



God Is In Control

Backyard Bible Club “Kid’s Club” Guide



Backyard Bible Club Guide 2

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Getting Started

Servant Life has developed this outline specifically for Backyard Bible Clubs. **It is important to note that this is only a suggested outline and is not mandated for use. We would ask however, because there is important information in the pages preceding the actual curriculum itself, that you would please read pages 3 through 6.** If your group would be more comfortable using another Vacation Bible School Curriculum, please use what your group can easily prepare and utilize. This guide was created as a resource and an outline that presents Biblical concepts well, however it is by no means the only effective option.

It is also our goal to communicate that this kids' camp guide is meant to serve as a resource for your programming. This plan only covers the major elements of your day: Scripture and Bible story activities, Scripture memory, crafts, and recreation. Your group should be prepared to add other elements to the programming such as songs, puppets, face painting, etc. To reinforce the lessons you are teaching in the minds of the children, it will prove helpful to use physical reminders of what has been taught each day. For instance, one group taught a lesson about how people are God's treasure and after the lesson gave out plastic beads and plastic crowns. Try to find ways like these object lessons that will help the kids understand the concepts on their level.

The ultimate purpose of your group's experience is twofold: first for your students to have the privilege of teaching the Word and leading children to Christ. Second, to learn how to plan and minister both as a group and as individuals. It is important that they take initiative and ownership in the planning time as well as during ministry week.

Finally, we encourage you to be flexible, relax, and have fun. While it is important to plan, you should also plan to be flexible. Community ministry work is rarely an exact science, and the most

important thing that you can do during the week is simply share Christ's love to the children through your time, energy, smiles and prayers. We trust that God will use this experience in your life and the lives of the children to show his glory and bring people to Himself.

Pointers and Discussion

Clean Up – Don't be afraid to utilize the children to clean up. It helps the children feel important and helps your group with their clean up tasks. Clean up is very important because it shows respect to the community.

Free Play in Small Groups – One of the most meaningful times at a children's ministry mission site is when your students can do a low-key activity with just a few children and really invest in them. Have students pair up, and take a small group of 3-5 children to do an activity. Be mindful to keep the groups in a central location. Suggested activities for this time include playing with bubbles, sidewalk chalk, face paint, coloring pictures or even playing on a playground. Each day have your students take the same children so they can really get to know them.

Large Group Recreation - Recreation is a key factor in any Children's Program. Large group recreation can draw children out from their homes very quickly. Kick ball, tag games and parachute games are great to kick off the day. It works well to have an extended and active recreation time directly before asking the children to do a more quiet activity such as crafts or Bible story. It is also recommended on the last day to do some type of water games as a treat that afternoon. Make sure to let the children know to be prepared to get wet, and check with the location contact to make sure it is permissible. Also, have your students practice leading a game before arriving on site...knowing how to play a game and knowing how to lead a game are very different. Finally, remember the cardinal rule of recreation: Kill a game before it peaks, not after...stop the game before the children are tired of it. If they are still having fun with it, they will want to play it again tomorrow!

Schedule – The schedules provided are just suggestions. No plan will work perfectly for your situation, but there are some general guidelines you can follow:

1. Remember that attention spans are short. It is better to do an activity several times throughout the day in short increments rather than trying to do activities that utilize large blocks of time.
2. Try to avoid too many high energy or low energy activities at a time. It is good to alternate between the two.
3. Ages will vary widely at many locations, and some activities will not be suitable for all ages. Plan to have students available when they are not leading an activity to hang out with the older kids or play with the younger kids. Be ready to adjust your original plan and schedule. Don't ever send a child home, or ignore them, because they are too old or young to participate.
4. **IMPORTANT:** Children are never required to participate in any part of the program. For instance, if they feel uncomfortable participating in Bible Story time, we don't want to force them to do so. Also, parents may hang around during the program – welcome them! We have a chance to minister to them as well!

Songs/Puppets – Please note that there is not a list of songs within this guide. Servant Life encourages groups to lead songs they know and are comfortable leading. Also, children love songs done by puppets. If your church does not have puppets or a puppet stage, you can easily make puppets out of construction paper and brown paper bags or long gym socks and use a sheet as a puppet stage. The children love them just the same...you can even have children make their own puppets or give them yours at the end of the week.

