

LESSON 10: GOD PROTECTS PAUL FROM A SNAKEBITE

Leader Guide for Grades 5 & 6

Classroom: Deeply Rooted

 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 get surprised as they gather sticks for a fire, then shake their fears into the fire.

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!



OBJECT LESSON

Kids see how soap protects bubbles.

Supplies

- water (1 cup for every 5 kids)
- 16-ounce disposable cups (1 for every 5 kids)
- glycerin (check at discount stores such as Walmart in the lotion and body-oil aisle)
- dish soap
- teaspoons (1 for every 5 kids)
- small disposable plates (1 per child)
- straws (1 per child)
- sharpened pencils (1 per child)
- child-safe scissors (1 pair for every 5 kids)



DEEPER BIBLE

Kids see how their worries fit into God’s big picture.

Supplies

- Bibles
- 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle (It’s okay if it’s missing pieces, so check a thrift store if you don’t have one.)
- paper
- colorful markers
- fine-tipped permanent markers
- index cards (optional)

Easy Prep

- Get out enough puzzle pieces for each child to have one, and then hide the box so kids can’t see the picture.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a balloon version of Capture the Flag.

Supplies

Easy Prep

- large laundry basket
- inflated balloons (at least 16)
- permanent marker
- 4 chairs or other place markers
- painter's tape
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

- Fill the laundry basket with inflated balloons.
- Tape a 6-foot square on the floor in the center of the room.
- Place a chair or other place marker in each of the four corners of your room.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids try flipping cups to cover pompoms.

Supplies

- 12-ounce disposable plastic cups (1 per child)
- cotton balls or pompoms (1 per child)
- long tables (1 for every 10 kids)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Along both long sides of each table, place 5 cups upside down near the edge of the table and spaced about 1 foot apart.
- A few inches behind each cup, place a pompom on the table.



CRAFT

Kids make surprising cups of pop-out snakes.

Supplies

- card stock
- markers
- glue sticks
- scissors
- disposable coffee cups with lids (1 per child)
- tissue paper
- "Pop-Out Snakes Instructions" handout (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Cut 1x11-inch strips of card stock. You'll need at least 24 strips for each child. You'll also need additional sheets of card stock.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids throw their worries into the trash.

Supplies

- Bible
- paper
- pens
- trash can

**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, 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're going to learn that God is our protector, so we don't need to worry about a thing. God protected Paul when something *really* bad happened after Paul got shipwrecked on an island.**

Share

- Tell kids who *you'd* want with you to protect you on a deserted island.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share who *they'd* want with them to protect them on a deserted island.
- After partners have discussed, have two or three kids share with the whole group.

Summarize

Open a Bible to Acts 28, and say: **It's great that we have people we can count on to protect us. But God is an even better protector than any of those people! God is our protector, and we're about to see in the Bible how he protected Paul. One way God calms our worries is through the Bible. Plus, he's ready to talk to you right now. Let's pray and listen.**

Pray, praising God for his protection.



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 takes place 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: **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 2-foot strips of masking tape and write a personal 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. Be sure to make your own masking tape “snake” as well. After kids write 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. If kids used multiple strips, they’ll have multiple snakes biting them.

As kids write, add crepe-paper streamers to your stick pile in the center of the room to “light” the fire. Then put your own masking-tape snake on your hand. Gather kids around the fire.

Shake It Off

Say: **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 hands 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 mistook you for 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 getting prideful or 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—like being really sick.**

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.**



OBJECT LESSON

Poke-a-Bubble

[10 min]

Supplies

- water (1 cup for every 5 kids)
- 16-ounce disposable cups (1 for every 5 kids)
- glycerin (check at discount stores such as Walmart in the lotion and body-oil aisle)
- dish soap
- teaspoons (1 for every 5 kids)
- small disposable plates (1 per child)
- straws (1 per child)
- sharpened pencils (1 per child)
- child-safe scissors (1 pair for every 5 kids)

Mix Up Bubbles

Say: **Did you know that you can protect bubbles and keep them from popping? Let's give it a try!**

First we need to mix up some bubbles.

- Form groups of five, and give each group 1 cup of water in a disposable cup and a teaspoon. Give each child a straw and a small plate.
- Make dish soap and glycerin available to all the groups, and have a designated child in each group measure and add 1 teaspoon of dish soap and 1 teaspoon of glycerin to the group's cup of water.
- Have groups use a straw to mix the water, dish soap, and glycerin.

Blow Bubbles on Plates

Say: **Now let's use straws to blow bubbles onto our plates.**

- Have each child pour a small amount of the bubble solution onto his or her plate.
- Show kids how to put one end of the straw into the solution on the plate and gently blow through the straw. A bubble will form on the plate.
- Have kids gently remove their straws so the bubbles remain.

