

LESSON 10: GOD PROTECTS PAUL FROM A SNAKEBITE

Leader Guide for Grades 1 & 2

Classroom: Adventure

 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

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids gather sticks, draw worries and shake them off, and pray.

Supplies

- Bible
- “Creepy Crawlers” handout (download [here](#))
- fake snakes, spiders, and bugs (optional)
- craft sticks (several per child)
- masking tape
- markers
- orange, yellow, and red crepe-paper streamers

Easy Prep

- Put 8 piles of craft sticks around the edges of the room. Under each pile, hide a picture of a snake, spider, or bug from the “Creepy Crawlers” handout. Want to be extra surprising? Use fake snakes, spiders, and bugs instead!



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids throw away their worries.

Supplies

- Bible
- paper
- pens
- trash can



OBJECT LESSON

Kids 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

Kids protect a stuffed animal from an animal catcher.

Supplies

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



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids try to tickle others' toes with feathers.

Supplies

- feathers (1 per child)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



CRAFT

Kids 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)
- googly eyes (2 per child)
- crayons
- child-safe scissors

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



DEEPER BIBLE

Kids practice protecting one another from paper wads.

Supplies

- scrap paper
- bucket or bag

Easy Prep

Ball up scrap paper into wads and place into a bucket or bag for easy access.

**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.



Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have kids double high-five four friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids say, “three cheers for our birthday friends! Hip, hip, hooray! Hip, hip, hooray! Hip, hip, hooray! It’s your birthday!”.
- 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 small groups, have kids 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 a few kids 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.



Supplies

- Bible
- “Creepy Crawlers” handout (download [here](#))
- fake snakes, spiders, and bugs (optional)
- craft sticks (several per child)
- masking tape
- markers
- orange, yellow, and red crepe-paper streamers

Easy Prep

- Put 8 piles of craft sticks around the edges of the room. Under each pile, hide a picture of a snake, spider, or bug from the “Creepy Crawlers” handout. Want to be extra surprising? Use fake snakes, spiders, and bugs instead!

Gather Sticks

Say: **Our story today happened on an island. But it wasn’t a sunny day on the beach—it was cold and rainy, so everyone needed to gather sticks to build a fire. Let’s do that. There are piles of sticks around the room. Take two at a time, and bring them to the center of the room to make one big pile.**

Have kids each gather two sticks at a time until all the sticks are in one big pile. As kids remove the sticks, they’ll eventually be surprised by the scary things underneath.

Ask: • **How did you feel when you saw a snake, spider, or bug in the sticks?**

• **Why are those things so scary?**

Say: **In our Bible story, a guy named Paul found a snake as he gathered sticks to build the fire.**

Let’s see what happened to him.

Read Acts 28:3.

Write Worries

Say: **Yikes! Paul was bitten by a poisonous snake! But God is our protector, so we don’t need to worry about a thing. Before we see what happened to Paul, let’s think about what worries and fears we have.**

Distribute masking tape and markers. Have kids tear long strips of masking tape, at least 6 inches, and draw a symbol or small picture that shows a worry or fear on each one. Kids can use as many strips of tape as they need, but each child should think of at least one thing. After kids draw their fears, have kids each stick one end of the tape to the back of a hand so it dangles down as if a snake is biting them.

As kids write, add crepe-paper streamers to your stick pile in the center of the room to “light” the fire. Then quickly make and add a masking-tape snake to your arm. Gather kids around the fire.

Shake It Off

Say: **Wow! We all have worries and fears. It would have been easy for Paul to worry when he was bitten by a poisonous snake. Let’s see what he did.**

Read Acts 28:5.

Say: **God is our protector, so we don’t need to worry about a thing. He protected Paul from the snake’s venom, and he can protect us from our fears and worries.** Lead kids in shaking their arms over the fire and dropping their masking-tape snakes into the “flames.” Add more crepe-paper flames to cover their worries.

Say: **Notice that God didn’t keep Paul from getting bitten by the snake. When we say God is our protector, that doesn’t mean nothing bad will ever happen to us—it just means that God is bigger and more powerful than all of our fears and worries, so we can trust his plan instead of worrying.**

Talk About It

Say: **God didn't just protect Paul's body; he protected Paul's heart. Listen to this.**

Read Acts 28:6.