Stations/Rotations - Some groups in the past have opted to break into four different stations and have the four groups rotate about every 15 minutes. This format is suggested for larger groups as it allows you to more adequately accommodate the children's need for

attention. This format also increases the likelihood of the children receiving more one-on-one attention from you and your students. Suggested stations include:

1. Bible Story/Activity Station
2. Craft Station
3. Recreation Station
4. Activity Station (Face Painting, Bubbles, Sidewalk Chalk, etc.)

Prompting Children to Respond to the Message – Many times in a church setting, an ‘altar call’ is given to allow children a chance to respond to the gospel message. While we do not want to discourage children responding to the gospel, we want to give some guidelines for how this might be done. In scenarios in which children might respond to the gospel, engage children one-on-one. This helps avoid confusion and mass manipulation. What we want to avoid is an environment where there is confusion with kids going to the front to pray with someone when they still don’t really understand what’s going on. Hearing one of the lessons may be one step on their journey of understanding the message of Christ and knowing God. They may even be ready to pray to receive Christ. We ask that you would be sensitive and if they do make a ‘decision’ make sure to get plenty of contact information for them so that we can turn that over to local churches that will follow up with them. There will be contact cards in the Youth Minister packet you were given at registration. Please use these and turn in all of the cards (both blank and filled out) to your site coordinator on the last day. We are doing a disservice to the children if we lead them to Christ, but give them no means of support to help them grow.

God Is In Control

This Backyard Bible Club is titled “God Is In Control.” The guide contains three Bible stories that show how God is in control of all creation and His will being done. These are stories that children can engage with and, as a result, learn Biblical truths about God and His character. Each day includes a craft, memory verse, and discussion questions to go along with the Bible story. The purpose of this guide is to teach children the truths and stories from the Bible in simple and clear ways that they can better understand God’s love for them and who He is. The goal is to help the children see how God protected the people in these stories and that same God will protect them in their lives as well.

Day 1: In The Beginning

Bible Story Illustration: Creation (Genesis 1 - 2:3)

Memory Verse: Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

Discussion Starter: Ask the kids if they have ever built something. Have they ever made anything out of play-doh? When we create things we are proud of what we have made and God feels the same about His creation. Transition to the story of creation by asking the children if they have ever wondered how everything on earth was made. How did everything get here on earth? This story is meant to show the kids that God is the creator and designer of the world and that same God desires to have a relationship with them.

The Creation Story

In the very beginning, before God made anything, there was nothing except God. No people or places or things. Nothing. No light and no dark, no up and no down, no yesterday and no tomorrow. There was only God who has no beginning. Then God acted!

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth had no form or shape. Darkness covered the earth and then God spoke, "Let there be light." And there was light. God called the light "day" and the darkness He called "night." When the morning and evening happened that was the first day.

On the second day, God made all the oceans, seas and the lakes and rivers. He separated and divided the water from the sky.

On the third day, God said, "Let the dry land appear." And it happened. God also commanded the grass and the flowers and the shrubs and the trees to appear, and they did. The bushes had berries and the trees grew all kinds of fruit and God saw that it was good.

Then God made the sun and the moon and the stars. The sun was to light up the day and the moon to shine at night. God saw that it was good and that was the end of the fourth day.

On the fifth day, God created all the living things in the sea and in the sky. He made all the swordfish and sharks, the whales and the jellyfish and any other fish that you can imagine. He created eagles and hawks, and toucans and hummingbirds. Everything in the ocean and air was made and God saw that it was good.

The next day, God spoke again and said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind." Then every animal

and insect and reptile came into being. There were earth-shaking elephants and busy beavers, mischievous monkeys and clumsy crocodiles, wiggly worms and silly squirrels, goofy gorillas and funny foxes. Every kind of animal was made by God that day.

On the same day, God did something very special. Everything was now ready for man. God said, “Let Us make man in Our image. Let him be lord over everything on the earth.” God formed man out of the dust and breathed into him and he came alive. God named him Adam and gave him the responsibility for naming all the animals. Then God said, “It is not good for man to be alone. I will make him a helper.” God put Adam into a deep sleep and removed one of his ribs. He took the rib and formed a woman and called her Eve. They lived in a garden called Eden and had perfect happiness. God looked at all that He had created and saw that it was very good.

God finished making everything in six days. He rested on the seventh day from all the work He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it a day of rest.

