

VBS Outline

Day 1-

Theme: God Wins Over Kings and Armies

Passage: Isaiah 46:9b; 1 Chronicles 29:11; Exodus 4-13; Joshua 10:1-11; Judges 7; Daniel 4:28-35; Daniel 2:20-21

Memory verse: Isaiah 46:9b

Craft: Frog Catch Game Craft (younger children); Beaded Frog Key Chain Craft (older children)

Song: Pharaoh, Pharaoh; Lawnmower song; Ain't No Rock

Recreation: Relay Games

Day 2-

Theme: God Wins Over All gods

Passage: Psalms 115:3-7; 1 Kings 18:27-29; Psalm 135:5; Exodus 20:3

Memory Verse: Psalm 135:5

Craft: Man in the Maze Craft

Song: My God is So Big; Lawnmower song; Ain't No Rock

Recreation: Tag Games

Day 3-

Theme: God Wins Over Satan, Death, and Sin

Passage: Romans 3:11; John 1:29

Memory Verse: John 1:29b

Craft: "Colors of Faith" Cross Necklaces (younger children); Cross Necklaces (older children)

Song: God's Not Dead; Lawnmower song; Ain't No Rock

Recreation: Parachute Games

Day 4-

Theme: God Wins in the End (The Last Battle)

Passage: Revelation 17:4; Revelation 19:11-16; (Isaiah 45:22-24)

Memory Verse: Revelation 19:1b

Craft: Shields

Song: I'm in the Lord's Army; Lawnmower Song; Ain't No Rock

Recreation: Water Games

Day 5-

Theme: Whose Side Are You On?

Passage: Matthew 6:24a; Matthew 12:30; Luke 14:16-24 (Matthew 22:14; John 6:37)

Memory Verse: Matthew 6:24a

Craft: Heart Wall Pocket

Song: I'm in the Lord's Army; Lawnmower Song; Ain't No Rock

Recreation: Favorite games from the week (play whatever games the kids liked the best)

Game Suggestions

Relay Games

Hula hoop relay

Over and under relay

Animal cracker relay (egg relay)

Tag Games

Freeze Tag

Chain Tag

Elbow Tag

Water Games

Water balloon toss and catch

Sponge over and under

Fill the bucket relay

Musical chairs with a wet sponge

LESSON 1

GOD WINS OVER KINGS AND ARMIES

SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 46:9b; 1 Chronicles 29:11; Exodus 4-13; Joshua 10:1-11; Judges 7; Daniel 4:28-35; Daniel 2:20-21)

MEMORY VERSE:

Isaiah 46:9b--I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.

KEY THEMES:

- God wins at everything He does, all the time; God is greater than anyone
- The kings and armies of the world cannot resist God
- God is greater than all the kings of the world

VISUALS/MATERIALS:

Bible

two wastebaskets

ten "balls" made from wadded sheets of paper and masking tape

signs: WINNER, GOD, NO ONE LIKE GOD, and GOD IS GREATER THAN ALL

(Resource Packet: 1A-D)

masking tape or tacks (to display signs on the wall or board)

pictures: Egyptian and the Hebrews, Pharaoh and Moses (Resource Packet: 1E-F)

nametags: FIVE KINGS, PEOPLE OF GOD-Hebrews or Israelites, GOD,

MIDIANITES, NEBUCHADNEZZAR (Resource Packet: 1G-L)

materials for chosen activities

PREPARATION:

Study the Scripture passages carefully and prayerfully. Ask God to make them real in your own heart. Be open to what God may be teaching you in this lesson. Study the lesson well. Pray for the children in your class.

Make nametags for the children or do this as an activity. (See the ACTIVITY section.)

Wad up ten sheets of paper to make balls. Make a line on the floor with the masking tape. Consider the age group you will be teaching and set the two wastebaskets the appropriate distance from the line to insure that the children will get the "ball" in the basket some of the time.

Place the WINNER sign over the GOD sign and tape it along the top so that the WINNER sign can be flipped up to reveal GOD.

INTRODUCTION:

Call two children to the front. Explain to the children that they are to throw their five "balls" in the basket. The winner will be the child with the most balls in the basket. Try this enough times to establish that neither child wins all of the time. Make the point that no person wins all the time.

For example:

Choose two children of equal ability.

This illustration should be done quickly so that there is time to develop the lesson.

Did you win every time? Did you (referring to the other child) win every time? Do you think that anyone in this room could win every single time they ever played this game against anyone? Is there any person in the world who wins at everything he does?

LESSON:

Tell the children that although there is no person in the world who wins at everything he does, there is Someone who wins at everything He does, all the time. Show the WINNER sign and call a child to the front to flip up the sign and reveal who it is who wins all the time, at everything He does. *God wins at everything He does, all the time. No one else can do this. Only God. There is no one like God. He made everything and He is in charge of everything.*

Should you believe this just because I said it is true? No, lots of people will tell you something different. If this is true, it should be in the book about God, the Bible.

