**November 29th, 2020: Elementary Sunday School Lesson
WHEN TROUBLE COMES Lesson 2: jesus protects us**

***Through this lesson children will learn that Jesus not only understands our troubles, but also that He will help us get through the difficult times in our lives.***

**AS KIDS ARRIVE: MIXED UP EMOTIONS (Materials: Word Puzzle printed, pencils)**

**OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE AND MEMORY WORK**

**"As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;" Psalm 103:13 NIV**
Read the verse to the children or ask for a volunteer to read the passage. Make sure that all the children follow along in their own Bibles. Have the children close their Bibles and help them repeat the verse from memory. Ask the children what the word compassion means. How do fathers show compassion to their children? How does God show compassion to us? Last but not least, talk about what it means to fear the Lord. (Fearing the Lord means that we show Him reverence and respect.)

**SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION**

**Introduction:** Explain the level of love that shepherds have for their sheep; many shepherds put their own lives in danger to protect the sheep. Likewise, Jesus watches over us and even gave His life so that we can be reconciled to God.

**Read Matthew 18:5-6, 10-14 (Jesus cares about children's spiritual welfare)**
Read the passage to the children as they follow along in their own Bibles.

**Discussion Questions:**
1. Does it make God angry if someone causes one of His children to sin?*(Yes, very angry.)*
2. God cares for His children and watches over us. What creatures are before the face of God the Father in Heaven and are continually watching over us? *(The Lord's ministering angels.)*
3. What did the good shepherd do if he found that one of his sheep was missing?*(Left the 99 sheep on the hills and went to find the sheep that was lost.)*
4. How does the good shepherd in this scripture relate to what Jesus did for us?*(Jesus left Heaven and came to earth to find us because we were lost in sin.)*
5. What could have happened to the lost sheep if the shepherd didn't go and find it? *(It could have fallen in a hole or been attacked by other animals.)*
6. As the shepherd protected his flock from danger, from whom does Jesus protect us? *(Jesus protects us from Satan, who wants to destroy us.)*
7. The Bible says that our Father who is in Heaven is not willing that any of His little ones should perish. Isn't it wonderful to know that God is willing and able to protect us? *(Yes, it's wonderful that our good shepherd, the Lord Jesus, wants to save us from sin and death.)*

**CLASS EXERCISE: BAG OF JOY (Materials: brown paper bags, Band-Aids, ribbons, glue, pencils, markers, color paper)**

***Although life has many ups and downs, God is always willing and able to help us through the difficult times.***

**PREPARATION:** Before class, prepare your own "Bag of Joy" to use as an example. Decorate it with bright cheerful colors; place one Band-aid on the front of the bag. Put one, two, or more notes inside the bag. The notes should describe memories of times when God has helped you or answered your prayers in some way.

**WHAT YOU WILL DO:** Give each child a brown paper bag, a Band-Aid, and other items that you may want them to use to decorate their bags. Have plenty of colored markers on the tables. Hold up an empty paper bag and say, "These brown paper bags aren't much to look at and these bags are not very strong, in fact they rip pretty easily." Tear a small hole in the front of the bag. "I'll use this Band-aid to patch the hole. It is not important what the bag may look like on the outside, but rather the contents of the bag that count. This applies to people too, some of us may be somewhat plain, our outward appearance may be rough, or we may not be very strong. God knows our true value and He looks on the inside. When we go through tough times God is willing and able to patch us up and put us back on our feet."

Show your example "Bag of Joy" to the children. Pull out one of the notes that you placed inside the bag and say, "Whenever God meets one of my special needs, I write it down on a slip of paper and place it inside this bag. I write down the happy times and the sad times; anytime I feel God working in my life I write it down on a little slip of paper and place it in this bag. Then when I am feeling sad or upset, I can open up my little "Bag of Joy" and review how God has helped me in the past. This reminds me that God cares for me when I am going through tough times and that He shares my joy in happy times. It is a great reminder of how God is working in my life.

