nile god) |
| 2. | Frogs | (Against Heka, frog goddess) |
| 3. | Gnats | (Against Geb, earth god) |
| 4. | Flies | (Against Khepara, battle god) |
| 5. | Death of cattle | (Against Apis, cattle god) |
| 6. | Boils | (Against Typhon, physical god) |
| 7. | Hail | (Against Isis, air goddess) |
| 8. | Locusts | (Against Serapis, insect god) |
| 9. | Darkness | (Against Ra, sun god) |
| 10. | Death | (Against all false gods) |

Gordy: That was really cool how you smashed those water balloons.

Presenter: And it was *really* cool how God smashed all the false gods.

Gordy: Are there false gods today?

Presenter: Yes, anyone who does not follow Jesus is following a false god. They are *selfishly* following just what they want to do.

Gordy: If someone is a bully and doesn't care at all about being kind, do you think he might be following a false god?

Presenter: He might be. He might be following a false god that's not an idol but it might be an idea. That idea is “might makes right.” In other words, that person may think that it is okay to be a bully.

Gordy: If someone was following that idea, wouldn't that god be weak compared to the true God?

Presenter: It sure would. I bet if you ask God to help take care of that bully and you follow what God wants, he will make something good happen.

Gordy: Wow! Like what?

Presenter: Well, maybe your bully might meet the power of God, which is Jesus' forgiveness. Maybe your bully needs to hear that you are not afraid of him and **God always wins*. I like to think of this board and nail as representing the cross Jesus was nailed to. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, all false gods were clobbered and smashed.

Gordy: But what if a bully still hits me?

Presenter: You need to tell him not to. You also need to pray for him that he would get to know how God doesn't want him to be a bully and that Jesus wants to live in his life, too.

Gordy: You mean God wants to help him?

Presenter: Yes! God doesn't want to help him be a bully but God wants to win by bringing Big Bad Bubba to trust in Jesus.

Gordy: Wow! That would really be cool!

Presenter: Why don't you pray for it?

Gordy: Dear Lord, thank you that you always win. Especially against false gods! Sometimes when people serve false gods, they need you to win over those gods so they can serve you. Please help Big Bad Bubba come to know how much you love him. Please help me not get clobbered anymore. Thank you that you always win! Bless our small group time together. In Jesus' name, Amen.