Have a sword drill with the following verse if the children you are teaching are familiar with the Bible. If they are unfamiliar with the Bible, you may have to help them find the verse or give a child your Bible with the verse marked. Ask a child to read the verse to the class.

See sword drill directions on page xvii of the Introduction.

Isaiah 46:9b--I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.

Attach the NO ONE LIKE GOD sign to the board or wall. Then look up the following verse:

I Chronicles 29:11—Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.

You might need to explain that LORD is another name for God, and define any unfamiliar words.

Attach the GOD IS GREATER THAN ALL sign to the board or wall.

Explain to the children that there is a story in the Bible that shows us God's greatness. Show the picture of the Egyptian and the Hebrews. (Point to the Hebrews.) *These people were the Hebrews. They were slaves. They had to work hard every day and were treated very harshly.*

(Point to the Egyptian.) *This man is an Egyptian. They ruled over the Hebrew slaves. Do you think you would have liked to be one of the Egyptians or one of the Hebrews?*

Explain that the Egyptian king was called Pharaoh and that he was a very powerful man. He was used to getting his own way and was in charge of all of Egypt. (Show the picture of Moses and Pharaoh.) He had a big, strong army of fighting men. The Israelites did not have a strong, powerful king or an army, and they were mistreated slaves. They could not escape from Egyptian rule. Tell the children that it might look like the Egyptians and their Pharaoh king were the side to be on, but things don't always look the way they really are.

Tell the children that although the Egyptians had a strong king, the Hebrews had something even better. They had God on their side. The God who made all things and controls all things, who is greater than all, was their God. The Hebrews cried to their God for deliverance from the Egyptians and God heard their cry.

Tell the highlights of the story of the plagues and the Exodus (Exodus 4-13) making the following points:

- God told a man named Moses to go to Egypt and tell Pharaoh to let the Hebrews go. God said

that the Hebrews were His people and He would rescue them from the Egyptians.

- Moses went to Pharaoh and gave him God's message—"Let my people go."
- Pharaoh did not listen to God or do what God said. He thought he could go against God and win.
- God loves to show His greatness. Pharaoh's refusal to listen to God and let His people go was God's plan to show Pharaoh and the Egyptians that He is God and He is great.
- God sent troubles on Pharaoh and the Egyptians to show them how great He is. First, he turned the river into blood. But Pharaoh would not let God's people go.
- Then God made the frogs come up from the river so that there were frogs everywhere. But Pharaoh would not let God's people go.
- Then God told Moses to strike the dust of the ground and the dust became gnats—little flying bugs. But Pharaoh still did not listen to God.
- Pharaoh's stubborn heart was not a problem for God. Pharaoh was not greater than God. God is greater than all. No one can win against God. God would show Pharaoh and the Egyptians His greatness through His mighty acts.
- God then sent flies and Pharaoh said that he would let the people go. Moses prayed to God and every single fly disappeared. God is a great God—he sends flies and takes away flies. But even though Pharaoh saw what happened when Moses prayed, he still fought against God and changed his mind and said that the Hebrew people could not go.
- Next God sent sickness to the horses, donkeys, camels, cattle, sheep and goats of the Egyptians. The animals of the Hebrews—God's people—did not get sick. But Pharaoh still thought that he could win against God. Kings and armies cannot win against God.
- God sent more problems on the Egyptians to show them that He is great. He sent sores called boils on the Egyptians, grasshopper-like bugs called locusts to eat the plants growing in the fields, and three days of darkness. But Pharaoh still would not let God's people go.
- No king can win against God. God made Pharaoh let the Hebrews go. The firstborn Egyptian sons all died, including the son of Pharaoh. Then Pharaoh finally stopped fighting God because he knew he could never win against God.
- Pharaoh let the Hebrew people go but then sent his huge army to follow the Hebrews. The army chased the Hebrews to the Red Sea. The Hebrews were stuck—the sea was on one side and Pharaoh's army was on the other side. But God is greater than Pharaoh and everyone and everything else. The sea and the army were not problems for God.
- God pushed the water apart and made a path for His people to walk through the water. But when the Egyptian soldiers tried to cross the river on the path, God closed the water showing that He is greater than kings and armies. God is greater than all.
- All these things that happened—the troubles of Egypt and the opening and closing of the Red Sea—was God's way of showing His greatness.

Explain that Pharaoh was not the only king that tried to fight against God and win. Tell the children that the Bible tells about lots of times when kings tried to fight against God but they never won. God always wins everything.

Call three children to the front of the room. For each instance, put the appropriate nametags on the children and ask them to act out the story as you tell it.

- (Use FIVE KINGS, PEOPLE OF GOD, and GOD nametags.)

Five kings and their armies went to fight against God and His people—the Hebrews, which are also called Israelites. They marched all night and then the army of God attacked them. The five

kings and their armies became confused and turned and fled. As they fled, the Lord hurled hailstones at them and more died from the hailstones than from the swords of the Israelites. The five kings could not fight against God and win. (Joshua 10:1-11)

- (Use the two MIDIANITES and PEOPLE OF GOD nametags.)

