

God Wins!

Monthly Theme

God's grace is good news for us.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

An immense Philistine garrison is stationed in the pass at Micmash to ravage and fight Israel. Israelite soldiers are afraid and hide in caves and pits. Jonathan and his armor bearer secretly climb to the Philistine fortress, surprising and defeating the Philistine guards. As the earth trembles, mass panic occurs within the Philistine army. The Israelites come out of hiding and work havoc on the Philistines. The Lord rescues Israel.

This is a lesson about grace.

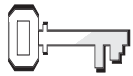
God is eager to find someone to be a channel through whom to pour out His blessings to people. Even though there was fear and unbelief among His people, through Jonathan God rescued the whole unbelieving nation. God will give the victory to those who will cooperate with Him. He's just waiting to do it.

Teacher Enrichment

Ahijah the priest, grandson of the high priest Eli, wearing the ephod with the Urim and Thummin stones, also was with Saul's army. "Withdraw your hand" (1 Samuel 14:19) "refers to the use of the Urim and Thummin. They were withdrawn from the linen ephod (vest) as a way to determine God's will. . . . Saul was rushing the formalities of getting an answer from God so he could hurry and get into battle to take advantage of the confusion of the Philistines" (*Life Application Bible, NIV*, p. 451).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 5.



References

1 Samuel 13:16-22;
14:1-23; *Patriarchs and
Prophets*, pp. 616-626



Memory Verse

"Nothing can hinder
the Lord from saving"
(1 Samuel 14:6, NIV).



Objectives

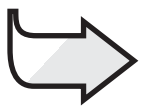
The children will:

Know that grace is

God's gift of love
that rescues them from Satan.

Feel confident that Jesus saves.

Respond by giving God
the credit for rescuing them.



The Message

God gives me
the victory.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Can You Climb It?</i> B. <i>Crossing Death Chasm</i>	approx. 6-foot ladder, pillows chalk or tape to mark a 6-foot (2-meter) line
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> shield or helmet-shaped container none
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	adult Bible-times costume Bibles Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Giving God Credit</i>	large piece of wood or cardboard, chalkboard and chalk or poster board and marker, beanbag, chair or tall stool
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Nothing Can Stop the Lord</i>	art supplies, construction paper; or balloon for each child, felt-tip marker or pen, envelopes

***Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.**

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome children personally at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they're pleased/troubled about. Ask if they have anything they would like to share about their lesson activities this week. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- ladder, about six feet (2 meters) tall
- pillows for safety

A. Can You Climb It?

Have an adult stand nearby and encourage the children to try climbing the ladder. When they reach the top, affirm their effort, and encourage them to look around at the room before coming down the ladder.

Debriefing

Ask: **Was it harder to climb up or down? Why do some people find it harder to come down? When you are climbing up, you tend to look up and you know that the next rung is close; when you are climbing down you look down all the way and get scared. Trusting God is like looking up. We can trust God in every situation. Our message says:**



GOD GIVES ME THE VICTORY.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- a 6-foot (2-meter) straight line marked on the floor or ground for each 6–8 children
- an adult to keep score
- an adult to supervise the activity

B. Crossing Death Chasm

Form two equal groups of 6–8 children. Have the groups line up facing each other, one group at each end of a 6-foot (2 meter) straight line marked on the floor or ground.

Say: **We are going to pretend that the line in front of you is your only way over Death Chasm. One misstep and you will plunge 100 feet into the water below. If you fall off (step off the line) you must go back to the end of the line and try again. One person from each group must cross at the same time.** (The scorekeeper records the pairs who successfully cross the chasm.)

Debriefing

Ask the scorekeeper to declare the winners—the pairs who completed the crossing. Ask: **How did you feel when you were trying to cross the chasm? How did you feel when you stepped off the line?** (disappointed, like I failed, let the other person down, etc.) **If you were successful, who should get the credit for your successful crossing?** (my partner) **When we get into difficult situations or are tempted to do wrong, who can we always count on to help us?** (God, Jesus) Read aloud 1 Samuel 14:6. **Our memory verse today says “‘Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving.’”** Be sure the children understand the word *hinder*. **Our message today reminds us that God always helps us. It says:**



GOD GIVES ME THE VICTORY.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

**Any
Time**



Fellowship

Report the children's joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Review last week's memory verse. Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study. Give a special warm greeting to visitors and introduce each by name. Acknowledge birthdays or special events.



Suggested Songs

- "God Is So Good" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 13)
- "He's Able" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 40)
- "His Banner Over Me Is Love" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 25)
- "Trust and Obey" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 113)



Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.



