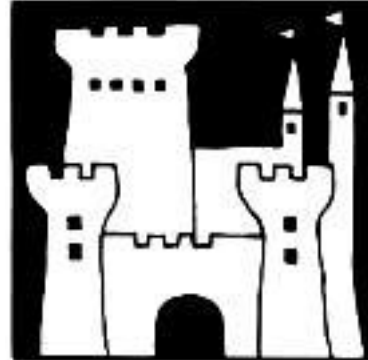


Year 1

God is Protector 3 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- That God is a Father who protects His children
- That God created us to live in families so that children can be protected
- That we can pray to God for protection
- That God wants us to protect ourselves by being wise and not doing things that are dangerous

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Homes / Houses

Link between “God is Protector” and classroom topics:

Our homes are a place where we can experience safety and protection. Parents protect their children and our house provides protection from the elements.

Values:

Responsibility; Feeling safe; Peace; Faith, Trust

God is Protector

Week 1

God is a father who looks after his children

Bible References

2 Corinthians 6:18 "I will be your Father, and you shall be my sons and daughters," says the Lord Almighty. (GNB)

1 John 3:1 See how much the Father has loved us! His love is so great that He has called us His children. (GNB)

Matthew 2 Protection of the baby Jesus

Introduction

Discuss the meaning of the word 'protect'.

Who protects you?

Why do babies need special protection?

Bible Lesson: God protected Baby Jesus

When the first people, Adam and Eve disobeyed God, evil came into the world. God planned way back then, to send His son Jesus into the world to make things right. God planned that Jesus would be born as a baby, a very special baby. This baby would grow up and show the love of God to the people of the world. He would also die and go back to Heaven, to His Father God. Through His death He would win the battle against evil.

This baby had a very special job to do. Jesus was God, who came into the world as a baby. Satan, the enemy, knew how special He was. Satan did everything he could to try and stop God's special plan. But God is more powerful than Satan. He protected the baby Jesus so that Jesus would grow up to do the special job God had planned for Him to do.

Let's see how God protected baby Jesus.

About a year after Jesus was born in the stable in Bethlehem, some wise men from a country far away. They were following a star that would lead them to the baby Jesus. A long time ago it had been told that there would be a special star in the sky that would be a sign that baby Jesus had been born, and that this baby was the king of Heaven.

The wise men arrived in Bethlehem and went to King Herod. They told him about the star and that it was a sign that the King of Heaven had been born. They asked if he knew where baby Jesus was. King Herod did not like the idea of any baby being called a king. Maybe he would grow up to become an important ruler. Maybe this baby king would be king instead of his own son one day.

"This baby must be killed," he thought to himself.

He asked the wise men to tell him if they found the baby Jesus.

The wise men did find the baby Jesus. Jesus and his mother Mary and father Joseph were living in a house in Bethlehem. The wise men brought gifts to him, of gold, spices and

expensive perfume. But they did not tell King Herod where Jesus was. God sent a dream to the wise men to tell them not to go back to King Herod. They went home a different way.

King Herod was now angry that the wise men did not tell him where Baby Jesus was. Herod was going to do his best to find Jesus. But God protected Jesus. God sent an angel to Joseph in a dream.

The angel said, "Run away to Egypt and stay there."

So Joseph, Mary and Baby Jesus went to Egypt. They lived there until King Herod died. Then an angel came again to Joseph and told him that it was safe to go back home.



Discussion: God made us to live in families

A long time ago, baby Jesus was born. We celebrate His birth every Christmas. Jesus had a mother and a father named Mary and Joseph. Mary and Joseph had the job of looking after a very, very special baby. Jesus was God's son, and God was His Heavenly Father. That meant that Jesus had two fathers: Joseph, who looked after Him every day in the carpenter's shop, and God. God is our Heavenly Father too.

It is God's plan for babies to be born into families. Children need parents to love and protect them. 'Protect' means to keep someone very safe. I'm sure you can think of times when your Mum and Dad protect you from danger.

Mum and Dad make sure you have a home to live in, so that you are protected from the wind and the rain. They make sure you have good food so that you can grow to be strong and healthy. Mum and Dad protect you from danger when they see that you cross the road safely. They also make sure that your car seat belts are done up safely, and that you wear a hat and sun-screen in hot sun.