The army of the king of the Midianites were the enemies of God and His people, the Israelites. The king of the Midianites had a very large army but he could not fight against God and win. Instead, when the people of God surrounded the Midianite army and blew their trumpets, the Midianites got so scared that they killed their own men. (Judges 7)

- (Use the NEBUCHADNEZZAR nametag.)

Nebuchadnezzar was a powerful king and he built a great city called Babylon. One day, strutting along the roof of his palace, Nebuchadnezzar boasted that he had built Babylon by his own great power so that people would think that he was great. He forgot that it was God who made him king of Babylon and who is the greatest of all. God took everything away from Nebuchadnezzar—he lost his mind and lived like an animal, eating grass. God did this to show Nebuchadnezzar that God is the one who makes men kings and takes away the throne from kings. No king is greater than God. (Daniel 4:28-35)

In all these stories, God is saying, 'I will show these people who I am. I will show them that I am God and I am great. No one, not even a king can oppose me and win. I always win at everything I do.'

APPLICATION:

Who is the greatest man or woman you can think of? Does this person win at everything all the time? What kind of person would win at everything all the time? What does this tell you about God?

Turn to and discuss Daniel 2:20-21--

Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.

What does this verse tell you about God?

How do people oppose God? If no one, not even a king, can oppose God and win, why do people try to oppose God?

Do you ever try to oppose God? How? Why?

Application can most effectively be done in a small group setting. The questions are just suggestions of possible directions to take the discussion. Pray for wisdom and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. Be sensitive to the answers and the needs of the children.

Be sure to pray for the children and encourage them to pray for each other.

LESSON 2

GOD WINS OVER ALL GODS

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 115:3-7; 1 Kings 18:27-29; Psalm 135:5; Exodus 20:3

MEMORY VERSE:

Psalm 135:5— I know that the LORD is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods.

KEY THEMES:

- The gods are powerless
- God is the one true God
- God is more powerful than all the gods; He wins over all gods
- It is easy for God to win; nothing is too hard for Him
- God deserves to be in first place; it is wrong to place anything before God

VISUALS/MATERIALS:

Bible

picture of a car (Resource Packet: 2A)

a block of wood or a wooden car

people pictures (Resource Packet: 2B,C)

ribbon (Resource Packet: 2D)

flaps (Resource Packet: 2E)

photo pictures (Resource Packet: 2F,G; 2H,I))

materials for chosen activities

PREPARATION:

Study the Scripture passages carefully and prayerfully. Ask God to make them real in your own heart. Be open to what God may be teaching you in this lesson. Study the lesson well. Pray for the children in your class.

Cut out the flaps and tape them across the top over the words "money" and "baseball" on the people cards.

Cut out the ribbon. You may want to laminate it as well.

Tape photo pictures 2F and 2G back to back and 2H and 2I back to back.

INTRODUCTION:

Show the picture of the car. *Suppose you drew this car. This is not an ordinary car. You spent a lot of time on your drawing and used colors and it looks really nice. Could your paper car take you places? Could it win in a race? No. Even though you spent a lot of time on your car and it looks really nice, your car can't do those things.*

Show the block of wood or a wooden car. *Well, suppose you didn't draw your car but you carved it out of a block of wood. You worked really hard on your car and when you were finished, it was one of the nicest wooden cars made. Would this car be able to take you*

places or win in a race? No. These cars can't run because they are not true cars. They are just a picture or model of a true car.

LESSON:

Explain to the children that instead of being glad that God is a great and loving God, people try to make their own gods. Sometimes they make gods, called idols, out of wood or stone.

Have a sword drill with the following verses if the children you are teaching are familiar with the Bible. If they are unfamiliar with the Bible, you may have to help them find the verses or give a child your Bible with the verses marked. Ask a child to read the verses to the class or assign one verse to five different children.

See sword drill directions on page xvii of the Introduction.

Psalm 115:3— Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.

Psalm 115:4— But their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men.

Psalm 115:5— They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but they cannot see;

Psalm 115:6— they have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but they cannot smell;

Psalm 115:7— they have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but they cannot walk; nor can they utter a sound with their throats.

What kind of a god is that? He can't talk, he can't see, he can't walk... he can't love or do mighty things. He can't do anything! But the one true God made the whole world. He sees the whole world and everyone in it, and He takes care of the whole world—He sends sunshine and rain. He can do anything! He knows everything. He is good and forgiving, and He loves His people. Other gods can't do that.