Offering

Collect the offering in a container made to look like a shield or helmet. Remind children that the offering will be used to help Jesus win the battle against Satan and sin.

You Need:

- shield or helmet-shaped container



Prayer

After taking prayer requests, have children stand at parade rest, as they would if they were in the army, while you pray.

2

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- adult Bible-times costume

Experiencing the Story

Dress (or have another adult dress) as a person from Bible times. Tell the story as if you were there and saw it all.

Read or tell the story.

(Huff and puff as if you have run from the battle scene.)

God be praised! I know, I know! You heard that nothing was happening at the battlefield.

Well, that's true. Our soldiers went into hiding in caves and wells. The enemy had thousands of chariots, and it seemed that their well-armed soldiers were as many as the sand on the seashore. They all had swords or spears.

None of our soldiers had a sword or spear. Only Saul and Jonathan had them. All our soldiers had were pitchforks and hammers. And everybody knows that you don't win wars with farm tools! So, many of our soldiers hid. But not Jonathan, the son of King Saul. He alone believed that God could win the battle.

One day Jonathan whispered to his armor bearer, "Come with me." This armor bearer was the officer who carried Jonathan's shield. He realized at once that Jonathan had a secret plan. So he quickly got dressed and followed Jonathan out of the camp. Nobody heard them leave.

"We can get to the Philistine lookout if we take the pass between the mountains," Jonathan explained. "God will get us past the guards and give us victory. Nothing can stop God from saving us, whether He uses the whole army or just us two."

"You lead the way," the officer said. "I'll be right behind you."

"Let's go now," Jonathan said, starting toward the pass. "When they see us, if they tell us to wait for them to come down, we will wait. But if they say, 'Come up to us,' we will know that this is our sign that the Lord will give us victory over them."

Slowly they went into the deep gorge toward the pass. At the pass they boldly stepped forward in full view of the Philistine guards.

"Look!" one of the guards cried out. "The Hebrews are crawling out of their holes!"

Another shouted, "Come on up so we can teach you a lesson!"

"That's our sign!" Jonathan whispered. "God has given them into our hands." So the two began climbing up that steep cliff face. When they got to the top, Jonathan walked forward *[take several steps]*. His armor bearer was right behind him. About 20 Philistine guards were waiting to attack in just a small space. Jonathan and the officer were confident of God's victory, and God helped them defeat the guards.

Other guards watching from the tops of the cliffs panicked and became confused when they saw what happened. They shouted down to the soldiers in the Philistine camp—and they panicked. Even the chariot drivers panicked. Soon they were all rushing to get out of the way. They began to push and fight one another. The ground shook as if a great army with horsemen and chariots was coming. Both Jonathan and the Philistines knew that God was helping Israel.

When King Saul and his 600 soldiers came upon the scene, there stood Jonathan and his armor bearer watching the Philistines run. The soldiers of Israel knew it had been a day of grace. "This day the Lord has rescued us," they said.

Jonathan and his armor bearer agreed. The Lord had won a great victory. " 'Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving' " (1 Samuel 14:6, NIV).

Say: **I don't know about you, but I want to remember that verse. I am going to remember it the next time I face the enemy. Learn it with me.**

Debriefing

Ask: **Was it possible for Jonathan to win that battle on his own?** (no) **Did God want to help Israel?** (Yes, He wants His people to be free from fear.) **Who or what are your enemies?** (fear, Satan, sin, temptations, bad habits, etc.) **Does God want your enemies to win?** (no) **Can you win against sin on your own?** (no) **But God will always help us to win against sin. Let's remember our message:**



GOD GIVES ME THE VICTORY.

Say that with me.

Memory Verse

Help the children find and read aloud 1 Samuel 14:6, today's memory verse. Use the following to teach the verse. Repeat until the children know the verse.

Nothing can	Shake head.
hinder	Hold up hand in stop signal.
the Lord	Point upward.
from saving.	Thumbs up.

You Need:
• Bibles

1 Samuel 14:6

Palms together, then open.

Bible Study

Help the children find 1 Samuel 14. Pair readers with nonreaders or have adults help as needed.

Say: **Let's read about this story as it is recorded in the Bible.** Have someone read verses 13-15. Ask: **What is panic?** (extreme fear, to be terrified, greatly afraid)

Now let's look at verse 15 again and see why the Philistine army panicked. Who sent the panic? (God) **What happened when the Philistines began to panic? Let's read verses 20-22 to find out.** (The Philistines ran away and the Israelites were saved.) **Who won the victory for the Israelites?** (God)

Debriefing

Ask: **Is there anything that can keep God from helping us?** (no) **What does our memory verse tell us?** Read or say the verse together. " 'Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving.' "

God saves us because He loves us. Is there anything that can come between God's love and us? Let's read Romans 8:38, 39 to find out. (Nothing can separate us from God.) **We can be certain that God is always on our side against Satan and sin. Let's remember our message:**



GOD GIVES ME THE VICTORY.