"Today each one of you will have the opportunity to create your own "Bag of Joy." Take your time decorating it. Place a Band-Aid somewhere on the outside of the bag to remind you that God is willing and able to mend you when you feel broken or damaged. The bright colors or ribbons that you use to decorate the bag will remind you that God is also there to share your joy; in fact, God is the reason for your joy and mine. If you can think of a special time when God has either helped you or made you happy, write it on a slip of paper and put it inside the bag. If you can't think of anything to write down at this time that's okay, you'll be bringing your bags home and can put notes in the bag as God works in your life."

**ALTERNATE CLASS EXERCISE: RIGHT REACTION OBJECT TALK (Materials: 12 inch ruler)**

***We react to many things without even thinking, even out of habit. Is our reaction fitting for a Christian?***

**WHAT YOU WILL DO:** You will hold a ruler at the tip so it hangs down. You will have the kids take turns trying to catch the ruler between their thumb and fingers when you drop it. They are to position their hand, fingers and thumb spread apart at the lower end of the ruler. Tell them to squeeze their thumb and fingers together to catch the ruler as soon as you drop it. Some kids may not be able to catch the ruler before it falls beyond reach, while others may be able to grab it near the bottom. It depends on how quick each child can react.

The ruler will fall 12 inches in approximately .26 seconds. Catching the ruler in the middle would take only about .16 seconds to react. That is fast.

**WHAT YOU WILL SAY:** We react to many things without even thinking. For example, when someone driving a car suddenly sees a dog dart across the road, the driver automatically and quickly reacts by stepping on the break. The driver knows what to do because it is part of learning how to drive. This is a good reaction. People can also react in the wrong way. For example, if an adult accidentally smashes a finger with a hammer, they may say a few bad words without really meaning to. On the other hand, when your brother or sister gets a much nicer gift for Christmas, your first reaction may be one of jealousy, even though you know it is wrong to be jealous.

When I dropped this ruler, you already knew what you wanted to do. Catch it. All you needed to do was react as soon as the ruler was dropped. You did not need to think about what to do next. In life, we will have many situations when we will react without having time to think. As Christians, we need to react in a way that others will see Jesus in us. The only way to know the right way to react is to know what Jesus would want us to do. In addition, the only way to learn this is by reading the Bible and by praying for wisdom. Then we must practice. Before long, reacting the right way can become a good habit!

**APPLICATION**

Just as a shepherd watches over his flock the Lord Jesus watches over us. God will protect us when trouble comes our way. Isn't it encouraging to know that God not only has His ministering angels watching over us, but that He also sent His one and only son Jesus to save us from our sins. If we read our Bibles, pray and listen for God's gentle voice, we will hear the voice of the good shepherd softly calling us home.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**What we learned:** Today, we learned that just as a shepherd watches over his flock the Lord Jesus watches over us. God will protect us when trouble comes our way. It is encouraging to know that God not only has His ministering angels watching over us, but that He also sent His one and only son Jesus to save us from our sins. If we read our Bibles, pray and listen for God's gentle voice, we will hear the voice of the good shepherd softly calling us home. (Scripture used: Matthew 18:5-6, 10-14)

**Memory Verse:** "As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him." Psalm 103:13 NIV Help your child memorize this Bible verse. Ask your child what the word compassion means. How do you show compassion to your children? How does God show compassion to us? Last but not least, talk about what it means to fear the Lord. (Fearing the Lord means that we show Him reverence and respect.)

**Suggested Parent/Child Activity:** Play a game of "Hide and Seek" with your child, then explain that one of a shepherd's jobs was to find lost sheep. Jesus watches over us and is there to help us when we get lost or caught up in the things of the world.

**Daily Prayer:** Dear God, thank You for watching over us and for protecting us. Let us always be amazed by Your ways and may we always show respect and reverence to You. Amen.