Illustrate this with the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal from 1 Kings 18:16-39, making the following points:

- Elijah loved God but many people did not love God; they loved a god named Baal. Baal was not the one true God. Baal could not speak or walk or love.
- Elijah suggested that a contest be held between God and Baal to see which is the one true God. Two bulls would be placed on a pile of wood. The one true God would be the one who set fire to his bull.
- Four hundred and fifty men who made Baal their god asked Baal to set the bull on fire. They called out to Baal from morning until noon, but they got no answer.
- They tried even harder to get their god to hear them and answer them. Read the following verses:

1 Kings 18:27-29-- At noon Elijah began to taunt them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened." So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.
- Before Elijah called out to God, he had twelve large jars of water poured over the bull to make it harder to set the bull on fire. Then Elijah called out to God and asked Him to send fire.
 - God sent fire that not only burned up the bull but also dried up all the water. God is more powerful than Baal, and nothing is too hard for Him. God won the contest because He is the one true God and nothing is too hard for Him. God always wins at everything.
 - When God sent the fire, the people knew that He is God. God loves to show He was God.

Read or have a sword drill with the following verse:

Psalm 135:5— I know that the LORD is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods.

Explain that a god is not just something that a person makes out of wood or stone. A god is anything that a person makes more important to him than the one true God. Anything that a person loves more than the one true God is a god to him.

Give the following examples so that the children understand how something can take the place of God in a person's life. For each example show the corresponding picture and after the children identify the god, choose a child to come forward and lift the flap "to see if the class is right."

Suppose getting rich is really important to this person. When she mows lawns for other people, she charges more than the job is worth so she can get more money. If you were thirsty and didn't have any money, she wouldn't buy you a can of pop. Sometimes she even takes money out of her mom's purse. The most important thing in life to her is to have a lot of money and she thinks about that a lot. Do you think the one true God is her God? Who or what is her god?

This person really loves baseball—I mean he REALLY loves baseball. He watches all the games on television and knows all about all the baseball players. He plays on a baseball team and if his team loses, he gets really mad. He plays baseball every spare minute he gets, and when baseball season is over, he is upset for weeks. He would rather read the sports page than God's book, the Bible. He would rather play baseball than read the Bible or go to church. What he most wants to do in life is play and watch baseball. It is more important to him than anything else. Do you think the one true God is his god? Who or what is his god?

Remind the children that anything that is more important to a person than the one true God, becomes that person's god. Do you think that it is okay to choose to have a different god than the one true God?

Give the following illustration:

Show the two photo pictures. (You may want to tape these to the wall or tack them to a bulletin board.) Which photograph do you think is the best photograph? Why? Suppose these photos were entered into a photo contest and I were the judge. Suppose I put the first place ribbon on this photograph. Place the ribbon on the inferior photo picture.) What would you think? Would this be right? It is not right to put something else in first place except the thing that deserves to be in first place.

Turn the photo pictures over. *This ribbon is in the wrong place. God is most important and God is greater than all—He deserves to be in first place. Is there anything or anyone greater than God? Is it wrong to put something else or someone else in first place? Is it wrong to make something more important in your life than God?*

Ask the children to look up the following verse:

Exodus 20:3-- *You shall have no other gods before me.*

Explain to the children that God said that no gods—nothing else—should take His place. God can say this because He is greater than anyone or anything else. He made the world and He made us. Everything belongs to Him. God can make any rules He wants because He is in charge. God will win over anything else you make more important in your life than Him. God will not let you win in putting something else in first place.

APPLICATION:

How does God show that He is the one true God? Why does He show us this?

Is it wrong to like baseball? How can baseball or anything else be put in first place in your life? Why is this wrong?

How can you tell what is in first place in your life?

*What is most important to you? How do you know that?
(What in your life shows this?)*

Application can most effectively be done in a small group setting. The questions are just suggestions of possible directions to take the discussion. Pray for wisdom and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. Be sensitive to the answers and the needs of the children.

Be sure to pray for the children and encourage them to pray for each other.

LESSON 3

GOD WINS OVER SATAN, DEATH, AND SIN

SCRIPTURE:

Romans 3:11; John 1:29

MEMORY VERSE:

John 1:29b—"Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

KEY THEMES:

- God is the only One who can fix the sin problem
- Jesus died to free the people of God from sin, Satan, and death
- God wins even when it looks like He is losing
- God is more powerful than Satan, death, and sin; God is the winner over Satan, death, and sin

VISUALS/MATERIALS:

Bible

two paddle ball toys—one paddle ball toy should not have a ball on it (if you do not have paddle ball toys, use ping pong paddles and attach a ball to one paddle with elastic)

children's puzzle [a preschool wooden puzzle with big pieces is best but if you don't have access to this, you may substitute something that works only one way, such as a screw-top jar lid or a small battery powered toy, for instance)

picture of Jesus on the cross (Resource Packet: 3A)

a clear glass and a milk carton with thinned down white paint in it [you could substitute any visual that looks like a beverage—i.e. carbonated water and food coloring to look like raspberry ginger ale)

winner chart (Resource Packet: 3B) and marker

materials for chosen activities

PREPARATION:

Study the Scripture passages carefully and prayerfully. Ask God to make them real in your own heart. Be open to what God may be teaching you in this lesson. Study the lesson well. Pray for the children in your class.