Say that with me.

You Need:
• Bibles

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- large piece of wood or cardboard, big enough to draw large tic-tac-toe on it
- chalkboard and chalk (or posterboard and marker)
- beanbag (or wadded paper to throw)
- a chair or tall stool

Giving God Credit

In advance, draw a large grid similar to tic-tac-toe on the wood or cardboard. (If wood or cardboard are not available, use a large sheet of poster board.) (See drawing.)

In each of the nine spaces write one of the following categories:

music school friendship
 fun person clothes family
 helpfulness sports computer skills

Put the board on the floor.

Form two groups, team A and team B. Have the teams take turns. To begin, a child from team A tosses the beanbag onto the board. Team A members have 20 seconds to think of ways that child excels in the category the beanbag landed on. For example: If the beanbag lands on *friendship*, they might say he is friendly, he smiles a lot, he helps people, he is cheerful all the time, etc.

Team B responds by naming people who have contributed to the child's characteristic. For example: his parents are friendly; his brother/sister is friendly; the

kids he plays with are friendly, etc.

Give each child a turn at tossing the beanbag. Encourage the other children to be positive in their comments.

Debriefing

Ask: **Who gave the Israelites the victory over the Philistines? (God) Who helps us to do the best we can, to be a good person, to win the victory over sin? (God and the people He uses to help us.) To whom should we give credit for those victories? (God and the people He uses to help us.) What does our memory verse say about God's help? ("Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving.")**

Do you have to be the first or the best for God to give you victory? (No, you have to know that you can't do it yourself, you have to trust in God.) Does God only give victories in big, important things? (No, He helps us improve, grow, and stay faithful in little things too.) We can have confidence that God will always help us. Let's say our message together:



GOD GIVES ME THE VICTORY.

Music	School	Friendship
Fun person	Clothes	Family
Helpfulness	Sports	Computer skills

4

Sharing the Lesson

Nothing Can Stop the Lord

Help the children make two items on which they will write the following message to share with others: **Nothing can stop the Lord.**

If you choose to make bookmarks or door hangers, distribute art supplies.

Or write the message on inflated balloons, then deflate the balloons and put them in an envelope.

Have the children make two items of their choice. While they are busy, encourage the children to think of someone with whom to share today's lesson—a friend, neighbor, family member, or someone in church today. Allow time to complete the activity.

Debriefing

Ask: **What does “Nothing can stop the Lord” mean to you? How will you explain it to someone else?** Allow time. **Keep one of the things you made and**

put it where you will see it every day. Give the other to someone with whom you want to share the message. Find a partner right now and tell them about the person you want to share with and what you will say to that person.

Allow time.

There are different ways to say the same thing. You will share it in the words you wrote just now. Our memory verse says it another way. And the message from today's lesson is another way. Let's say our message together one more time:



GOD GIVES ME THE VICTORY.

Closing

As you gather the children for closing prayer, invite two or three volunteers to pray and thank God for rescuing all of us from Satan. After their prayers, close with your own, thanking God for His care and asking Him to continue it throughout the coming week.

You Need:

- art supplies
- construction paper
or
- balloon for each child
- felt-tip marker
or pen
- envelopes

God Wins!

References

1 Samuel 13:16-22; 14:1-23;
Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 616-626

Memory Verse

“Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving” (1 Samuel 14:6, NIV).

The Message

God gives me the victory.

“I can’t! I can’t! I just can’t do it!” Have you ever felt that way? When things are too hard, whom do you ask for help? Jonathan knew who to ask. Here’s his story . . .

King Saul’s army was camped under a tree near Gibeah. The Philistines were camped nearby in a narrow pass in the mountains. Every day the Philistines sent out soldiers to harm the Israelites and steal from them.

The Philistines had hundreds of chariots and thousands of well-armed soldiers. The Hebrew army of 600 men was small and afraid.

None of the Israelite soldiers had swords or spears. Only Saul and Jonathan had them. The Hebrew soldiers had bows and slings, and pitchforks and hammers for weapons. But you don’t win wars with farm tools!

Because of this, many Hebrew soldiers were afraid, so they hid in holes and behind rocks. But not Jonathan, the son of King Saul. He alone thought that God could win the battle.