Poke Bubbles

Say: **Now let's see how soap will protect the bubbles.**

- Have each child dip one finger into the remaining bubble solution in the cup and then poke that finger into the bubble. When kids have soap on their fingers, their bubbles won't pop!
- Have kids predict what will happen with soap on a sharpened pencil or scissors.
- Distribute a sharpened pencil to each child, and have kids dip the tip into the bubble solution and then poke it into the bubble and observe what happens.
- Have kids take turns dipping child-safe scissors into the bubble solution and then poking them into a bubble and observing what happens.
- If a bubble happens to pop, encourage kids to use their straws to blow another one on the plate.

Talk About It

Ask: • **How does the soap's protection remind you of God's protection over us?**

Say: **The soap didn't keep the bubble from being poked—and God doesn't always keep bad things from happening to us. He didn't stop the snake from biting Paul. But God covers us with his love, and his presence in our lives keeps us safe.**

Ask: • **Tell about a time God helped you or someone you know during a bad time.** Share an example from your own life to begin the conversation.

Say: **God is our protector. We don't need to worry because we know that God is with us, even when bad things happen.**



How Can I Really Not Worry?

Supplies

- Bibles
- 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle (It's okay if it's missing pieces, so check a thrift store if you don't have one.)
- paper
- colorful markers
- fine-tipped permanent markers
- index cards (optional)

Easy Prep

- Get out enough puzzle pieces for each child to have one, and then hide the box so kids can't see the picture.

Figure Out a Puzzle

Say: **We're learning that God is our protector. He protected Paul, but can we count on God protecting people every time? How can we really not worry? Let's dig in to that.**

Give each child one piece from the jigsaw puzzle and a piece of paper. Set out colorful markers to share.

Say: **Based on only the piece in your hand, draw what you think the whole puzzle looks like.** Allow time.

After kids have drawn, have them compare drawings and share why they think the puzzle looks like that. Then get out the box and show them the picture.

Say: **It's impossible to accurately know what an entire puzzle will look like when you see only one piece. Life can be like that, too. Each stage of life we go through is like one puzzle piece. When all we can see is that one piece, it can make us feel worried. After all, you might be holding a piece that looks really scary!**

Ask: • **What does it show you about God when you think of each part of your life as a puzzle piece?**

Say: **We can't see the whole puzzle of our lives—but God can! When we truly believe that, we can trust him to protect us. He's got a plan! Let's dig deeper and see what the Bible has to say about worries.**

Dig Deeper

Have a child read Luke 12:22.

Ask: • **Jesus named a few things people worry about. What else do people worry about?**

Say: **Let's read what else Jesus had to say.**

Read Luke 12:23-26.

Ask: • **Why is worry pointless?**

• **If worrying is pointless, why do so many people do it?**

Say: **We like to be in control and know what's going on. When we're not in control, it's easy to worry. But worrying doesn't accomplish anything, and it doesn't change the fact that God is our protector. He's got us covered!**

So what do we do when we feel like worrying? The Bible tells us exactly what to do.

Have a child read Philippians 4:6-7.

Say: **Instead of worrying, these verses say to pray. Then God will bring us peace, which is the opposite of worry. Let's try that now.**

Have each child think of one worry and write a word to summarize it on the picture side of his or her puzzle piece using a fine-tipped marker. If you want the puzzle pieces back, have kids use index cards instead.

Say: **Now instead of focusing on our worries, let's focus on God.** Have kids flip the puzzle pieces or index cards over and write "God" on the back. Then have kids hold the pieces with the "God" side up and pray silently about their worries.

Pray: **God, thank you that you are our protector. Help us not to worry about a thing but instead to pray and trust that you see the whole picture. In Jesus' name, amen.**



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Well-Guarded

[10 min]

Supplies

- large laundry basket
- inflated balloons (at least 16)
- permanent marker
- 4 chairs or other place markers
- painter's tape
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Fill the laundry basket with inflated balloons.
- Tape a 6-foot square on the floor in the center of the room.
- Place a chair or other place marker in each of the four corners of your room.

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](#).

Guard the Basket

Say: **Today we're learning that God is our protector. Even when crazy things happen in life, God is watching over us and guarding us. Let's play a game where you'll try to guard some things you care about.**

- Place the laundry basket in the center of the tape square.
- Ask kids to name things they care about. Write each thing on a balloon.
- Based on the size of your group, invite a few willing kids to be the Guards who'll try to keep everyone else from taking balloons from the basket. You'll want the Guards to not have it too easy but also not be completely overwhelmed by how many other people there are working against them. One Guard for every six kids is a good ratio.
- Have the Guards take positions around the basket. Guards must stay outside the tape square at all times, so they can't stay so close to the basket that no one has a chance of getting to any of the balloons.
- Have the remaining kids form four teams and each choose a corner of the room to be their starting place.
- At your cue, everyone who's not a Guard can start running toward the basket with the goal of taking a balloon from the basket and getting it back to their team's corner before they're tagged by a Guard.
- If a Guard tags anyone carrying a balloon, the balloon must go back to the basket and the tagged person must return to his or her team's chair before running back into the game.
- While Guards can't enter the square around the basket, it's not a safe zone. Anyone who crosses a boundary of the square to take a balloon from the basket must leave the square within five seconds.
- Clarify any rules as needed; then if you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.
- Every few minutes, invite different kids to be the Guards.