Ask: • **If someone thought you were a celebrity, what kinds of things could you get away with?**

Say: **When the people thought Paul was a god, Paul could've gotten away with a lot—especially because Paul was a prisoner at the time and on his way to trial! But Paul stayed faithful to God instead of pretending he was a god. God helped protect his heart from pride. God is our protector, and he can protect our hearts and minds.**

Pray for Each Other

Say: **After God protected Paul, Paul went to help other people with their worries and fears.**

Read Acts 28:7-9.

Say: **God is our protector, so we don't need to worry about a thing. And when other people face hard times, we can help them! One way to help is by praying for people. Let's try that now.**

Have kids form pairs and share with their partners about what they wrote on their masking tape earlier. Then have partners pray for God's peace and protection over each other.

Pray: **God, thank you for being our protector. Help us not to worry about a thing and instead trust you. And help us support others when they feel afraid or worried. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Supplies

- Bible
- paper
- pens
- trash can

Throw Away Worries

Read Philippians 4:6. Say: **God is our protector, so we don't need to worry about a thing. Instead of worrying, we can pray! Let's pray in a fun, active way as we throw away our worries.**

- Have kids draw their worries on pieces of paper.
- Kids can crumple their papers into paper wads.
- Set a trash can in the center of the room, and have kids stand back to the point where they think they can make a basket.
- Have kids throw their worries away. If they miss, they can pick up each other's worries and continue until all the worries are in the trash.

Pray

Pray: **God, thank you for being our protector! Thank you that we don't need to worry about a thing because we can turn to you for help. Please take our worries away now and protect us from all the things we wrote on our papers. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back 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.
- 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 this stuffed animal.** 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. 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

- feathers (1 per child)
- 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. Give each child a feather to use for tickling.
- 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. Collect the feathers.

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

Say: **You protected your toes, 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)
- googly eyes (2 per child)
- crayons
- child-safe scissors

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make Shake-Off Snakes

Say: **Today we learned that Paul was bitten by a 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.**

- Set out the construction paper, scissors, and stickers.
- Have kids each cut six approximately 8x1½-inch paper strips. The width doesn't need to be exact, but have kids make sure their paper strips are long enough to fit their hands through them when they're looped.
- Have kids each make one 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.
- Show kids how to pass the second strip through the first loop to create two interlocking loops. Have kids secure the second loop with the second sticker. Have kids continue to make a chain with the remaining paper strips. Kids can continue sharing things that they are afraid of until they run out of ideas.
- As kids work, cut out and give each child a rectangle of the “Snake Head” handout so each child gets a snake head. Have kids color and cut out their snake heads.
- Have kids glue the snake heads to one end of the chains, and give them googly eyes to put on the snake heads.

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!**



Supplies

- scrap paper
- bucket or bag

Easy Prep

Ball up scrap paper into wads and place into a bucket or bag for easy access.

Talk About It

Say: **Today we heard how God protected Paul from getting sick when a dangerous snake bit him.**

God protects us just like he protected Paul.

Tell kids about a time God protected *you* from something. Maybe you almost had a car accident, or maybe you thought you were getting sick and then were okay. Maybe there was a time you almost fell off something high.

Ask: • **Tell about a time something scary happened to you.** As kids answer, mention ways God might've been protecting them in those times. Kids might share about big storms, climbing something tall, or staying overnight away from home for the first time at Grandma's house.

Protect One Another

Say: **Let's take turns protecting our friends to remind us that God protects us.** Create leader-led groups of about five or six kids each. Have one child stand in the center of each group with the other members of the group gathered around in a circle.

Show the paper wads. Say: **Pretend these paper wads are sad or scary things that will hurt the friend in your circle. Protect him or her from being hit by any paper wads. Remember to encourage your friend as you protect him [or her]. You can say "God protects you!"** Have the adult and teen helpers toss the paper wads at the child in the center of the circle. Remind kids to block the paper wads so they don't hit their friend in the center and say "God protects you!" After a minute, have kids switch roles. Continue until all the children have had a chance to be protected.

Talk About It

Say: **Wow, you all were great at protecting your friends.**

Ask: • **How did you feel being the protector?** Invite kids to share what they did to protect their friends and tell whether it made them feel strong, helpful, excited, or something else.

Say: **You were great protectors! Do you know who is the best at protecting us? God! Sometimes scary things happen to us, but we know that God's always with us and always taking care of us. Even though we can't see him, we know that God's protecting us just like our friends were. That means we don't have to worry.** Lead kids in one more shout of "God protects us!"