

God has a Plan!

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 15:57 *"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Main Teaching: God has faithfully provided a Redeemer for you! **Word Up:** God Has a Plan!

Supplies:

- Word Up Visual – Word Up (Resource Pack)
- Recording for ""Turn Your Eyes to Jesus" "I Believe" and "Thanks be to God" - Worship (Sing About the King 3 CD)
- Optional Song Visuals for "Turn your Eyes to Jesus" and "I Believe" (cefpress.com)
- Two Balloons, Baking Soda, Vinegar, Food prep gloves (Those really thin ones) - Object Lesson
- Memory Verse Visual – Memory Verse (Resource Pack)
- Balloons and a Nail - Activity
- Isobel Kuhn Flashcard Visual 6 – Missionary Story (Resource Pack)
- Picture of an ancient prison or a visual of Paul in chains, Picture of a lion or a visual of Daniel in the lions' den – Wonder Time
- Verse Card – Wonder Time (Resource Pack)
- Memory Verse Token for 1 Corinthians 15:57 (week 3) for each child – Dismissal (Resource Pack)

Schedule at a Glance (75 min club):

- 15 min – Small Group
- 10 min – Worship / Rules / Word Up
- 10 min – Object Lesson
- 15 min – Memory Verse
- 10 min – Activity
- 5 min – Missionary Story
- 10 min – Small Group Wonder Time



SMALL GROUP

Difficult Things

Sometimes things happen that make us feel sad or angry. We don't always understand what is going on. (Share an appropriate example from your own life.) God cares about you even when difficult things are happening in your life. You can talk with Him about anything you are going through and tell Him how it makes you feel. Is there something difficult or bad happening in your life that you would like to pray about right now? (Allow children to share and pray for their requests.)

WORSHIP

To learn songs and motions, go to Youtube and type in CEF and the name of the song in the search bar.

"Turn Your Eyes to Jesus"

"I Believe"

CLUB RULES

Review the Up Rules reminding the kids that following the rules helps everyone be able to feel safe and learn. If there is a particular rule the children are having trouble with, do a skit to highlight that rule and why it is important.

**WORD UP!**

"God has a plan!"

God has a plan for you. Sometimes it may not seem like it. Difficult things happen to everyone because the world is messed up by sin. But God knows that bad things happen and He has the power to work—even when life is tough. **WORD UP! "God has a plan!"** (Say with children.) He will work out His good plan for all those who believe on Him.

OBJECT LESSON**A Tale of Two Balloons**

What you need:

- Two Balloons
- Baking Soda
- Vinegar
- Food prep gloves (Those really thin ones)

What you do:

Pour 2 Tbsp of vinegar into one finger of the glove, and tie a knot to trap the vinegar into this finger. Cut the finger containing the vinegar off the rest of the glove. This is your vinegar pouch. Open up the mouth of one balloon and place your vinegar pouch along with 1 Tbsp of baking soda inside of the balloon. You may want to use a funnel for the baking soda. Tie the balloon closed. (Do this all BEFORE the lesson.) Blow the second balloon to about the same size as the balloon with the vinegar and baking soda. You will need to pop this balloon..

Video Demonstration:

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1534884290431027>

What you say:

If you have never put your trust in Jesus, then you are like this balloon. (Show the kids your air filled balloon) Maybe things seem to be going good for you when all of a sudden something bad happens. Maybe your Mom or Dad lose their job. Maybe you lose your home. Maybe someone you really love dies. Or, maybe your new X box game gets a big scratch on it. The things of life come, and they keep squeezing you (Squeeze balloon till it pops) and eventually you pop. You can't handle all that squeezing any longer.

Maybe you have believed in Jesus, and put all your trust in him. If that's you, then you are more like this balloon. (Show the kids the vinegar balloon) You know that God has a plan for you, but then something bad happens, and you question, "How can God have a plan if bad things happen?" Maybe your Mom or Dad lose their job. Maybe you lose your home. Maybe someone you really love dies. Or, maybe your new X box game gets a big scratch on it.

