

All-Powerful – Lesson 5

4K and 5K

Divine Attribute: God is all-powerful

Heart Response: Have faith

Memory Verse: Luke 18:27

“Things that are impossible with people are possible with God.”

Points of Emphasis:

1. God is the only one who has the power to do miracles.
2. God is the only one who has the power over all of creation.
3. God allows us to participate in his work to show his glory.
4. God gives us his strength and power when we put our faith in him.

Personal Preparation:

In this unit, we will study the miracles Jesus performed while here on earth. We will learn two very different truths about Jesus. We will learn that he is completely human—we see him fast asleep during a “furious” storm and we also see him attend a wedding celebration. On the other hand, the Scriptures obviously declare his divinity—being fully God. We see that although he is a man, he is still fully God. He displays his power by turning water into wine, by calming a storm, by turning five loaves and two fish into more than enough to feed over 5,000 people, and by walking on water.

These situations seemed hopeless in human terms. We do not have the ability to turn water into wine; we do not have the means to feed or meet the needs of all the people we come in contact with; we have no power over creation and the elements. These miracles show us Jesus’ authority over the impossible. Jesus has power over any storm, any lack, any chaos, any terror, and any situation.

As we share these stories with the children, let’s focus on who God is and how he is more powerful than anything we face in life. We too can have power over fear and sin through Jesus. The power that we see used in these stories is the same power that later raised Jesus from the dead and is available to us as believers.

When Jesus asks his disciples: “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”, he seems to be referring to all the things he has taught them and shown them. The word “still” indicates that Jesus has given them quite a lot of evidence about his power and love. He is saying: “After all you have seen—do you still have no faith? Why are you afraid? Do you have sufficient reason for your fears and doubts?” These are good questions for us to consider too. Do we believe that God is all-powerful and is for us? Do we trust in his power and his hope when situations seem hopeless? Remember, God is omnipotent (all-powerful). We can have faith in him!

CENTER TIME

10-20 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

To help the children transition into class, please use a center format at the beginning of each service. Set up three centers in your classroom to allow children options of activities. Ideas include, but are not limited to:

1. Read books on the floor.
2. Color at the table.
3. Play with blocks on the floor.
4. Play with puzzles at the table.
5. Play with Play-Doh at the table.

OPENING ACTIVITY

10 minutes at the start of service

The following activity is provided to begin engaging the children for the upcoming lesson. As the teacher of your class, you have an important

opportunity to come alongside the parents of these children to teach them about God.

In and Out of the Tomb

Supplies:

Masking tape (one roll per bin)

Make a line on the floor with a strip of masking tape. Have the children line up in a straight line facing you on the right side of the line. Tell them that the right side of the line is "In the Tomb" and the left side of the line is "Out of the Tomb." Instruct them that when you say, "In the tomb" or "Out of the tomb" the children should jump to the correct side of the tape. If the children jump in the wrong direction or don't jump to the other side when you tell them, remind them to listen carefully and follow the command. For older children, you can try and get the players to jump incorrectly by pointing to one side as you say to jump to the opposite side or by repeating the same side and/or changing the pace. Then, let them know that you are going to learn about a man that Jesus told to come out of his tomb after he had been dead for days! That would be impossible for us, but "Things that are impossible with people are possible with God." Luke 18:27.

BIG GROUP TIME

please check your classroom schedule

Please talk to your class about the purpose of this time—to have fun worshiping God together. Give your class practical ideas of what this means (obey the teachers up on the stage, sing and praise God with a happy heart, keep your hands to yourself, etc.). Teachers, you are crucial in helping create a peaceful, orderly environment to worship God during this time. Thank you for your help!

SMALL GROUP TIME

25-30 minutes

Bible Story

Supplies

Bible (John 11:17-44)

We have a new story this week. As you may remember, we've been talking about miracles that Jesus did. Do you remember what a miracle is? (Allow for responses.) That's right. A miracle is an amazing thing that only God can do.

Can you tell me some miracles that Jesus did? (Turned water to wine, calmed the storm, fed over 5,000 people with just five loaves and two fish, and walked on the water.) **Today, we're going to talk about another miracle that Jesus did to show his power.**

Our Bible story today is from John 11. (Open the Bible to John 11:17.)