Laminate or copy the winner chart in the Resource Packet so that it can be used again. If you laminate it, be sure to use a marker that will write on the laminate and can be erased (i.e. overhead marking pen).

INTRODUCTION:

Ask for two volunteers who would like to compete in a paddle ball contest. Explain that the winner is the child who hits the ball the most times by the time you yell, "Stop." Show the good paddle ball toy and demonstrate how to hit the ball. You may even want to let each child try a few times. Then hand out the broken paddle ball toy to the other child. When he protests, make the point that it is useless to even try to win against the other person because the child with the broken paddle ball toy has no chance of winning. For example:

What's wrong? Why is that a problem? If there is no ball to hit, then you can't possibly win, can you? There is no use in even trying to win. It is foolish (silly) to try to win.

LESSON:

Explain to the children that God has an enemy named Satan. Satan hates God and fights against God. Ask the children why this is foolish. Emphasize that there is no way that Satan can win against God—just as there is no way to win a paddle ball contest if your paddle ball toy has no ball.

Tell the children that Satan is not the only enemy of God. Every person ever born has been an enemy of God. We are born enemies of God because our hearts don't want to make God most important. Our hearts don't want to put God in first place or to love Him or to obey Him and do what is right. This makes us an enemy of God. Satan is glad that we are enemies of God.

Have a sword drill with the following verse if the children you are teaching are familiar with the Bible. If they are unfamiliar with the Bible, you may have to help them find the verses or give a child your Bible with the verse marked. Ask a child to read the verse to the class.

Romans 3:11— There is no one who understands, no one who seeks God.

Explain that no one looks for God—no one on his own, wants to make God important in his life. Everyone disobeys God and does what is wrong. Everyone on his own fights against God. Not only does this make us an enemy of God, but we can't even fix this problem. We can't become the friend of God or stop fighting Him. We can't stop the wrong things we do and feel in our hearts.

Explain that not making God most important in our lives is called sin. The wrong things we do and feel are sin, and we can't fix the sin problem. It is too big. Everyone is born with a sin problem.

Give the following demonstration:

Show the children's puzzle with one piece missing. Hold up the missing piece and demonstrate that there is only one *way* that the piece can fit in the space. A person could try to make it fit another way, a person could squish and turn the piece, but there is only one way that the piece fits.

Explain that this is the same way it is with our sin problem. There is only one way to fix the sin problem. We could try to fix it in other *ways*, but it won't work. The sin problem is so big that there is only one person who can fix it—only God is big enough to fix our sin problem.

Explain that God's plan to fix the sin problem was to send His Son, Jesus, to earth from heaven to die for our sins. When Jesus was on earth He taught people about God. He healed sick people and forgave their sins. Jesus was perfect—He never sinned.

Tell the children that some people understood that Jesus was God's Son and that He could fix the sin problem. They were happy that they could give their sins to Jesus to take away and they knew that Jesus would do that for them.

Look up the following verse and explain that this is what a man named John said about Jesus:

John 1:29 – The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look the Lamb of God,

You might want to explain that "Lamb of God" is another name for Jesus.

who takes away the sin of the world!"

Explain to the children that other people did not understand that Jesus was God's Son and did not believe that He could fix the sin problem. They would not give their sins to Jesus. They hated Jesus. They hated Jesus so much that they killed Him by nailing Him on a cross. (Show picture.) They were glad that they had gotten rid of Jesus. Satan, God's enemy, was glad that Jesus was dead.

Give the following demonstration:

Pour the thinned paint from the milk carton into the glass. *What is this? How do you know?*

Explain to the children that things are not always what they look like. Tell them that the glass does not have milk in it but watered-down white paint.

Tell the children that although Satan thought he had won over God because Jesus was dead, Satan was wrong. It might have looked like Satan won—just like the paint looked like milk—but Satan did not win. No one wins over God.

Explain to the children that it was God's plan that Jesus die. Sin is so awful that it must be punished by death. Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins. Jesus stood in our place and took the punishment we deserve. When Jesus died, He took our punishment and our sin from us. So Satan did not win. God planned for Jesus to die so our sin could be taken away.

If you think the children you are teaching will have a hard time understanding the idea of substitution, role play a scene where it is obvious that someone deserves punishment and another person steps in and takes his punishment for him.

When a person dies, can they become "undead?" Can they decide, "I think I'm tired of being dead. I don't think I will be dead any more." No, once a person is dead, he is dead forever—but not Jesus! He died on the cross, but three days later He was alive again! God can do anything! Did death win over God?

Ask a child to come forward and mark the chart when you read each section:

Did Satan, God's enemy, win over God? No, God was the winner. (Child should check the "God" box.)

Did death, God's enemy, win over God? No, God was the winner—Jesus came alive again. (Child should check the "God" box.)