Talk About It

Ask: • **When you were a Guard, what motivated you to protect the balloons?**

• **In real life, how do you show you care about the things we wrote on the balloons?**

Say: **We all know what it's like to care a lot about something or someone, and one way we show we care is when we defend or protect what we care about. God cares about each of us so much—more than we can imagine—and that's why God is our protector. God loves us and protects us so we don't need to worry about a thing.**



LOW-ENERGY GAME

God's Got You Covered

[10 min]

Supplies

- 12-ounce disposable plastic cups (1 per child)
- cotton balls or pompoms (1 per child)
- long tables (1 for every 10 kids)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Along both long sides of each table, place 5 cups upside down near the edge of the table and spaced about 1 foot apart.
- A few inches behind each cup, place a pompom on the table.

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](#).

Flip Cups to Cover Pompoms

Say: **We're learning that God is our protector, so we don't need to worry about a thing. Worries will still come to our minds and hearts sometimes, but when they do, we can give our worries to God.**

Let's play a game to dig into this some more!

- Form at least two teams of five or fewer, and have each team choose one side of a table.
- Have team members line up side by side facing their side of their table and standing a few feet from the table.
- At your cue, team members on each side will take turns going one at a time to the table to try to flip a cup directly over a pompom in one try.
- To flip a cup, kids must move it so it extends just a little past the edge of the table and then use a finger or two placed under the rim of the cup to flip it.
- If a child is successful in landing a cup over a pompom in one try, he or she can continue trying to flip cups over pompoms in single flips until unsuccessful. Then it'll be the next team member's turn.
- If a child is unsuccessful on the first try, that child will reset the cup as he or she found it and then the next team member can try.
- A round is over once everyone on a team has had a try.
- For a second round, team members can have two tries at getting the cup to flip directly over a pompom, then three tries in a third round, and so on.
- Encourage team members to cheer each other on and share strategies for success as they practice flipping the cups.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What helped you get better at flipping the cups over the pompoms?**

• **What's something else you've had to practice doing to get better at?** Share an example of your own first, such as practicing driving a lot before it felt natural.

Say: **Things that are new to us or maybe seem a little strange might take practice to feel natural so that we don't even have to think about doing them. That can happen when we practice giving our worries to God instead of holding on to them. Paul had already faced a lot of scary things, so when the snake bit him, it was easy for him to trust God. We can give our worries to God through prayers because God is our protector.**



Supplies

- card stock
- markers
- glue sticks
- scissors
- disposable coffee cups with lids (1 per child)
- tissue paper
- “Pop-Out Snakes Instructions” handout (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Cut 1x11-inch strips of card stock. You’ll need at least 24 strips for each child. You’ll also need additional sheets of card stock.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make a Container of Snakes

Give a child the sample craft you made, and have him or her open it.

Say: **Paul must’ve been surprised when a snake jumped out and bit him! But he didn’t worry about it because he knew God is our protector. Let’s make pop-out snakes to remind us to have an attitude like Paul’s.**

Give each child a disposable coffee cup with a lid and 24 strips of card stock, and set out the remaining supplies to share. Have kids follow the directions on the “Pop-Out Snakes Instructions” handout to make their own pop-out snakes.

- Color eight strips of card stock with a snake-like pattern.
- Position two strips in an L-shape. Glue one end on top of the other end.
- Fold the strips together, one over the other, until you reach the end.
- Do the same thing three more times, and then glue the four folded segments all together to make one long snake.
- Cut out a head and tongue to glue to the top of your snake.
- Make two more snakes by following the same process.
- Stuff a coffee cup about half-full with tissue paper.
- Place your three snakes on top of the tissue paper. (If your snakes fit without needing to be pressed down very much, you’ll want to add more tissue paper underneath.)

- Put the lid on the cup, and decorate the cup.
- When you open the lid, your snakes will pop out!

Talk About It

Ask: • **What are things that look okay (like the coffee cup) but can be dangerous?**

- **How do you react when the snakes pop out of your cup?**
- **What do you typically do when you're scared?**
- **How does knowing that God is our protector make a difference?**

Say: **God is our protector, so we don't need to worry about a thing.** Snakes are something a lot of people are afraid of and worry about. But even when Paul was bitten by a snake, God protected him. **No matter what makes you worry, whether it's snakes, spiders, or math tests, God is your protector.**

Have kids take their pop-out snakes home and use them to tell their friends and families about how God protected Paul.



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 write 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.

Wrap Up

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.