



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: Pass the Promise  
Fall Year 1, Lesson 25

# God Can Make Good What Seems Bad

**Primary Scripture:** Romans 8:28, 31, 37-39

**Key Verse:** Romans 8:37, "The one who loves us gives us an overwhelming victory in all these difficulties."

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

Sometimes kids (and adults) have a hard time understanding how God works. If they experience a hardship or heartbreak and pray about it, why doesn't God fix it as they prayed? Doesn't God care? Doesn't he care about the many bad things that happen? Yes, he does! He *can* and *does* work for good when we trust and follow him.

## **How does Jesus fill this need?**

**Jesus for us:** Jesus' ultimate gift of his own life gives us security of a strong and deep love. It holds us securely even when bad things seem to happen. Romans 8:37 says, "*The one who loves us gives us an overwhelming victory in all these difficulties.*"

**Jesus in us:** In Romans 8:31, God promises to give us everything we need, along with Christ who indwells us. Just as Christ persevered in difficulties, so will his presence by the Holy Spirit empower us.

**Jesus through us:** We are a witness because of the victory that Christ has living through us.

## 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:*

- *containers of cheese puffs to pass out and some sitting on a table*

Introduce the theme by repeating Romans 8:28.

***"We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God..."***

As the kids memorize the verse ask:

**How many things? All things!**

Next, tell the kids you are going to go around the room and try to toss some cheese puffs in their open mouths. If for any reason a child misses, only the person who was trying to catch the cheese puff in his mouth is allowed to pick it up. That person must not eat the cheese puff but hold it in his hand.

At first this will seem like a bad thing. But after the presenter has made the rounds, he announces that all those with cheese puffs in their hands can redeem them for two cheese puffs at the side table. (This table should be staffed with a cheese puff monitor person.)

**What's the point? Even what may seem to be bad, God can make good. Let's worship him for that today!**

## **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!*

## **The Power of the Cross:**

*Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.*

Help the kids identify times in their lives when things didn't seem fair and they were quick to complain. Help them see that it is wrong.

**It is a sin to face difficulties and not invite God to take over. It is wrong not to trust him. We all have done that. Let's tell God about it and he will lift that wrong off of us and give us a new heart to trust him more and more.**

Divide the children into three groups. Teach each group a different response. Group one's response is, **"No matter what!"** Group two's response is, **"God will make it good!"** Group three's response is, **"For those who love him!"**

Tell the children that after each phrase you give, they will say their response one group at a time. Point to the groups in order as they say their responses. The phrases for the leader could be improvised, but would include some phrases like:

- **Even if you crashed on your bike...**
- **Even if you forgot your homework...**
- **Even if your parents got mad at you...**
- **Even if your soccer team lost its game...**
- **Even if you had a fight with a friend...**
- **Even if...**

## **Song of Response:**

*Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.*

## **Offering:**

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

Talk about the special projects that the children's offerings will fund. If the offerings are going to a general fund, you might talk about a couple of important ways the general fund is spent to work good things for God's kingdom. Let the children see that their offerings work together for good for all of those who love God.



# 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:*

- *containers of cheese puffs*
- *shaving cream*
- *four pairs of safety glasses*
- *four trash bags with a hole cut in the center and side seams split*
- *four chairs*
- *penny candy*

Choose four children who are willing to have their faces lathered with shaving cream. Place protective covering over the child and give each protective eyewear. Have each child sit in a chair at the front.

Divide the group into four teams with each team lining up five yards away from their representative sitting in the chair. The first person in line will walk up to the child and give him a beard of shaving cream. The following team members come forward, each with a cheese puff. They are to place the cheese puff on the beard. If it does not stick or if another falls off, the player cannot return it to the beard. Instead, the player must let it fall. The person sitting in the chair can help by holding his plastic bag in such a way that it catches the fallen cheese puffs.

Each team will be trying to fill its bearded person with cheese puffs. Allow enough time for the beards to get so full that cheese puffs are falling off.

What the teams don't know is that the winner of the game is the person with the highest cheese puff face count. The teams get to redeem every fallen cheese puff on the person's lap for a penny candy. The learning point is reinforced.

**Even when things may go bad, and we don't win the game, God can make something good happen if we trust him and turn to him. God can make good what may seem bad.**

# 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.*

*Supplies:*

- *penny candy*

Have the kids give their undivided attention to the reading of the Bible. Tell them that they are to listen very carefully for what might be secret words. If they can guess what the secret words are (after the reading), they get a penny candy. Read Romans 8:28, 31, 37-39. (The secret words are “good,” “difficulties,” and “love.”) Once a word is guessed, no one else can guess it. Reinforce the point that God can make good what may seem bad.