Do you know that Jesus had some friends named Mary and Martha? They had a brother named Lazarus. Lazarus is a very dear friend of Jesus, but one day, he gets very, very sick. When he gets sick, how do you think Mary and Martha feel? (Allow for responses.) They want him to get better so they send a message to Jesus. Why do you think they send a message to Jesus? (They want Jesus to know they believe that he can heal Lazarus.) Do you think that Jesus comes immediately when he gets the message that Lazarus is very, very sick? (Allow for responses.) No, he actually doesn't. Even though he loves Mary, Martha, and Lazarus a lot, he waits a few more days before going to see them. When Jesus hears that Lazarus is sick, he says, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory. God's Son will receive glory because of it." By the time Jesus gets to where Mary and Martha lived, Lazarus has already died. How do you think Mary and Martha feel now? (Allow for responses.)

Mary and Martha each go out to meet Jesus. Martha says to him, "Lord, if you had been here Lazarus would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask." Mary and Martha know that Jesus is all-powerful and could have kept Lazarus alive. They have faith and trust in Jesus that he can do anything. But, now they are wondering why Jesus didn't keep Lazarus from dying and heal him while he

was sick, like Jesus healed other people.

Jesus says to Martha, “Your brother will rise again. I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live forever even after dying on earth. Do you believe this?” “Yes Lord,” she tells him, “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who has come into the world.”

Jesus goes to the tomb where Lazarus is, and he tells the people “Take away the stone.” Martha says, “But Lord, by this time there will be a bad smell. Lazarus has been dead in the tomb for four days.” Then Jesus says to her, “Didn’t I tell you that if you believe you would see God’s glory?”

So they open the tomb by rolling the stone away. Then, Jesus looks up and says, “Father, I thank you for hearing me. You always hear me, but I said this aloud so the people standing here will believe that you sent me.” Then Jesus says in a LOUD voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

What do you think happens? (Allow for responses.) That’s right! Lazarus comes walking out with strips of linen around his hands and feet and a cloth around his face! Jesus had raised Lazarus from death back to life. It was another miracle! Once again, Jesus shows his disciples that he is all-powerful, and he is in control of everything. Jesus can give life because Jesus is God! Jesus gives us life, too! We can trust Jesus to take care of us because he is our all-powerful God.

Prayer

Prayer time may not be appropriate immediately following story time. If this is the case, we ask that you be intentional about praying spontaneously or formally with the children at other times during class.

Thank you, Father, that you are all-powerful. Help us to have faith in you. You are the giver of life. Thank you for dying on the cross for us and conquering death so that we can have a new life with you. Amen.

Lazarus Alive Again

Supplies:

Brown paper cup (one per child)
1” Gauze rolls (four per session)
Jumbo popsicle sticks (one per child)
Markers
Elmer’s Glue

Give each child a brown paper cup and a 1-foot strip of gauze. Give them a jumbo popsicle stick and have them draw Lazarus’ face at the top. Have them roll the gauze around the popsicle stick and secure it with glue. Have them draw a half circle on the cup to resemble the opening of the tomb. Tell them to put Lazarus inside the cup. Then, remind them that in our Bible lesson today, Jesus came to Lazarus after he was already dead for several days. Ask the children, “When Jesus got to the tomb, what did he say?” Remind them that Jesus said “Lazarus, come out!”

***Have fun and let them do the crafts themselves, as much as possible. This is a hands-on way for them to learn who God is and remember what they learn. It doesn’t matter if they place the label or stickers in the wrong spot. What matters is teaching them who God is. ***

SNACK & ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

last 30 minutes

Please wash the children’s hands before snack time and say a prayer thanking God for the food. As they are eating their snack, please take time to go over the review questions.

Review Questions

- 1. What were the names of Jesus' friends in the story?** (Mary, Martha and Lazarus)
- 2. What happened to Lazarus?** (He died)
- 3. What happened when Jesus told Lazarus to come out of the tomb?** (Lazarus walked out, he was alive)
- 4. Who raised Lazarus from the dead?** (Jesus!)
- 5. Who gives us life?** (Jesus, God)
- 6. Who can we trust to take care of us?** (Jesus!)
- 7. Who can do anything?** (God; he is powerful!)

Walk By Faith

Supplies

Toilet paper rolls (two per class)

Form two teams. Have each team stand in a circle and pick one person on each team to be Lazarus. Have Lazarus stand in the middle of the circle. On "go," have each team use one roll of toilet paper to wrap Lazarus. Have each Lazarus stand still until both people being Lazarus are wrapped up. Then call out, "Lazarus, come out!" See who can be the first to free themselves from the toilet paper. Play as many times as time and toilet paper supplies allow.



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