

LESSON 10: GOD PROTECTS PAUL FROM A SNAKEBITE

Leader Guide for Ages 3-6

Classroom: Monkeys

 Acts 28:1-10

10/25/2020

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Acts 28:1-10
- In This Passage: Shipwrecked on an island, Paul is gathering sticks to build a fire when a poisonous snake comes out of the sticks and bites Paul's hand. Because God is our protector, Paul is unharmed and shakes off the snake.
- Bible Point: God is our protector...
- Application: ...so we don't need to worry about a thing.
- Summary Verse: "A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power" (Ephesians 6:10).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *God is our protector*. Most kids are in one of two camps: overly cautious or foolishly risky. This lesson can help kids on both sides find a middle ground. Overly cautious kids can take comfort in the fact that God is watching out for them. Even if bad things happen, God can protect them as he protected Paul. You can help foolish risk-takers understand that God's protection is not a license to test him. Help kids see that as they follow God and do what he wants, he'll protect them.
- Think About: Think of some scary or near-death experiences you've had—maybe a just-missed-it accident or a health scare. How can you see God's protection?

Dig In to Prayer

- Ask God to build a special wall of protection around your kids.

Quick Tip

- How well does your ministry setting model God's protection? Do you have a safe and secure check-in and checkout system? Are all volunteers background checked? (Check out Shepherd's Watch, a great background-check resource.) Do you make sure there is never only one adult alone with kids? Is your room cleaned regularly to prevent spreading illness? Do you have a good policy for handling emergencies? As you evaluate your ministry, you can be a part of God's plan to protect your kids. For in-depth training on important church security practices, purchase a Safe and Secure Church Kit here.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Preschoolers talk about the Bible point, act out the story, and sing a song.

Supplies

- Bible
- craft sticks (at least 5 per child)
- “Snakes” handout (1 for every 4 kids) ([download here](#))

Easy Prep

- Cut apart the snake cards from the handout, and place them around the room under piles of craft sticks.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Preschoolers sing a song and pray.



OBJECT LESSON

Preschoolers keep bubbles from popping.

Supplies

- 1 cup water
- 1 teaspoon dish soap
- 1 teaspoon glycerin
- straw
- bubble wands (1 for every adult or teen helper)
- spray bottle with water
- sink to rinse hands (optional)
- large container (optional)
- paper towels



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers protect a stuffed animal from an animal catcher.

Supplies

- stuffed animal
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers try to tickle others' toes.

Supplies

- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



CRAFT

Preschoolers make paper snakes.

Supplies

- green construction paper (different shades of green, if possible)
- stickers (6 per child)
- “Snake Head” handout (1 for every 9 kids) (download [here](#))
- glue sticks (1 for every 5 or 6 kids)
- small googly eyes (2 per child)
- crayons

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.
- Cut out the snake heads from the handout.
- Cut about six 8x1½-inch construction-paper strips per child.

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



OPENING

Welcome

[5 min]

Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, teach preschoolers how to give “hand hugs” by putting their palms against the palms of a friend and wrapping their thumbs around the other person’s hand.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having preschoolers say “happy birthday” in robot voices.
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’ll find out what it means that God is our protector: It means he keeps us safe. We’ll read in the Bible today about a man who was bitten by a snake, but God protected him from getting sick. Let’s start today by talking about whether you like snakes.**

Share

- Share whether *you* like snakes and why or why not.
- In leader-led small groups, have preschoolers share whether *they* like snakes and explain what they like or don’t like about snakes. If time allows, you can let them share about snakes they’ve seen in places such as the zoo, the park, or around their neighborhoods.
- After small groups have discussed, have adult or teen helpers share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **Some snakes are nice and can be pets in our homes. Other snakes are dangerous and have poison in their bites, like the one we’ll hear about in the Bible today. God’s friend Paul was bitten by a snake, but God protected him from getting sick. God is our protector, too, and we don’t need to worry because God’s with us. Even if something happens like it did with Paul, God will take care of us in the end.**

Pray, thanking God for protecting us.

**God Protects Paul From a Snakebite (Acts 28:1-10)**

Supplies

- Bible
- craft sticks (at least 5 per child)
- “Snakes” handout (1 for every 4 kids) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Cut apart the snake cards from the handout, and place them around the room under piles of craft sticks.

Talk About It

Say: **Today we'll find out that God is our protector. That means God is always with us, making sure we're okay. He looks after us and wants us to be safe, like our parents do.**

Share about one way *your* parents protected you when you were a child. Maybe they held your hand when you crossed the street, held on to you while you were learning to swim, or picked you up when a big dog came down the street.

Ask: • **What are some ways your family protects you?** Preschoolers can share about parents, grandparents, older siblings, or even close family friends who do things to protect them. Children might share how grownups buckle them into their seats in the car, help them climb up the jungle gym, or check under the bed and in the closet for monsters before they go to bed.