# Application:

*Supplies:*

- *penny candy*
- *two white robes*
- *white cloth for a hood*
- *four big buckets or bowls*

Present “The Royal Robe” (see page 8 for script). Pick two children who would like to do the actions of the drama as it is read. During the narration, pause at the (\*) so the actors can do the action described.

After the drama discuss the meaning of the story.

**Who does the king represent?** *(God.)*

**How is the town of Dustus like a world without God?** *(The king is not present. Everyone is thirsty.)*

**What does the robe represent?** *(Royalty, an heir to the king, or like a believer is a child of God.)*

**Trey chose to go in search of the king. What is this like for us?** *(It is like seeking the kingdom of God.)*

**Crossing the desert was a hard journey. How is this like our journey of faith?** *(We have trials as we journey toward heaven.)*

**What about the other brother?** *(The other brother did not want to be an heir to the king or to seek after the king. He is like those who do not want to be heirs of God.)*



# 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.*

**Tell about a time something bad happened to you. Maybe it seemed that nothing good could happen from it, but later you discovered God worked good things even in the middle of something so bad**

## 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.*

## 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:*

- containers of cheese puffs to pass out and some sitting on a table

## *Learning Game:*

- containers of cheese puffs
- shaving cream
- four pairs of safety glasses
- four trash bags with a hole cut in the center and side seams split
- four chairs
- penny candy

## *Bible Presentation:*

- penny candy

## *Application:*

- penny candy
- two white robes
- white cloth for a hood
- four big buckets or bowls

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## **“The Royal Robe”**

There once was a town in the desert called Dustus. Water was scarce there and food was hard to come by. The people who lived in Dustus did their day-to-day activities with parched throats anticipating when they could find enough water for a long cool drink.

I suppose the reason most lived there was that Dustus was completely enclosed by a desert. And though water was scarce and the life was drab, people seemed all too content to live there. Perhaps it seemed to be better than the barren wasteland of the desert surrounding the town.

In the village of Dustus lived twin brothers named Troy and Trey. They had no father or mother, and longed for anyone who would be their parents. You could imagine their surprise and delight when they received a strange gift.

Someone knocked on their door\* and when they went to open it,\* they found no one there. Left on the doorstep were two beautiful robes with a message attached. The message read, “These robes of royalty are for Troy and Trey. I am the King of the Springs and invite you boys to come immediately through the desert to the Garden of the Springs where I live. There you will be with me as my own children and heirs of my kingdom. Come immediately. But you must wear your royal robe for as you wear them, you become my own children. I await your arrival.”

The boys were delighted at the mysterious gift and the wonderful news. They eagerly made plans to travel and see the king and their new father. Trey put on his robe and admired its regal feel.\* He liked its fit and liked that it made him look like he really was an heir of the king.

Troy took his robe and tried it on but only for a moment.\* He was so impressed with its beauty that he wanted to gaze at it more.\* He hung it on the wall and stared in admiration. Both boys made plans to start out across the desert early the next morning to claim their inheritance.

When morning came, Trey put on his robe and was ready to go.\* When he went to his brother’s room to get Troy\*, he was surprised to find the room filled with other admirers. Troy’s friends had gathered around and were eagerly listening to Troy as he pointed out the beautiful robe that hung over his bed. The robe was not being worn, but being admired.

“Are you ready?” said Trey. “It’s time to go, we must be on our way. The king waits. We have our royal robes.”

“Not so fast!” said Troy. “Not enough people have seen this beautiful robe of mine and it seems to be a dusty day. I don’t know that I want to take it outside because dust would certainly soil its rich color. I have more friends here to admire it.”



“But I must be on my way,” Trey responded. “The king said as soon as possible. I must obey for I wear his robe of royalty.”

Troy laughed him off. “I don’t think we need to be in that great of a hurry. Go ahead. I’ll catch up with you later. It looks as if it will be a hot day anyway—too hot for traveling. But I’ll join you soon.”

Trey left the room disappointed in his brother.\* But as he left the house his heart quickened with excitement. He felt like the son of a king and he wore the robe proudly \* as he marched through the town into the desert.

Soon his feet were burning beneath him and the sun was bearing heavily upon his head. He had never been in the desert before and the heat felt like it could melt him. He quickly drank his small supply of water and he left the container in the sand and trudged forward. He thought to himself\*, “Is this what the king would have? Such terrible heat and an entire desert to cross? Is this what it means to be an heir and his son?”