Bible Story Discussion (you may want to put these on poster board):

- 1) What was the first thing God spoke into existence?
- 2) How many days did it take God to create everything?
- 3) What did God make man out of? What was his name?
- 4) What did God use to form Eve?
- 5) What did God do on the seventh day?

Conclusion:

End Result: God made everything in the universe and made man in his own image.

Today's Attitude: We know that God created us and made each person special and unique.

God Factor: God is in total control of everything He created.

Gospel Connection: God was also in control when he sent Jesus to die on the cross. Jesus did not die that death because He was sinful or because He could not save himself. But it was God's plan for Jesus to die and pay the penalty for our sin, so that we don't have to pay that penalty. If we turn from our sin and believe in Jesus, we can begin a relationship with God that leads to eternal life.

Memory Verses (Cut out of card stock)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1	In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1
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Craft/Activity: Creation Book and Creation Object Lesson

Creation Book

Supplies:

- * printed books (see template)

<http://www.dltk bible.com/genesis/creation/book.htm>

- * crayons/markers
- * stapler

Instructions:

- 1) Have children put their name on the cover of the creation book
- 2) Have children color in the different days of creation
- 3) You can re-read the Bible story and have them follow along in their Creation book

Creation Object Lesson

(This activity is to be done with a group of children to help them remember how God created the world. Depending on the amount of children, you can split them into groups and have more than one object lesson to teach them.)

Supplies:

- * 7 brown paper lunch sacks
- * Marker
- * flashlight/something that represents light
- * water bottle
- * rocks/grass/leaves
- * pictures of sun, moon, stars
- * pictures of fish, sea creatures, and birds/figurines
- * pictures of animals/figurines
- * pictures of people/figurines

Instructions:

- 1) With the marker, write numbers 1-7 on the bags (see picture).
- 2) Place the corresponding objects in the bag matching the day those items were created (see Genesis 1:1-2:3). For example in the bag marked 1, place a flashlight to represent God separating light from the darkness.
- 3) While reading the creation story, pause after each day and have children take the corresponding day's objects out of the bag. Another way to do this is to have children tell you what is in each bag before opening the bag to help them remember the story.
- 4) For more instructions and examples see attached lesson.

