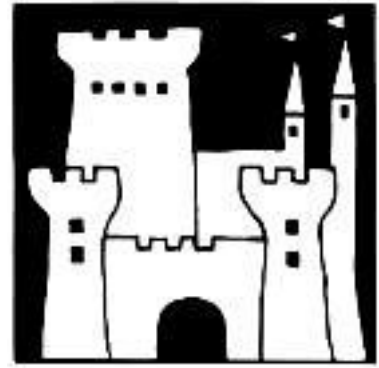


Year 5

God is Protector 3 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- That we can go to God when we are in trouble
- God answers prayer
- The Biblical examples of God's miraculous protection

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

The history of shelter

Link between "God is Protector" and classroom topics:

God is our shelter:

Psalm 91 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

Values:

responsibility; safety and security; peace; faith

Biographies:

Brother Andrew; Irena Sendler

God is Protector

Week 1

God is a strong tower

We can go to God when we face problems.

Bible references

Joshua 2-6 God's protection of Joshua and the Israelites as they entered the Promised Land

Proverbs 18:10 The name of the Lord is a strong tower.

Psalms 17:8; Psalm 27:5; Psalm 32:7 God is a shelter for us.

Introduction

Q. What do castles and igloos have in common?

A. They are both places to go to for shelter.

Draw or look at some pictures of shelters: castles, caves, forts etc.

What do shelters protect us from?

Bible research

Read some of the Bible verses listed above, telling us that God is our shelter.

Discussion

Think of situations in which people may need God's shelter.

Just as a shelter is a place to go for protection, so is God.

Sometimes God protects us from unseen dangers. God could have protected you many times without you even knowing it. He can prevent us from walking into danger before we actually do.

Story: God Protects the Israelites Again

We remember how God protected the Israelites as they came out of Egypt, and as they travelled those forty years through the desert.

Now, after forty years, it was time for them to enter the land that God had promised to them. Moses was no longer leading the people. Moses, being very old, had died, and Joshua was now the leader.

Joshua was faced with two problems. The land across the Jordan River that God had promised to the Israelites was occupied by enemies. The second problem was how to get a huge group of people, including young children and animals, across a huge river. Joshua knew that God would somehow solve these problems. He knew what God was saying, and he told the people. "Be strong and brave," says the Lord. "I will go with you."

Joshua chose two men to cross the river, so that they could investigate the city on the other side. It was the city of Jericho. The men were strong swimmers, and made it safely across the river. Then they waited for their chance. When the guards were not looking, they made a run for it. They entered the city unnoticed, quickly looked around, then ran to a house built on the wall of the city. Pressing themselves against the wall, they peered in the window. Inside the house was a woman. They went into the woman's house and asked whether they could rest a while before attempting the strenuous river crossing again. The woman's name was Rahab. The woman allowed the two men to stay and rest. By now it was night. They would have to spend the night there and cross the river in the morning.

However, trouble lay ahead for the two men. Read about it in Joshua 2:2-3.

God used Rahab to protect the two men. You would not expect someone from an enemy city to do this, but God caused her to shelter the two men.

Read about it in Joshua 2:4-7.

So the two men hid safely in Rahab's house while the king's soldiers went looking for them down by the river. As the two men talked to Rahab they found out that the people of Jericho were afraid of the Israelites. This was important information. They could plan their battle tactics accordingly.

Rahab knew that the Israelites were planning to take the city. She made a deal with the two men. She asked them to save her, along with her family, in payment for the protection she had provided. It was agreed.

Find out how God used Rahab again in the men's escape. (Joshua 2:15-24)

Now Joshua was confident that they could enter the Promised Land. Find out how they crossed the river. (Joshua 3:15-17)

Seeing the Lord do this great miracle made the people of Jericho even more afraid of the Israelites. The Israelites took the city after marching around the walls seven times. After seven times they gave a great shout and blew their trumpets. The city was theirs!

God is Protector

Week 2

God protects His people

God provides special protection for His own people

Bible reference

Esther 1-10 God used Esther to protect her people, the Jews.

Bible Lesson: Esther, the Beautiful Queen

Many years ago, in the country of Babylon, lived king Ahasuerus. Many of God's special people, the Jews, were living in Babylon at the time of his rule. There was someone in the kingdom, of notable position, who did not like the Jews and who was devising a wicked plot to get rid of them. It was the king's high servant, Hamaan.

Hamaan was a very proud man. All the people of the kingdom had to bow down to him. He had a lot of influence, even over the king. Now the king was looking for a new queen. He had dismissed the previous queen Vashti, because she had displeased him. For his new queen, the king wanted the most beautiful young lady in the whole kingdom. The king held a beauty contest. When the king had seen all the beautiful young ladies in the kingdom, he chose Esther. The king did not know it, but Esther was a Jewess.

One day, Esther's father, Mordecai, found out that two men were planning to kill the king. He told Esther, and Esther told the king. The two men were caught and put to death. The king was pleased with Mordecai for saving his life.

Hamaan was jealous of Mordecai's favour with the king. He knew Mordecai was a Jew. That made him hate Mordecai even more. He asked Mordecai to bow to him but Mordecai refused. This made Hamaan very angry. He decided that now was the time to put his wicked plan into action. He planned to have all Jews in the kingdom killed.

The first step in his plan was to influence the king. (The king still didn't know that Esther and Mordecai were Jewish.)

Hamaan bowed before the king and said, "The Jews who live in your land do not obey your rules, O King." This was a lie. "They are of no good to you. Why don't you have them all killed?"

As well as being proud, Hamaan was also rich. He promised to give the king 10,000 pieces of silver if he would make the new rule. The king agreed. Soon, word of the new rule was around the kingdom. When Mordecai found out, he was very distressed. He wrote a letter to his daughter:

"You must go to the king," he wrote. "You must talk the king into abolishing the new rule. You must save your people!"