Disaster struck; life is over. These things smash you down. Make you feel small. (Put the balloon on the ground and stomp on it.) Wait, is the balloon shrinking? No, because when you have put your trust in Jesus, God uses those bad things to make us grow. My X box broke! All of a sudden I have time for prayer. My X box broke, and now I have time to read my Bible. I've grown more than I ever have. God somehow turned a catastrophe into something good. God does have a plan even if it doesn't always make sense. **WORD UP! "God has a plan!"** (Say with children)



MEMORY VERSE

1 Corinthians 15:57 *"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

INTRODUCTION

How many of you like to lose? (Allow response.) Maybe you get sad when you don't win at a card or a board game, or you're upset when you can't make it past a certain level on a video game. Maybe you're on a sports team, and no matter how much you and your teammates practice, you rarely win any games. Losing can be very disappointing, but the Bible teaches us that we can win against something far more important than a game. We can have victory over sin and death! Today's memory verse tells how you can have this great victory.

PRESENTATION

Our verse comes from the seventh book in the New Testament, 1 Corinthians, and it's found in chapter 15 verse 57. (Read verse from Bible.) The Corinthians were a group of believers who were struggling with a lot of sin in their lives. The apostle Paul wrote to tell them the wrong things they should stop thinking and doing and the right things they should start thinking and doing. Paul knew what to tell the Corinthians because God showed him what to write down. Paul didn't just guess or write down what he thought was best; he wrote what God showed him was best. You can trust that God loves you and always wants what is best for you. You can trust the words in our verse. Let's read it together. (Read with children from visual.)

EXPLANATION

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory—You were born with sin in your life. Sin is anything you think, see, say, or do that breaks God's law or makes him sad. Your sin has a punishment, to be separated from God. But God has a plan! **WORD UP! "God has a Plan!"** (Say with children) He made a way for you to have victory over the sin in your life—you no longer have to choose to sin but you can choose what is right instead. You can thank God for this plan.

through our Lord Jesus Christ—His plan was Jesus. He died on the cross and came back to life to forgive your sin and give you new life with God. Only by believing on Jesus can you have true victory over sin. We have this victory because Jesus won against sin when He died on the cross and showed His victory when He came back to life.

You can thank God for his plan to give you victory through Jesus!

APPLICATION

Saved: If you have believed in Jesus, you can thank God for his good plan, for giving you victory over sin. God gives you the power to live with Him and for Him. You have this power because of Jesus' victory over sin's punishment, power, and hold on you. You can know that Jesus had this victory because He came back to life after He died. Thank God for Jesus taking sin's punishment for you so you no longer have to be separated from God.

Thank God for His power to say no to sin. Thank God that one day He will give you a new, perfect body and you will live with Him forever in the perfect place He will provide.

Unsaved: If you have never believed in Jesus before, God is offering you victory over sin today. That was his plan, to make a way through Jesus for you to have victory over sin. **WORD UP! "God has a plan!"** (Say with children) Because of what Jesus did by dying on the cross and coming alive again, you can have your sins forgiven, start to live God's way, and someday live with God in His perfect home. If you believe in Jesus and what He did for you, then you too will have victory over sin and death.



INVITATION

What about you? Do you know that you have sinned? Do you know that Jesus died on the cross so you could have victory over sin? Have you made the decision to put your trust in Him? The Bible says in John 3:16b "Whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." When you believe in Jesus, trusting that He died on the cross for your sins, you will not be given the punishment for your sins, but instead you will be given eternal life. A life that starts the minute you believe and lasts forever, even after you die. Will you turn from your sin and believe in the lord Jesus today? Please bow your head and close your eyes. If you called on Jesus for the very first time today, or you want to talk to someone more about doing that, please show me by raising your hand. If you raised your hand, please meet me (designate location) and I'll show you more from God's Word how you can have victory over sin.

REPETITION

Crazy Cards

(Write each of the following phrases on a note card: blink your eyes, hold your head in your hands, close your eyes and smile, march, turn around slowly, stand on one foot, rub your stomach, jump up and down. Fan the cards in your hand and allow a child to pick one. The class does what the card says while repeating the verse. Continue until all the cards are drawn. You may wish to continue doing the motion as you add on new motions each time.)