Mum and Dad have protected you from the moment you were born. Even before you were born, you were very safe inside your Mum. After you were born you were wrapped tightly in little blankets and placed in a special little bed. Everything had to be kept very clean because you had to be protected from germs. Your Mum held you carefully, with one hand under the head to protect your little neck, which was not yet strong enough to hold the head up. If you have a baby brother or sister, I'm sure you help Mum and Dad to protect your baby. God has also planned for families to have brothers and sisters to help and love one another.

Even animal parents protect their babies. Can you think of some ways in which animal babies are protected? Just think of the baby kangaroo, snuggled safely in his mother's pouch. Mother birds build cosy nests for their babies, and chase away anyone who might come to harm the baby birds.

God has planned for both animals and people to live in families. We feel happy and safe when we belong to a family. In a family, there are people who love us, help us, protect us and there are people to have fun with.

Think...

Which things do you like to do most with your family?

Who are the people in your family? (immediate)

Which other people are part of your family, but do not live with you? (extended)

Picture Discussion

Use pictures/photos of:

- Families doing things together
- Babies
- Animal families

Activity

Draw or make a model of your house. Draw or make the outside first. Then draw the inside. Show the things that are special to you in your family home.

God is Protector

Week 2

God is our Father who loves and protects us.

Bible References

Exodus 1-2 Protection of baby Moses

Psalm 68:5 God is a Father to the fatherless

Isaiah 9:6 He is an everlasting Father

Bible Lesson: Baby Moses

“Miriam, we will have to hide our baby.”

“Why, Mummy?” Miriam asked.

“The king says he will kill every baby boy who is an Israelite,” the mother answered. “We live in Egypt but our fathers and grandfather came from Israel many years ago.”

“Come now and help me hide our lovely baby. We must save him from the angry king. God said I must hide him.

They gathered reeds that grew beside the river and wove a strong basket. They floated it on the river among the reeds. It was so thick that the water could not get in the basket. Mother put the baby in the basket and hid it among the reeds.

“Miriam, please stay here and watch over our baby.”

Miriam stayed nearby and looked after her baby brother.

One day the daughter of the king came to swim in the river. She found the basket with the baby in it.

“Come and see!” she called to her maids. “There’s a little baby in the basket. I want to take him home and have him for my own. I’ll call him Moses.”

Miriam came out from the reeds and spoke to the princess. “Would you like me to get a nurse for him?” she asked.

She ran home to get her mother. The princess was glad to have a nurse for Moses and she went to the palace to care for her baby.

God was pleased. He wanted Moses to live because He had a special plan for his live.



Discussion

- Do you think that the mother of baby Moses would have asked God to protect the baby?
- Would you be afraid if you were Miriam?
- What could have happened to the basket in the water?
- What would you think when you saw the king's daughter coming?
- What special thing did God do for Miriam and the mother?
- What special thing did God do for Moses?
- When are you sometimes afraid?
- Do you think that God can protect you, as He did with Moses?

Testimonies

Relate personal testimonies of times when the Lord has protected you or your family.

Activity

Make basket boats from egg carton cups or recycled materials. Make a tiny baby to go in the basket.



God is Protector

Week 3

We can ask God to help us.

We can pray to God for protection in times of trouble

Bible References

1 Samuel 17 The story of David and Goliath..."You are coming against me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord." v.45 (GNB)

Matthew 17:20 If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'move' and it will move. Nothing is impossible with God.

Psalms 62:5-8 God is a strong protector and a shelter.

2 Samuel 22:33 God is my strength.

Bible Lesson: David and Goliath

David was a small boy. Goliath was very big. Goliath wanted to fight the people of David.

David said, "I will fight Goliath."

"No. You are too small," said the people.

"God will be with me," said David.

David put on armour. It was too big and too heavy.

"I do not need this," said David. "I just need five stones and my sling-shot."

David went to fight Goliath. God was with him. God looked after him. David won the fight. Goliath was dead. God kept David safe.



Discussion

In the story of David and Goliath, the giant was very big. He should have been able to win a fight against anyone, especially little David. Do you know the reason why David was able to beat Goliath? God was on David's side, and God was much, much bigger than Goliath. Sometimes you might think you have big troubles. God is bigger and greater than any of your troubles. He's always there and He's on your side!

Big troubles for little people

Which of these things might make you afraid?

- Getting lost in a big shopping centre.
- Climbing to the top of a playground tower, and you can't get down again.
- Sleeping away from home for the first time.
- A big dog barking at you.
- What would you do?

Activity

Make a collage of David and Goliath, or draw a picture.

You can use aluminium foil to represent armour.