One day Jonathan whispered to the soldier who carried his heavy shield, “Come with me.”

The armor bearer knew at once that Jonathan had a secret plan. He quickly dressed and followed Jonathan out of the camp. Nobody heard them leave.

“We can get to the Philistine lookout, if we take the pass between the mountains,” Jonathan explained. “God will get us past the guards and give us victory. Nothing can stop God from saving us.”

“You lead the way,” the armor bearer said. “I’ll be right behind you.”

“Let’s go,” Jonathan said, starting toward the pass. “When they see us, if they tell us to wait for them to come down, we will wait. But if they say, ‘Come up to us,’ we will know that this is the sign that the Lord will give us a victory.”

After a slow, hard hike, Jonathan and his armor bearer reached the pass. Boldly they stepped forward in full view of the Philistine guards.

“Look!” one of the guards cried out. “The Hebrews are crawling out of their holes!”

“Come on up so we can teach you a lesson!” another shouted.

“That’s our sign!” Jonathan whispered. “God has given them into our hands.” So the two began climbing up that steep cliff. When they got to the top, Jonathan walked forward. His armor bearer was right behind him. Twenty Philistine guards suddenly attacked in just a small space. But Jonathan and his armor bearer knew God would help them. The Philistines were quickly defeated.

Other guards watching from the tops of the cliffs panicked and became confused when they saw what happened. They shouted down to tell the soldiers in the Philistine camp. And those soldiers panicked. Even the chariot drivers panicked. In their confusion, they began to push and fight one another as they ran in every direction. The ground shook as if a great army with horsemen and chariots were coming. Jonathan, his armor bearer,



and the Philistines knew that God was helping Israel.

When King Saul and his 600 soldiers came upon the scene, Jonathan and his armor bearer stood quietly watching the Philistines run away. The soldiers of Israel knew they had won because God had won the battle for them. "This day the Lord has rescued us," they said.

Jonathan and his armor bearer agreed. The Lord had won a great victory. Nothing had stopped God from saving them.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- If possible, hike up a big hill with your family. At one of your rest stops, read the Bible lesson story together. Imagine that you are with Jonathan climbing the tall cliff to the Philistine camp. Thank God that you can walk and climb.
- Read aloud the memory verse from the Bible (1 Samuel 14:6, NIV).

Sunday

- During family worship, read the lesson story in the Bible (1 Samuel 14:1-23).
- Then read the memory verse. Write down a big number and the smallest number you know. Can God win using this many people or this few? How do you know? (See 1 Samuel 14:6.) Thank God for His power to win our battles.
- Draw a big zero on a piece of construction paper. In the center of the zero, write the words of your memory verse.
- Decorate your memory verse reminder and put it where you will see it every day. Thank God for taking good care of you.

Monday

- Show your "zero" memory verse poster to your family, then say your memory verse without looking.
- With your family, read 1 Samuel 14:2, 3, 18. What did Saul have with him to help him win? What was the most important thing that Saul did not have? Talk about it together. Ask God to help you trust Him more.

Tuesday

- Say your memory verse. Try to put it to music, then sing it for family worship.
- Think of another Bible story that tells about a time when God rescued His people. Ask a family member to help you to find and read about it in the Bible.
- Thank God for His protection every day.

Wednesday

- Say your memory verse during family worship. Tell what it means to you. Ask your family to tell about a time God rescued them or gave them special help.
- Read Psalm 34:7 together. Think of a Bible story about angels helping people. (For example, see Daniel 6:22.) How does this story give you courage?
- Sing a song about God's care; then thank Him for it.

Thursday

- Tell your family the story of the victory that God gave Jonathan. Include your memory verse.
- Together, look at pictures of mountains in books, etc. Discover names of a few of the world's most famous mountain ranges. Thank God for the beauty of the mountains.
- Draw a mountain scene. Ask someone to help you read Psalm 121:1, 2. Write the verses on your drawing.

Friday

- For family worship tonight, try some of the following ideas:
- Say your memory verse. Say it again, replacing "nothing" with a word like "floods," "fire," "storms," "war," etc.; "can" with "cannot"; and place your name after "saving." (For instance: Floods cannot hinder the Lord from saving me.) Invite your family members to do the same. Write the verse like that on a piece of paper and keep it in your Bible.
- Do a charade of this week's Bible story.
- Read a favorite Bible promise that gives you courage (for example, Joshua 1:5).
- Sing as many songs as you can think of about being in the Lord's army.
- Thank God for always watching over your family.