DLTK's Mini Books

Creation



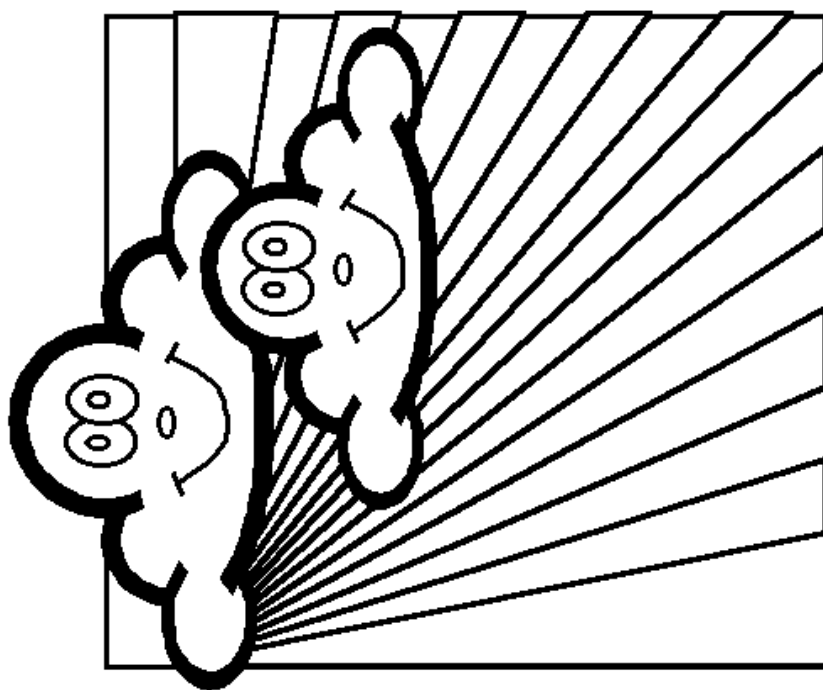
Colored by: _____

Created by: Leanne Guenther

Helping Children Grow

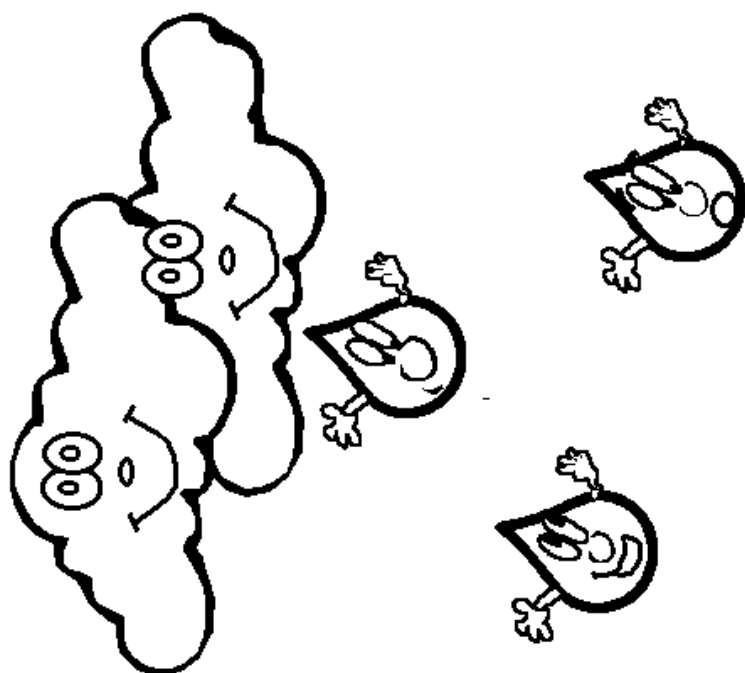


Free printables from <http://www.dltk-bible.com>



On the first day, God
separated light from
darkness.

1



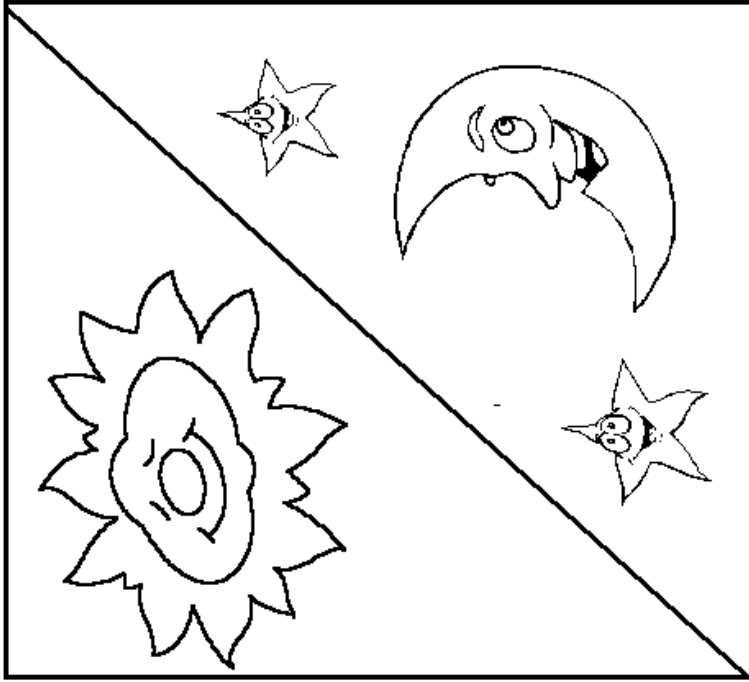
On the second day,
God made the sky
and the water.