Did sin win over God? No, God was the winner. (Child should check the "God" box.)
God wins over everything!

APPLICATION:

*Do you have sin in your heart? What does this mean for you?
Are you a sinner? Can you fix the sin problem?*

How do people fight against God? Are you fighting against God? Would you ever win in a fight against God? Why?

Did you ever think that something looked like something it wasn't? Sometimes it looks like God is not winning but He always wins. If your children are familiar with the Bible you may want to ask them to think of some Bible

Application can most effectively be done in a small group setting. The questions are just suggestions of possible directions to take the discussion. Pray for wisdom and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. Be sensitive to the answers and the needs of the children.

Be sure to pray for the children and encourage them to pray for each other.

stories where at first it looked like God was not winning, but God did win (i.e., God sent Moses to Pharaoh to ask him to let God's people go, but Pharaoh refused; God told Jonah to go to Nineveh but he jumped on a boat going the other way; God told David he would be king but David was an outlaw).

Why is it good news for us that God always wins?

God has fixed the sin problem for His people. How can you tell if you are one of God's people?

LESSON 4

GOD WINS IN THE END

(The Last Battle)

SCRIPTURE:

Revelation 17:14; Revelation 19:11-16 (Isaiah 45:22-24)

MEMORY VERSE:

Revelation 19:1b— Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God.

KEY THEMES:

- There will be one last, great battle
- Satan and all the forces of evil will battle against God
- God will win over Satan and the forces of evil, and bring His children home with Him
- The last battle is good news for those who are in Christ; it is bad news for those who are not in Christ

VISUALS/MATERIALS:

Bible

bowls, spoons and ingredients for ice cream sundaes—ice cream, whipped cream, chocolate syrup, peanuts (Measure these out so that you run out of each item in the preparation of the sundaes.)

about a dozen pairs of socks (or any item you choose)

materials for chosen activities

PREPARATION:

Study the Scripture passages carefully and prayerfully. Ask God to make them real in your own heart. Be open to what God may be teaching you in this lesson. Study the lesson well. Pray for the children in your class.

INTRODUCTION:

Give the following illustration:

Begin making the ice cream sundaes. Make sure that you run out of each item. For example: Have one extra bowl than you have ice cream for (five bowls, ice cream for four); run out of chocolate sauce on the third sundae; run out of peanuts on the first sundae, etc. Be sure to comment each time that you ran out, that there is no more.

LESSON:

Explain to the children that everything on this earth comes to an end some time—just as the ice cream, peanuts, whipped cream, etc. came to end. Nothing on this earth lasts forever—even the earth does not last forever.

Tell the children that some day life in this world will end, and the Bible tells us how it will end. Ask the children some questions to determine that they cannot know with certainty what will happen in the future. For example:

Do you know what you will have for supper two weeks from now?

Do you know what grade you will get in math in tenth grade?

Do you know the name of the person you will live next door to when you are thirty? Do you even know where you will live when you are thirty? Do you know whom you will marry?

Explain that in most things, we don't know what will happen to us in the future. Some things we can guess about, but we can't know for sure about most things. Tell the children that God knows about the future because God knows everything. He planned the future before the world even began—and God does everything He plans. The only things we can know for sure about the future are the ones that God tells us about in the Bible.

Explain to the children that the Bible says that there will be one final big battle. This battle will affect the whole world. Satan and kings and armies and the forces of evil will be on one side. On the other side will be God and His people and the armies of heaven.

Have the children look up the following verses and then discuss them. (You may want to have six children take turns reading a verse of the last passage.)

Revelation 17:14—They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings— and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.

Revelation 19:11— I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war.

Revelation 19:12— His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.

Revelation 19:13— He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

Revelation 19:14— The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.

Revelation 19:15— Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.

Revelation 19:16— On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Make the following points from the passages above:

- Jesus will come in power.
- The people of God are those who are chosen by Him. They will stand with Jesus at the end.
- Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. There is no king greater than King Jesus. He is the king over all; He is greater than anyone or anything.

Tell the children that unlike other battles, we already know how this battle will turn out. The Bible tells us that God will win this last final battle just as God always wins at everything. He will throw His enemy

Satan into a lake of burning sulfur where he will be tormented day and night forever (Rev. 20:10).

What will happen to everyone else? Tell the children that you will give them an example that might help them to understand what will happen to everyone else. Give the following illustration:

Show the pairs of socks. *Suppose some of these socks were yours and some were not yours. The way the socks became yours is that you went to the store and you chose some socks—"I want this one...and this one... I'll take this red pair... I don't want this pair (etc.). These are the socks I choose". [Scoop up the socks you have chosen and show them to the class.] Then you pay for your socks and you take them home. Now you can say, "These are my socks. They belong to me."*

Explain to the children that this is much the same with people—there are people who belong to God. God chose them before the world ever began—just like a person chooses socks that will belong to him. The people chosen by God are His. He bought them with the blood of Jesus on the cross

Give the following illustration:

