

Youtube Link: <https://youtu.be/ae7z3T0Swb0>

Children's Bible Story Video: <https://youtu.be/aTnWt6rFDU4>

Worship Theme: God is in control.

Memory Verse: "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." (Deuteronomy 31:8)

Songs (Youtube links):

1. I Am Happy <https://youtu.be/2LWPsq-KZvo>
2. If You Are Happy and You Know It <https://youtu.be/SsldqdQB-9U>
3. Jesus Christ Is Lord of All <https://youtu.be/l-PzUIJ0MVo>

Pray

Song: Select songs from the list above.

Icebreaker: "Make Them Laugh"



1. Divide the children Group A and Group B.
2. Group A will choose a representative to use motions to make Group B laugh without saying any words. The teacher needs to limit the time. If anyone in Group B laughs, then Group A wins!
3. If Group B doesn't laugh, then Group A loses the game.
4. Repeat the game with other representatives.
5. After the game, explain to the children that the team that couldn't control their laughter lost the game. There are times when we lose control over things in our lives. But today, we will learn about God who is always in control.

Introduction:

There are times in life when things seem to be out of control. Sometimes, when bad things happen, we are confused and don't know what to do. Today, we will learn from the Bible that even when we are lost and confused, God is in control and never fails to take care of us!

Bible Story:

The Bible tells a story that shows that God is in control. It's about a woman named Naomi and her son's wife, Ruth, and a kind man named Boaz. Naomi and her daughter-in-law Ruth returned to Bethlehem (Israel). Naomi wanted Ruth to stay in Moab with her family, but Ruth insisted on staying with Naomi because she loved Naomi and wanted to take care of her. Both Naomi and Ruth were widows which meant their husbands died.

When they returned to Bethlehem, there were no jobs for widows. In those days, poor people could go to a farmer's field and pick up any extra grain that fell on the ground after harvest. So Ruth went to a field and picked up grains on the field for Naomi and herself. Ruth didn't know, but the field was owned by a kind and generous man named Boaz who was a close relative of Naomi's husband.

Boaz saw that Ruth was kind and hardworking. He saw that she took good care of Naomi. Boaz was kind to Ruth and made sure Ruth had enough grains for herself and Naomi. When Naomi saw the grain, she was amazed. Naomi recognized Boaz as a close relative of hers.

She could see that Boaz would be a good husband for Ruth. Naomi considered Ruth as her daughter. The law of God said that when a young woman became a widow, the man who was the nearest relative of her dead husband should marry the widow and should buy back any land that had belonged to him. In this way God provided that the land

would always be kept in the same family.

When Boaz learned that Ruth was willing to marry him, he had to check with a relative who was closer to Naomi's family because he had a greater legal right to marry Ruth. Boaz offered this option to marry Ruth to the other relative first. But the other relative would have had to buy back all of Naomi's property in order to marry Ruth. The relative gave up his right to Boaz. Boaz and Ruth got married, and they had a son name Obed who was the great-grandfather of King David!

When Naomi and Ruth lost their husbands and became widows, life was very hard. Even after they returned to Bethlehem, life was not easy. But God was in control. Even though it is not easy to understand why some bad things happen, we have to remember that God is in control. When we trust God and follow him even when things are hard, we will be able to experience God's goodness.

God loves you and knows everything about you. He knows what makes you happy and what you struggle with. He has a plan that's special just for you and your life. He promises that his plans are good. God holds everyone in the palm of his hand. We never need to worry about what will happen, because God is in control.

Questions to discuss:

1. What work did Ruth do to earn food for her and Naomi? (She went to someone's field and picked up grains left from harvest)
2. Who owned this field and how was he related to Naomi? (Boaz owned the field, and he was a close relative of Naomi)
3. How do you think Ruth ended up working at Boaz' field when she didn't know him? (It was God's guidance; God is in control)
4. What makes you believe that God is in control of your life? (let the children answer)

Game: "Freeze Tag"



1. Select a child to be "it" to play freeze tag.
2. The children will need to stay inside the classroom.
3. You can yell out "freeze" if you don't want to be tagged. You can join the game again when someone tags to free you.
4. If you're tagged by the "it" person, then

you become the next "it" person to tag others.

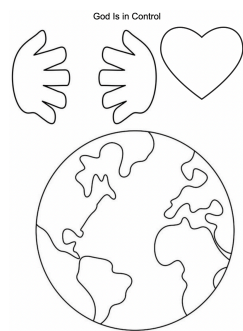
5. After the game, explain to the children that we can yell out "Freeze" to keep yourself safe from the "it" person. In the same way, we can always call out "God" to keep ourselves safe from the troubles of the world. Remember, God is always in control!

Memory Verse:

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." (Deuteronomy 31:8)

Craft: "God Is in Control"

Materials Needed: Print the craft sheet (see below), scissors, crayons



1. Cut out the hands, heart, and the earth.
2. Color the hands, heart, and the earth.
3. Write "God is in control" on the heart, and glue it in the middle of the earth.
4. Glue the two hands on the sides of the earth.
5. Have all the children lift up their craft and say, "I don't have to fear anything

because God is in control!"

Song: Select songs from the list above

Pray

Teacher's Devotion (Please read before you get ready to teach the students.)

Many things that seem like coincidence may actually be God working in our lives. Take a look at Ruth 4:13-17. One may think it was coincidence that Ruth worked at Boaz' field, someone who is related to her mother-in-law's family. But was it a coincidence? No, it was God's guidance! What ultimate plan did God have for Ruth's life when she chose to stick with Naomi? Has a decision you've made worked out to a surprisingly good result in your life? How should that experience influence your hope in God? Remember that God is always with you and watching over you. Help the children understand through today's lesson that God is always in control!

God Is in Control