Say: **We all have people who protect us, but God is the best protector of all, so we don't need to worry about a thing. Even if something scary happens, God will protect us. Even if something happens and we get hurt, God is with us and he'll make sure we're okay in the end. Today we'll read in the Bible about someone who God protected.**

Act It Out

Open a Bible. Say: **The Bible tells us about a man named Paul. Paul was God's good friend, and the Bible says he'd just gotten off a ship. While he was on the ship, he'd been through a thunderstorm, but God protected him and brought him to an island where he was safe. The people on the island were friendly, and they built a fire to help Paul and his friends get warm. Let's build a fire now, too.**

Lead kids to gather sticks (the craft sticks) for a fire. When a child notices any of the snake cards, gently pick up the child (or have adult or teen helpers do it) and move him or her away from the snake and say: **Oh no! Snakes can bite you. I'll protect you. Watch out for snakes under the craft sticks, friends! Grab the sticks quickly so the snakes don't bite you.** Encourage kids to gather all the craft sticks quickly, grabbing them away from the snakes. Have them stack all the sticks in the center of the room as if they're building a fire.

Say: **Thanks for gathering all that wood. We made a great fire!** Lead kids to sit around the “fire” and pretend to warm their hands.

Say: **You all made it away from the snakes safely, but the Bible says God's friend Paul was bitten by a snake that was under the wood. Ouch! But don't worry—God protected Paul. It might seem like God didn't protect Paul because the snake bit Paul, but Paul was okay in the end. Paul shook off the snake and threw it into the fire.** Lead kids to pretend to shake a snake off their hand.

Say: **God was with Paul, and God made sure Paul didn't get sick from the snakebite. The people waited for Paul to get sick, but because Paul never did, they thought Paul was very special. After that, Paul met with a sick man on the island. Paul went into his room and put his hands on him and prayed.** Lead kids to put their hands on the shoulders of the kids sitting on either side of them. Lead them in a short prayer, asking God to protect all the children from harm.

Say: **After Paul prayed, the man was all better! So other sick people on the island came to Paul for help, and God gave Paul the power to make them better, too!** Invite kids to share about a sickness they have or choose a pretend sickness. As each child shares his or her real or pretend sickness, put your hand on the child's shoulder and pray: **God, protect [name of child].**

Say: **God protected Paul from the snakebite, and he protected the people by making them better. When I say God protects us, that doesn't mean we won't ever get sick or hurt. It *does* mean that God is**

with us and he'll take care of us in the end. We don't need to worry about a thing because God will surely protect us.

Sing a Song

Say: **Let's learn a song to help us remember that God protects us, so we don't need to worry about a thing.** Lead kids in singing this song to the tune of "Down by the Bay" and doing the accompanying motions.

God protects us. *(hands on hips)*
So we don't need to worry! *(wag finger side to side)*
He's with us now. *(nod "yes")*
He'll never leave. *(shake head "no")*
For even if *(shrug)*
I get sick or hurt, *(hold arm with opposite hand as if it's hurt)*
God will make it all okay, *(wave arms above head)*
He'll care for us! *(hug self)*
Yes, he protects us. *(hands on hips)*

Repeat the song several times so kids can try to learn it.



Protection Song

Sing a Song

Say: **Today we learned that God is our protector. Let's sing the song we learned to remind us that we don't need to worry.** Lead kids in singing this song to the tune of "Down by the Bay" and doing the accompanying motions.

God protects us. (*hands on hips*)
So we don't need to worry! (*wag finger side to side*)
He's with us now. (*nod "yes"*)
He'll never leave. (*shake head "no"*)
For even if (*shrug*)
I get sick or hurt, (*hold arm with opposite hand as if it's hurt*)
God will make it all okay, (*wave arms above head*)
He'll care for us! (*hug self*)
Yes, he protects us. (*hands on hips*)

Repeat as time allows.

Cheer and Pray

Say: **God is the best at protecting us. Let's give him a big cheer!** Lead kids in cheering for God.

Share what *you* want God to protect you from this week.

Ask: • **What do *you* want God to protect you from this week?**

Say: **Thanks for sharing. Let's talk to God and ask him to protect us.** Lead kids in a prayer, asking for protection over the things kids shared; then ask God to help all of you not worry and trust God.

Say: **Trust God this week. We don't need to worry because God is our protector. He'll be with us and take care of us, even in scary times. I hope to see you back here next week!**



OBJECT LESSON

Don't Pop!

[10 min]

Supplies

- 1 cup water
- 1 teaspoon dish soap
- 1 teaspoon glycerin
- straw
- bubble wands (1 for every adult or teen helper)
- spray bottle with water
- sink to rinse hands (optional)
- large container (optional)
- paper towels

Mix Up Bubbles

Say: **It's fun to pop bubbles. But instead of popping them, what if we protect them and keep them from popping? Let's try! First we need to mix up some bubbles!**

- Add one teaspoon of dish soap to a cup of water.
- Add one teaspoon of glycerin to the water and soap mixture.
- Use a straw to mix the water, soap, and glycerin. Give kids a turn to gently stir the bubble mixture.