Throw all the socks together (those you have chosen with those you did not choose). *If you did the laundry and all these socks were in the laundry, you would sort out the socks. You would put your socks in one pile and other people's socks in other piles. If you were at camp and the socks were scattered around the cabin, you would gather up the socks and sort them out. You would take your socks and bring them home with you. You would not take home socks that aren't yours. You only want your socks. This is what you would do: (demonstrate) "This is my sock. This is not my sock. This is mine and this is mine. I will leave these here because they aren't mine and I only want my socks."*

Explain to the children that this is the same thing that God does at the end of the world. He sorts people. He separates those who belong to Him from those who are not His. The people who belong to God, who are His children, God brings home to heaven with Him—just like you would bring your socks home from camp. Heaven is a wonderful place. There is no sickness or sadness or tears in heaven. Those who belong to God will live forever in heaven with Him full of joy.

Tell the children that those who do not belong to God will not go to heaven with Him. They will be thrown into the lake of burning sulfur with Satan where they will be tormented forever.

Ask the children if the last battle is good news or bad news. After they have given their responses, be sure that they understand that the last battle is good news if you belong to God; it is bad news if you do not belong to God. It is good news to be on the winning side with God who always wins.

APPLICATION:

Can you know the future? Why not? What does that tell you about yourself? How can God know the future? What does that tell you about God?

Why will Jesus come in power? Why will Jesus win the last battle?

Read and discuss the following verses. Make the point that God will win in everyone's life.

Isaiah 45:22-24 Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will

not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear. They will say of me 'In the LORD alone are righteousness and strength.'" All who have raged against him will come to him and be put to shame.

Is the end of the world and the last battle good news or bad news to you? Why?

Why is it foolish not to be on God's side?

LESSON 5

WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 6:24a; Matthew 12:30; Luke 14:16- 24 [Matthew 22:14; John 6:37]

MEMORY VERSE:

Matthew 6:24a— No one can serve two masters.

KEY THEMES:

- No one can serve two masters; you are either on God's side or you are against Him
- Being on God's side is the most important thing in life
- If you are not on God's side, you can get on God's side; God will help sinners get on His side

VISUALS/MATERIALS:

Bible

4 nametags: (3 INVITED GUESTS, 1 SERVANT) (Resource Packet: 5A-D)

instruction cards (Resource Packet: 5E,F)

4 cue cards (Resource Packet: 5G-J)

PREPARATION:

Study the Scripture passages carefully and prayerfully. Ask God to make them real in your own heart. Be open to what God may be teaching you in this lesson. Study the lesson well. Pray for the children in your class.

Decide how you will attach the nametags and make the necessary preparations.

INTRODUCTION:

Call three children up to the front. Give two of the children instruction cards (SE,F) ["Pick up the book and bring it to me." and "Don't touch the book."]. Tell the one child that the other two children will both give him an instruction. He is to listen to both instructions before he does anything. Then have the two children read their instructions.

Help the class to see the dilemma the child is in. He cannot follow the instructions of both people. If he picks up the book to bring it to the child who asked him to bring the book to him, he would not be following the instruction of the child who asked him not to touch the book; and vice versa.

LESSON:

Have a sword drill with the following verse if the children you are teaching are familiar with the Bible. If they are unfamiliar with the Bible, you may have to help them find the verses or give a child your Bible with the verses marked. Ask a child to read the verse to the class:

Matthew 6:24a— No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.

See sword drill directions on page xvii of the Introduction.

Explain to the children that the child in the illustration could not follow the instructions of both children, because no one can serve two masters. It is the same with being on God's side. Either a person is on God's side or he is against God. Either God is most important in a person's life, or He isn't most important.

Look up the following verse:

Matthew 12:30— He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters.

Explain that everyone is either on God's side or the side of God's enemy, Satan. If someone is not for God, he is on Satan's side against God.

Tell the children that when a person resists God in the heart, this is fighting against God. A person who continually resists God in his heart is not on God's side—God is not most important to him. This is being on Satan's side, not God's side. Resisting God in the heart can be shown by not wanting to read the Bible or go to church or hear about God, by desiring things that are wrong and do not help us love God, or by disobeying God or others in authority and liking disobedience. A person is fighting against God when he is standing against anything that God stands for. Remind the children that no one can oppose God and win.

Call four children to the front of the room to help you role play the story of the Great Banquet from Luke 14:16- 24. Place the four nametags on the children (5A-D). Give the invited guests their cue cards (5G-I) and ask them to stand on the other side of the room. Give the servant his cue card (5J) and ask him to stay with you. You should play the part of the narrator and the man giving the banquet.

Tell the children that this is a story that Jesus told which helps us understand how to be on God's side.

Luke 14:16-24— [Jesus replied:] 'A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests.

At the time of the banquet he sent his servant (point with your hand to the invited guests) to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' (servant invites guests)

"But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, (Child with cue card 5G reads.)

'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'

'Another said, (child with cue card 5H reads.)