As the sun rose higher and the day grew hotter, Trey wondered how he could survive. But then he noticed that as he wore the robe and covered his head with the hood, the robe kept him cool. It kept the moisture from evaporating off his skin and it shielded his skin from the burning rays of the sun. And all along, step-by-step, he knew he had purpose, for he was on his way to see the king, his new father. The hotter it became, the tighter he held onto his robe\*.

Meanwhile, back at Dustus, his brother Troy had grown tired of gazing at his new robe of royalty. He knew that he should wear it soon, but for now he wanted to get some other use out of it. So he unhooked it from its place on the wall, walked to the window\*, and hung it there\*. “This will make nice drapes to keep out the hot sun until I take the trip,” he said.

Back in the desert nighttime came suddenly for Trey. As soon as the sun had set, the desert winds picked up. What had been a scorching day had now become a frigid night. Trey’s teeth were chattering as he thought to himself, “Why would the king call me to such a journey where he knew the nights would be so cold?”

With that, he grabbed his robe and as he did he was comforted. Now the robe provided warmth and still the robe reminded him of his royalty.

The next morning he continued his journey. Though tired and aching, he held tightly to his robe for he knew that it meant he was the son of a king. Each of these trials seemed to help him value his robe of royalty even more.

Back in Dustus his brother, Trey, had removed the robe from the window\* and was using it as an extra blanket. As he tossed and turned, it slipped off the bed and onto the floor. Troy didn’t seem to miss it.

A new set of trials awaited Trey in the desert that day. A band of robbers approached him and demanded his money. Though Trey had no money nor did he look like a prince, he was bold to his robbers. He spoke with all his courage, "I am on the way to see the king, and he has made me his heir. I wear his robe and I warn you in his name to keep your distance."

With that the robbers mocked him and said to each other, "I see no king and I see no prince." They attacked Trey and beat him. They took his shirt and shoes. They even thought about taking the robe but by now it had become dirty and torn. They spit on it as they walked away. "Some prince!" they jeered to one another.

Trey was crumbled and broken-hearted as he huddled under his royal robe. He thought to himself "Would the king really want me to come to him through such a desert as this? Where is he and where is the Spring of the Desert?" He trudged through the day and as weary as he was, Trey found courage in the tattered robe that hung from his shoulders.

In Dustus his brother, Troy, had a tattered robe, as well. But his robe was tattered because now it was used as a floor rug. As feet were wiped on it\*, it lost its beautiful royal quality.

In the desert, Trey's journey seemed just about over. He saw in the distance what looked like an oasis. As his steps quickened to a run, he suddenly tripped.\* What was it he tripped over? Or whom did he trip over? There huddled was a young girl who, like himself, had been a victim of the robbers. She was left exposed to the sun, crying, and exhausted.

The oasis seemed so near, but how could he press on with this one girl in need. And what did he have to give her to help? The only thing left was...Oh no, not that. Not his robe. The robe that had kept him cool by day and warm at night. The robe that covered him when he was battered and bruised. The robe that meant he was royalty. Could he give that up?

Trey looked at the girl and then at the garden from afar. He knew what he must do. Slowly he removed his robe and gently placed it over the girl. He tried to help her to her feet, but she could not stand. "Wait here," he said. "I'll go find the king who will send back help."

He left the girl with his robe, and as he plodded across the hot sand he wondered if he could make it. Looking up he saw a horse...No, a group of horses galloping toward him. At the front was the one who must have been the king. Trey was rescued, he knew it. But why had the king not come sooner? Why didn't the king come by horseback to take him from the village himself? Why did he have to cross the desert?

When the king approached, Trey looked up and said, "Sire, I am Trey, your adopted son."

"I know," said the king as he got off his horse and helped the boy up.

"But I've lost my robe of royalty," said Trey.

"You have not lost it, you have used it. For through your trials you discovered the value of your robe. The hotter the desert, the more you needed the robe. The colder at night, the more you wrapped it around you. And finally, when someone needed your comfort more than you, you gave it away. For it is in the desert and in these trials that you have found what it means to be a son of the king. Now join me in my kingdom. Come and drink of the springs of refreshing water that will quench your thirst forever."

"But what about Troy? Can we go get him from Dustus? Can we bring him across the desert?" asked Trey.

"No, we cannot. Does he not have his royal robe? That robe has cost me a great price and it is all that he needs. If he would only wear it, it would take him across the desert. For anyone who wears the royal robe is a son of the king."