2



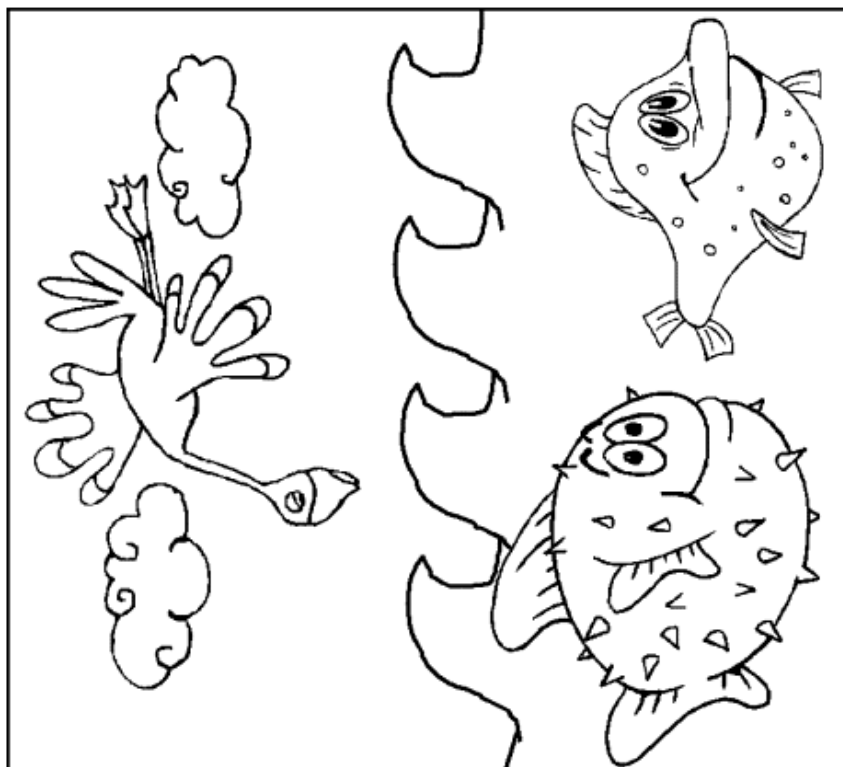
On the third day, God
made dry land and
plants.

3



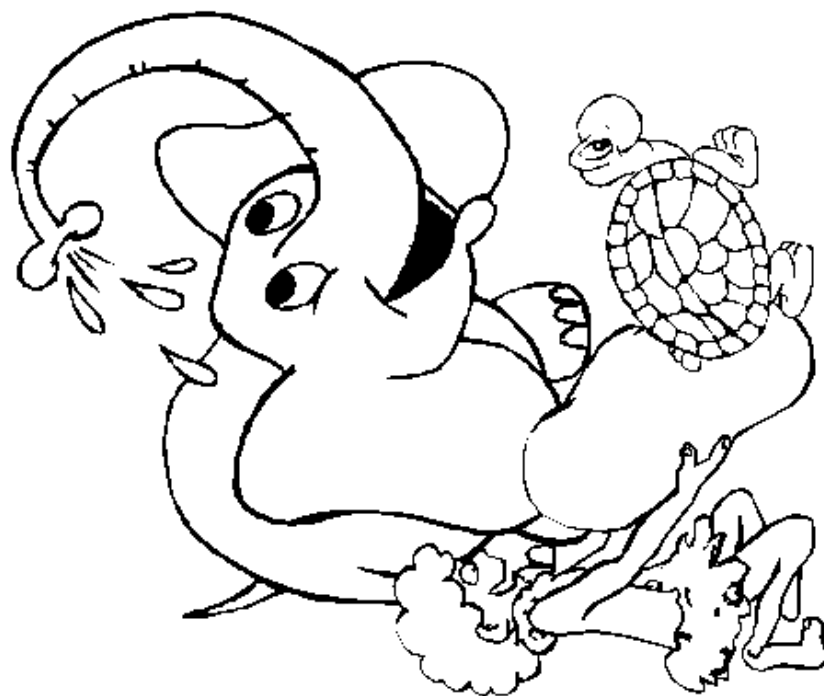
On the fourth day,
God made the sun,
moon and stars.

4



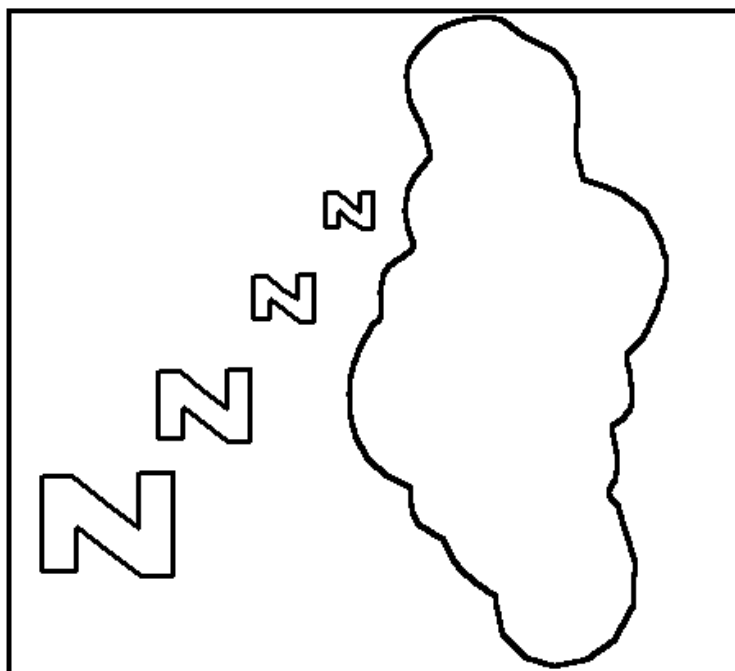
On the fifth day, God
made the birds in the
sky and the fish in
the oceans.