Blow and Catch Bubbles

Say: **Now let's put soap on our hands. That way, when bubbles land on our hands, the soap will protect them and keep some of them from popping!**

- Squirt a drop of dish soap onto each child's hand.
- Have an adult or teen helper use a spray bottle to squirt each child's hand with water. Remind preschoolers that soap is not for eating.
- Have kids rub their hands together so they're soapy and wet.
- Direct adult or teen helpers to blow lots of bubbles with the bubble wands.
- Have kids each try to gently catch a bubble in their hands and then count and see how long it stays there before it pops.
- Encourage any kids who struggle to catch a bubble right away. Then offer them a little more soap and water.
- When kids have finished playing, have them rinse their hands in a sink or hold their hands over a container while you spray more water to wash off the soap. Have kids dry their hands with paper towels.

Talk About It

Say: **We protected the bubbles and kept them from popping. We were very gentle so the bubbles wouldn't pop. God is our protector—he holds us safe in his hands! Even when scary things happen in our lives, God is gentle and kind and he takes care of us.**



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Good Guard

[10 min]

Supplies

- stuffed animal
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Protect a Stuffed Animal

Say: **We've learned something awesome about God today—that God is our protector. It's good to have someone watching over you. Let's play a game where you'll watch over our special friend here.** Hold up the stuffed animal. **There will be animal catchers who try to take our animal from his home, and we'll protect him.**

- For every 10 kids in your group, choose one adult or teen helper to be the first Animal Catchers. Have them stand in one corner of the room. Place the stuffed animal in the opposite corner.
- Have kids spread out in the room. Explain that they'll block the Animal Catchers, but they can't touch or move the stuffed animal. Their job is simply to protect their friend.
- On your cue, the Animal Catchers will try to get to the stuffed animal, pick it up, and run back to where they started. If an Animal Catcher is tagged while running with the stuffed animal, he or she must put the stuffed animal back.
- If the Animal Catchers are successful, replace the stuffed animal in its original spot and choose new Animal Catchers. Depending on the age and maturity of your preschoolers, you may choose more adult or teen helpers, or you may let kids take a turn as the Animal Catchers.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while everyone plays.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What did you like about protecting the stuffed animal?**

• **What made you good protectors?**

Say: **God is our protector, and God is the *best* protector, so we don't need to worry about a thing!**



LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Toe Tickle Tag

Supplies

- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Try to Tickle Toes

Say: **We're learning that God is our protector. Let's play a game where you'll protect your toes from being tickled!**

- Have kids all take off their shoes and place them out of the way.
- Have everyone spread out in your room and get down on all fours, ready to crawl.
- At your cue, have kids crawl around the room, trying to tickle other people's toes while also trying to protect their own toes from tickles.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

Talk About It

Have kids grab their shoes and put them back on while you discuss the game.

Ask: • **What did you do to protect your toes?**

Say: **You protected your toes from tickles, and it was lots of fun! But sometimes there are things that aren't so fun that we need protection from. Thankfully, God protects us from real dangers. That's why we don't need to worry about a thing—God's always with us and we can be sure he'll protect us.**



CRAFT

Shake-Off Snakes

[20 min]

Supplies

- green construction paper (different shades of green, if possible)
- stickers (6 per child)
- “Snake Head” handout (1 for every 9 kids) (download [here](#))
- glue sticks (1 for every 5 or 6 kids)
- small googly eyes (2 per child)
- crayons

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.
- Cut out the snake heads from the handout.
- Cut about six 8x1½-inch construction-paper strips per child.



Make Shake-Off Snakes

Say: **Today we learned that Paul was bitten by a big, scary snake. But God protected Paul so he didn't get sick. Paul knew he didn't need to worry. Let's make snakes to remind us that God protected Paul from something scary, and God protects us, so we don't need to worry, either! While we make our snakes, we can think of ways that God protects us.**

- Give each child a strip of construction paper and a sticker.
- Help the kids each make a loop with the construction paper and secure it with a sticker. As kids work, share about some things *you're* afraid of, and encourage kids to share about things they're scared of, too. You might share about spiders or being stuck in a small space.
- Give each child a second strip of construction paper and another sticker.
- Have kids pass the second strip through the first loop to create two interlocking loops. Help kids secure the second loop with the second sticker.
- Continue giving kids paper strips and stickers until all the children have about six links in their chain. Kids can continue sharing things that they are afraid of until they run out of ideas.
- When kids have completed their chains, give each child a snake head, and have kids color their snake heads.
- Help kids glue the snake heads to one end of the chains, and give them googly eyes to put on the snake heads. Make sure kids don't put the googly eyes in their mouths.

Shake It off

After kids have finished making their snakes, have them spread out in your room. Show them how to put an arm through one of the loops as if putting on a bracelet. Say: **In our Bible story today, we heard how Paul shook off the snake that bit him.** Demonstrate shaking a craft snake off your wrist, and then invite kids to try it.

Say: **Just as God protected Paul from being hurt by the snake, God protects us! When we're scared about something, we call that worrying. But since God protects us, we don't need to worry or be scared. Let's shake off our worries, just like Paul shook off the snake.** Repeat each of the things you and the kids shared about earlier that scare you. For each thing you share, have kids shake the snakes off their wrists. Continue as time allows, reminding kids that God protects us after each "shake off."

Say: **It was fun to shake off our worries today. When you take these snakes home, remember that God protects us, so we don't need to worry about a thing!**

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