Esther sent back a reply:

"Don't you know that a person cannot go into the King's presence unless he is called for? The penalty for disobeying is death. However, if he were to hold out his golden sceptre to me, then I would know that it is alright to go."

Esther was afraid to go, but finally she decided that she must. She asked her father to gather all the Jewish people together and to do nothing but pray for three days. They were not even to eat.

On the third day Queen Esther dressed herself as beautifully as possible and presented herself to the king. The king held out his golden sceptre to her. She came and touched the tip of it. Then she invited the king to a special banquet.

On the second day of the banquet, she asked the king if she could make a request. "What do you request?" asked the king.

"Please save me and my people from being killed," Esther pleaded.

"Who would dare touch you?" asked the king.

"Hamaan has lied to you, O king. The Jewish people, of whom I am one, do not disobey your laws. It is just a wicked plot," Esther replied.

The king was filled with rage. He commanded that Hamaan be hanged, and a new rule was made to protect the Jews from death. Then he gave Hamaan's place of honour to Mordecai. Because of Esther's bravery and obedience to God, all Jews in the kingdom of Babylon were saved from death.

Many people today show bravery in serving God. Some people face dangers as they take His word to places where it is forbidden. They must trust God to protect them.

Questions

1. Where were many of the Jews living, when this story took place?
2. Who was scheming to get rid of the Jews?
3. Describe Hamaan.
4. Why did the king choose Esther for his new queen?
5. Did the king know that she was a Jewess?
6. Who was Mordecai?
7. Why was the king pleased with Mordecai?
8. Why did Hamaan hate Mordecai?
9. How did Hamaan plan to get Mordecai, and all the other Jews, killed?
10. How did Esther save her people from death?
11. Why was it such a risk to go to the king without being called for?
12. Why would you say that Esther showed great courage?

God is Protector

Week 3

Miracles of protection

Bible research

Make a list of all the Old Testament stories that tell us about the protection of God's people.

Activity

Make a time-line, beginning with Adam and Eve and ending with Jesus Christ. Use the Bible stories students have listed in the Bible research section and place them in their correct sequence on the time-line.

Check: Did we forget any Bible stories about protection?

Discussion

God gave special protection to the Israelites.

Why was this group of people special to God in Old Testament times?

Who are God's special people now? *Answer: The Jews are still God's special people but so are all those who receive Jesus.*

Game: Charades

Work in pairs to mime Old Testament stories that show us God's protection. The group must guess which story is being mimed.

Discussion

Although we are not always aware of God's protection, there are some occasions when we KNOW that God has protected us. These times make us aware that God is very real and very close to us. Can you think of a time when you have been aware of God's special protection for you or your family?

True Story: God's Smuggler

Andrew, son of a blacksmith, grew up in a typical Dutch town. Living in Holland, a free country, Andrew had great concern for people in countries where the gospel could not be preached. Some of these countries were Russia, Hungary, Albania and China. In those days, the Socialist government did not allow religious freedom.

When Andrew grew older he conducted missions to these countries. With his car packed with Bibles, concealed in all sorts of secret compartments, he would drive his car through border crossings. As he did, he prayed that the Lord would 'close the eyes' of the border guards. God did it time and time again.

Here is a story about one of Andrew's experiences. He had just made it through the Hungarian border without being caught. God had again made seeing eyes blind. He drove on through the beautiful countryside which followed the River Danube. He started to feel hungry so decided to stop for some lunch. He drove down a sandy lane and stopped at a little clearing at the water's edge. In order to get to the camp stove, Andrew had to move several boxes of

gospel literature that the guards had just overlooked. No sooner had he opened the can of peas and carrots when he heard the roar of a speed boat approaching. The boat was heading towards Andrew at full throttle. In the bow stood a soldier with drawn machine-gun. At the last possible instant the boat swerved and coasted to a neat landing at the river's edge. Andrew now saw that there were two other soldiers in the boat. The man in the front leapt ashore followed by another one.

"Lord," Andrew prayed, "help me not to be afraid."

The first soldier kept the machine-gun on Andrew while the other ran to the car. Andrew kept stirring the peas and carrots as he heard the car door open.

"Well," said Andrew, "it is certainly nice to have you drop in this way. Would you care to join me?"

Andrew reached into his picnic box and drew out two extra plates. He motioned to the soldier to come and sit down. The soldier stared stonily and shook his head, as if to say, "I'm not going to be bribed." Andrew could hear the other soldier poking around. Any moment now he was going to ask about those boxes.

"Well," said Andrew, "if you don't mind, I'm going to go ahead and eat while the food is hot."

Andrew bowed his head and prayed. Then an amazing thing happened. While he prayed there was no sound from the soldier inspecting his car. Just as soon as he had finished praying, the door slammed. Andrew heard the sound of footsteps coming rapidly towards him. He picked up his fork and started to eat. For a moment both soldiers stood over him. Then abruptly they whirled around. Without looking behind them, they ran down to their boat, jumped in, and roared off in a spray of white. That was the last he saw of them.

From God's Smuggler by Brother Andrew (Used by the permission of "Mission Without Borders")

Questions

1. Name some of the countries that Andrew went to.
2. Why did he want to go to these countries in particular?
3. What miracles did God do for Andrew, to enable him to get Bibles into these countries?
4. Why would you say that Andrew showed great courage?
5. What do you think could have happened to Andrew if he had been caught?
6. Write about a time when God has protected you, or someone close to you.

Discussion

Think of times when God has protected you, or someone close to you. Also think of times when God may have protected you without you even knowing it.