5

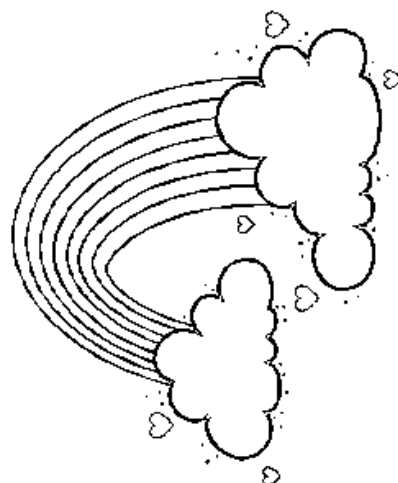


On the sixth day,
God made the
animals and man.

6



On the seventh day,
God rested.



God made all things.

He is the Creator.

He loves YOU!

The Creation Object Lesson

In this object lesson you will need some lunch bags and various toys (see pictures below). Read Genesis 1-2:3 and select an appropriate toy or object for the things that God created on that day.

Suggested Objects

- * Flashlight
- * Water bottle.
- * Rock and leaves. Use real objects or plastic objects as pictured.
- * Sun moon and stars.
- * Toy birds and fish.
- * Toy animals and human figures— Lego figures/pictures.
- * Empty bag (God rested).

If you don't have some of the objects, you can print pictures of the objects.

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Day 2: Do Not Fear For The Lord Is With You

Bible Story Illustration: Jesus Quiets The Storm (Mark 4:35-41)

Memory Verse: Psalm 56:3 – “When I am afraid, I will trust in you.”

Discussion Starter: Ask the children what are some things they are afraid of. Do you remember a time when they were really scared? Ask them to raise their hand if they don't like thunderstorms. Start to transition to the story by telling the kids that the disciples were really afraid during a storm and in this story we see how everything obeys the voice of Jesus and He is in control and protected the disciples when they were afraid.

Jesus Quiets The Storm

One day Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Everyone wanted to hear what Jesus was saying and the crowd grew so large that they were backing Jesus into the water. So he stood in a boat while the people gathered on the shore to listen. He told the people many stories so they could learn more about God.

After Jesus was done preaching, it was nighttime. He was talking about the Sea of Galilee and said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” Leaving the crowd behind, they got in the boat just as they were and headed to the other side. There were also other boats that went to follow Jesus.

As they were sailing, all of the sudden a furious squall came up. A squall is a huge storm; the wind was blowing

really hard and the rain was pouring down. The waves were so big they were crashing on the side of the boat and going over the top! They were swamped, and the disciples were scared they were going to be tossed in the sea.

The disciples frantically searched for Jesus and found him sound asleep on a pillow in the back of the boat! They woke him up and said, "Teacher, how can you sleep? Don't you care if the boat crashes and we all drown?" Jesus got up and commanded the wind and the waves, yelling, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and the waves got smaller and it was completely calm. Jesus turned to his disciple and said, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" (May be a good time to talk about what faith is.)

The disciples were terrified. They asked each other, "Who is this? Even the winds and the waves obey Him!" The disciples realized that Jesus, being God's Son, had full control over all of creation. Then they knew they were always safe being near Him and He would protect them.

Bible Story Discussion (you may want to put these on poster board):

- 1) What did they travel across the lake in? Were there other boats with them?
- 2) When the storm came, what was Jesus doing?
- 3) What did Jesus say to stop the wind and the waves?
- 4) How did the disciples feel when He quieted the storm?

Conclusion:

End Result: Jesus is in control of everything in this world so there is no reason to fear.

Today's Attitude: When you are scared, know that God is with you and you can trust Him to protect you.

God Factor: God has amazing power with the sound of His voice, and all creation will obey Him.

Gospel Connection: Jesus not only has power over nature, but he also has power over death. Jesus conquered sin and death on the cross, and we can have victory over sin and death if we believe in Jesus and surrender our lives to him.