Sing Memory Verse Song "Thanks be to God"

ACTIVITY

Victory over Sin

God has a wonderful plan to give us victory over sin. We can have this victory through Jesus. In our game today you're going to have to let Jesus overcome your sin in order to have the victory.

Divide the kids into teams. Each team should have around 5 kids, so plan your number of balloons accordingly. Have each team stand in a line, and give the kid at the front of each line a blown up balloon with sin written on it. Have the children pass the balloon under everyone's legs. When the balloon gets to the kid in the back of the line, he should run to the front and pass it through everyone's legs again. Keep doing this until the kid who started with

the balloon is at the back of the line. When this kid gets the balloon, instead of running to the front of the line, he should run to a leader who is holding a nail (The nail represents Jesus) and pop his balloon.

MISSIONS STORY

Isobel Kuhn

Part 6



China was fighting Japan during World War II and it was no longer safe for John and Isobel or any of the other missionaries to live in the mountains where the Lisu lived. They all had to leave.

But as soon as the war was over John and Isobel came back. Isobel eagerly greeted the Lisu friends she had left behind. But Chinese Communists had moved into the Lisu mountains and wanted to rule all of China. Whenever they took control of a town, they refused to let the people there worship God.

Gangs of outlaws also roamed the mountains. Since John was often traveling for the mission, Isobel had to handle threats on her own. She had to stay calm when she heard rumors that the Communists were about to attack. Even with danger all around, Isobel managed to keep the Rainy Season Bible Schools going. Three years passed before the Communists invaded the district. Isobel and John asked God what to do and waited for Him to show them. They had one last Rainy Season Bible School.

John and Isobel went back to America where she and John continued to pray for the Lisu Christians.

Their mission decided to continue its work in Thailand, a country next to China. Many different tribes lived there—and some of them were Lisu! Hundreds of tribal people had fled to Thailand to escape from the Communists. After John and Isobel prayed about what to do, they knew God wanted them to go to Thailand.

The busy months in Thailand passed quickly until one day Isobel Kuhn learned she had cancer. After talking about what they wanted to do, Isobel returned to America where her grown children lived and John joined her shortly afterward.

Before she left China, Isobel had begun to write books about the Lisu people and the missionaries she had met. In America, she fought her cancer for almost three years and used that time to continue writing about the work God had done. In March of 1957, Isobel Kuhn died. But before she died, she had finished eight books, telling how God was working both in her and in the people around her. You can still read these books today! God had been with her, guiding and helping her every step of the way. Even though Isobel had doubted God while she was at college, God showed her that He is real. He used her to tell many people about Jesus.

**SMALL GROUP / WONDER TIME****God Is Working**

What are some bad things that sometimes happen to people? (Allow response.)

God knows that bad things happen. He has given you His Word, the Bible, to comfort and guide you when you are going through difficult situations. Today we learned about God working in difficult situations in Ruth and Naomi's lives. Discovering how God worked in other people's lives can give you comfort and hope when you are going through a tough situation. Let's read about some people in the Bible and look for how God worked in the difficult situations in their lives.

1. (Show a picture of a lion or a visual of Daniel in the lions' den.) Daniel was thrown into a den (pit) full of lions because he chose to worship God instead of worshiping the king of Babylon. God rescued Daniel from the lions and used this difficult situation to do something amazing! (Read Daniel 6:25-27 and discuss how God worked.)
2. (Show a picture of an ancient prison or a visual of Paul in chains.) Paul was put in prison for telling others about Jesus. But God used this difficult situation to work in an amazing way! (Read Philippians 1:12-14 and discuss how God worked.)

You can have hope because God has proved He has power to work, even when life is tough. You may have something difficult happening in your life right now. Ask God to use His Word to comfort and help you. When you read your Bible, pay attention to how God works in people's lives. Thank God for proving that He is working, even when life is difficult.

DISMISSAL

Hand out memory verse token to each child and encourage them to memorize the verse and bring the token back completed next week. Remind the kids to be quick to forgive others this week and to thank God for showing us mercy.