'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'

"Still another said, (child with cue card 5I reads.)

'I just got married, so I can't come.'

"The servant came back and reported this to his master. (servant comes back and reports)

Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant,

'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor,

the crippled, the blind and the lame.' (sweep your hand over the class)

The servant said, (Child with cue card 5J reads.)

"Sir, ' what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.' (You may need to give

the servant a cue when it is time for him to read this line.)

"Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'" (You may need to instruct the child to get a few children from the class and bring them to the banquet.)

Make the following points about the story:

- God invites everyone to be on His side. God wants to be most important to everyone.
- Many people do not want God to be most important in their lives. They do not want to be on God's side. All kinds of other things are more important to them than God.
- God calls some people to be on His side. He "goes out and gets them." He gives them the heart to want Him to be most important.
- If God is calling you to be on His side and make Him most important in your life, God will win. God never loses at anything, He always wins. He will win over stubborn, resistant hearts.

You are distinguishing in this section between the general call of God and the effectual call of God. Make sure the children understand that although God issues a general call to everyone, God only compels the elect to respond to His call.

Explain to the children that being on God's side is the most important thing in life. It is more important than school or good grades; it is more important than friends; it is more important than sports; it is more important than anything. When a person is on God's side, he is on the winning side. If he is not on God's side, he is on the losing side. He loses the joy of loving God here on earth and God's help, and he also loses living forever in heaven.

Which side are you on? This is the most serious question you will need to think about in life. You cannot be on both sides. If you are not on God's side, you are against God.

If you feel God calling you, you should answer His call. You should say, "God, I want to be on your side. I want You to be most important in my life. I want Jesus to take away my sins and I want to follow you."

This should be handled very carefully. Be sure you have read the first part of the INTRODUCTION to the curriculum carefully and prayerfully. For most children, this will just be an opportunity for you to expose them to the truth that they can have a personal relationship with God, not an opportunity to lead them in a conversion experience.

You may want to tell the children the story of your conversion or have someone visit the class to tell the story of his conversion.

Remind children that if God is calling someone, he cannot fight against God and win. God will win over even the most stubborn hearts.

Encourage the children that if they feel God's call, they can pray themselves, they can talk with a small group leader or to you, or they can talk to their parents (if parents are believers).

APPLICATION:

What does, "If you are not with me, you are against me" mean? Does this mean that you can "be in the middle" waiting to decide whether to follow God?

What does it mean to follow God and make Him your master? What does it mean to follow Satan and this world and make Satan your master? How can you tell if you are following God or Satan?

Application can most effectively be done in a small group setting. The questions are just suggestions of possible directions to take the discussion. Pray for wisdom and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. Be sensitive to the answers and the needs of the children.

Be sure to pray for the children and encourage them to pray for each other.

How can you tell what is most important in your life? Are there things in your life which are more important to you than God?

You may want to read and discuss the following verse:

Matthew 22:14— For many are invited, but few are chosen.

Do you want God to be most important in your life? Which side would you rather be on? Challenge children to think deeply about which side they are on.

Read and discuss the following verse:

John 6:37— All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

APPENDIX

MEMORY VERSE GAMES

1. Erase a word. Write the memory verse on a white board or chalkboard. Erase the verse a word at a time, each time asking the children to say the verse.
2. Write each word of the memory verse on a slip of paper. Children must place the slips in the correct order.
3. Children line up or sit in a circle. Each child says a word (or phrase) of the verse, going from child to child.
4. Write the first letter of each word of the memory verse on the board. Children then try to write the verse.
5. Ping-Pong. A child calls out the first phrase of a verse; another child calls back the second phrase, and so forth. This can be played in pairs or in teams with the children facing each other in a line.
6. Children sit around a table. One child writes the first word or phrase of a verse (or the reference) on a sheet of paper and passes it to the next child who writes the next word or phrase, and so forth until the verse is completed. The next child starts another verse, and so forth. By timing the children to see if they can "beat" their previous time, you can liven up the activity.
7. Have a "spelling bee" to review verses.
8. Make a word search using all the words in the verse.
9. Hot Potato. Have children sit on the floor in a circle. The first child says the first word of the verse and rolls the ball to anyone in the circle. The child receiving the ball says the second word of the verse and so on.
10. Line Up. Write each word of the verse on a separate slip of paper. Tape a slip of paper onto the front of each child and have them line up in verse order. (Variations: Play this as a team game or tape the slips onto the back of each child and have them ask questions to find out which word is on their back and then line up in verse order.)
11. Picture It. Have the children write the verse, drawing as many pictures for the words as possible.
12. Verse Relay. Divide the children into two teams. Place a chalkboard, whiteboard, or large sheet of paper at a distance from the starting line. Hand the first child of each team a writing instrument and on the shout of "Go" they run to the writing surface and write the first word of the verse. Then they return to their team and hand the writing instrument to the second person. The team to finish writing the verse correctly first wins.