Memory Verses (Cut out of card stock)

When I am afraid, I will trust in you. Psalm 56:3	When I am afraid, I will trust in you. Psalm 56:3
When I am afraid, I will trust in you. Psalm 56:3	When I am afraid, I will trust in you. Psalm 56:3
When I am afraid, I will trust in you. Psalm 56:3	When I am afraid, I will trust in you. Psalm 56:3
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When I am afraid, I will trust in you. Psalm 56:3	When I am afraid, I will trust in you. Psalm 56:3

Craft: Paper Boat Craft

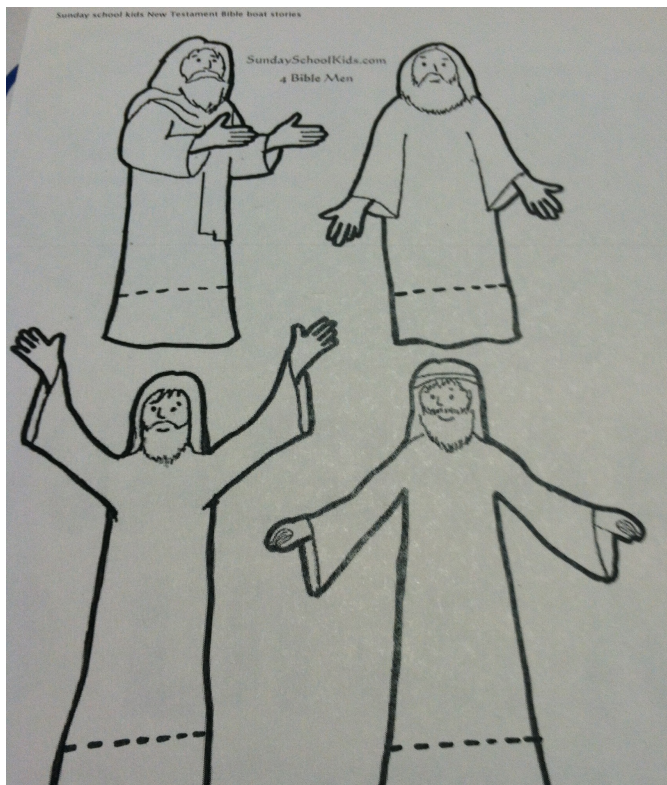
Paper Boat Craft

Supplies:

- * boat template (see website) – best if printed on cardstock or thicker paper
- * scissors
- * glue
- * scotch tape
- * crayons/markers
- * popsicle sticks

Instructions:

- 1) Have the children color the boat and people. While they are coloring explain that this boat is going to represent the boat Jesus and his disciples were on when Jesus calmed the storm.
- 2) Help children cut out the boat and people. Cut on the solid lines.
- 3) After cutting the boat, fold the paper on the dotted lines.
- 4) Using glue or tape, put the boat together (where it says glue).
- 5) Fold the bottom of each person ½ inch (see example) to help them stand.
- 6) Glue or tape the folded ½ inch to the inside of the boat.



* Fold lines were added to Jesus and the disciples to help children fold them so they can stand in the boat.

Go here for the print out boat and people:

<http://www.sundayschoolkids.com/activities-nt/1-nt-boat-for-jesus-bw-activity.htm>

Go here for pictures and instructions:

<http://www.sundayschoolkids.com/activities-nt/1-nt-boat-for-jesus-instru.htm>

Day 3: God Will Protect You

Bible Story Illustration: Daniel and the Lion's Den (Daniel 6)

Memory Verse: Joshua 1:9 – “Do not ever be afraid or discouraged! I am the Lord your God, and I will be with you wherever you go.”

Discussion Starter: Start by asking the children what are some rules that they have to follow. What happens if they were to break those rules? Has there ever been a time when you had to choose what rules to follow? Transition to the story of Daniel by telling the kids that Daniel had to choose to obey God even when it was really hard.

Daniel and the Lions Den

Once there was a brand new king names Darius who ruled over a place called Babylon. King Darius was very smart. He picked a hundred and twenty of the very best people in his kingdom to help him rule. Then he picked three of them to be in charge. A man named Daniel was one of those three.

King Darius respected Daniel a lot. He even thought about making Daniel the ruler of the whole kingdom! The other leaders were jealous. They made a plan to find something bad Daniel was doing so they could tell the King and get Daniel in trouble. No matter how hard they tried, the leaders couldn't find anything bad about Daniel. Daniel was true to the king in all that he did. He was very honest and

careful, and always did everything that was asked of him the very best he could.

The jealous leaders knew there was only one way they could trap Daniel. They knew that nothing on earth would stop him from worshiping God. Daniel's enemies thought up a plan. They made a new law for the King to sign. The law said that everyone should pray only to King Darius and anyone who disobeyed would be thrown into a den of lions! King Darius signed the new law.

This new law made no difference to Daniel. He did what he always did - he kneeled by his open window three times a day, and prayed to the God of heaven. The jealous leaders rushed to tell the king. King Darius tried really hard to change the law but had no choice to arrest Daniel. The law had to be obeyed and the punishment was to be thrown into the lion's den. Before Daniel was thrown to the hungry lions, King Darius said to him, "Your God, who you continually serve, will deliver you!" Daniel was thrown in the pit and a huge rock was placed over it. King Darius couldn't sleep that night because he feared so much for Daniel and hoped he would be okay.

Very early the next morning, King Darius rushed back to the lions' pit. They moved away the huge rock and the king shouted, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God who you always serve, been able to save you from the lions?" Daniel answered and called out, "O king, my God sent His angel and shut the mouths of the lions so they have not hurt me! And also, O King, I have done no wrong before you."

King Darius was so happy! He ordered Daniel to be lifted out of the pit. The king knew God had protected Daniel and was in control of the lions. The king also knew that the enemies of Daniel were the enemies of God, so King Darius

commanded to have all those that tricked him into signing the bad law to be thrown into the lions' den.

King Darius wanted the world to know that the God of heaven had protected His faithful servant, Daniel. The king wrote a letter that commanded everybody to worship the living God and the king restored Daniel to honor and leadership.

Bible Story Discussion (you may want to put these on poster board):

- 1) What did the law that King Darius wrote say the people couldn't do?
- 2) How many times a day did Daniel pray?
- 3) What was in the pit that Daniel was thrown into?
- 4) How long was Daniel in the lions' den?
- 5) How did God protect Daniel when he was in the lions' den?
- 6) What did King Darius do once he saw the power of God?

Conclusion:

End Result: God protected Daniel for being obedient and Daniel knew God was in control.

Today's Attitude: I should always obey God and He will take care of me.

God Factor: The only thing that kept Daniel safe from the lions was God's presence and protection.

Gospel Connection: In the same way that God protected Daniel, he also protects His people who belong to Him. If we turn from sin and trust in Jesus, we will receive the Holy Spirit. This Spirit is the very presence of God inside of us, always protecting us with God's presence. God also protects us with salvation. If we belong to him, sin will not separate us from God when we die, but we will remain with him forever.

Memory Verses (Cut out of card stock)

Do not ever be afraid or discouraged! I am the Lord your God, and I will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9	Do not ever be afraid or discouraged! I am the Lord your God, and I will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9
Do not ever be afraid or discouraged! I am the Lord your God, and I will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9	Do not ever be afraid or discouraged! I am the Lord your God, and I will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9
Do not ever be afraid or discouraged! I am the Lord your God, and I will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9	Do not ever be afraid or discouraged! I am the Lord your God, and I will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9
Do not ever be afraid or discouraged! I am the Lord your God, and I will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9	Do not ever be afraid or discouraged! I am the Lord your God, and I will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9
Do not ever be afraid or discouraged! I am the Lord your God, and I will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9	Do not ever be afraid or discouraged! I am the Lord your God, and I will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

Craft: Lion Plate

Supplies:

- * paper plate
- * orange, yellow, & black paint/markers
- * scissors
- * glue
- * googly eyes (2 per child)
- * black felt – cut into small triangles (for lion's nose) (1 per child)

Instructions:

- 1) On the back of the plate, have child write the memory verse (if they can't write it, help them write it).
- 2) On the outside edge of the front of the plate paint/color it orange (about 1 inch). This will be the lion's mane.
- 3) Paint the rest of the plate yellow. This is the lion's face.
- 4) Once dry, cut slits into the outside edge of the plate about 1 inch deep and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide, all around the plate, (this will be the lion's mane).
- 5) Glue googly eyes onto plate.
- 6) Glue triangle below eyes for the nose.
- 7) Using a marker or black paint, draw the lion's mouth.

