



Construction Crew/ Kid Builders!

Where worship and fun collide!

525 Garden Drive, Marysville, Ohio 43040

Now God, NOW!

Memory Verse: "...I [that's Jesus!] am with you always, to the close of the age." Matthew 28:20

Lesson Overview: Children often depend on God more in a jam, and less at other times. This lesson is designed to help children understand what is happening when it seems like God isn't, there, or isn't listening, or will not do things for them, or even appears to let bad things happen to them. Throughout this lesson, it will be demonstrated that God is always there, and it is *we* who abandon *him*. By the end of this lesson, the children should understand "how" we alienate ourselves from God, and why certain things must happen in our lives for our own good.

Requirements for the lesson:

1. A new dollar Bill
2. A Walkman
3. A book, and a couple of helpers
4. The "Man in a flood" joke

Object Lessons and Lead-in to the Lesson:

"The Man in a Flood" This joke is the perfect example of how we expect God to do it "our way."

There was a man who was in a flood. The flood became so bad, that he had to go onto his rooftop. He prayed that God would rescue him. A man comes along in a canoe, and tells him to jump in the canoe, so he can take him to safety. The man on the roof replies, "No thank you, I'm waiting for God to save me." So the man rows off. Next, another man comes along in a speedboat and says, "Jump in, and I'll take you to safety." But the man on the roof says, "No thanks; I'm waiting for God to save me." Yet another man in a helicopter comes by and says, "Grab the rope, and I'll pull you up to safety." But, again the man says, "No thanks; I'm waiting for God to save me." So the helicopter leaves. Soon, the man drowns and goes to heaven. When he gets there, he asks God, "Why didn't you save me from drowning?" And God said, "I sent you a canoe, a speedboat, and a helicopter! What more did you want?"

“The Dollar Bill” This is an old trick, and many of the children may know it. This is good, because the knowledge of the trick will reinforce the idea of time. Ask for a volunteer to help with the trick. Get them to hold out their hand with their thumb and index finger held open so they can catch a falling dollar between them. Hold the dollar with the bottom edge just above the gapping fingers. Without warning, let the dollar drop. The child will never catch the dollar. Next time, tell him or her that you are going to drop the dollar. They most likely will still not catch it. Do this until the child catches it, or enough time has elapsed to prove the point. **Explain how we treat God the same way. We only give him seconds to perform a miracle sometimes. This is not to say that God could not do it before we even ask it of him. Nonetheless, there is sometimes a lesson to be learned, and “instant gratification could only make things worse.**

“The Walkman Scenario” Have a helper wear a walkman, and act like they are really jamming to a song. Have this person enter the room and more or less interrupt the class. Have this person dance a bit, tap toes, or snap fingers. Maybe they could even hum a bit. Next, have some others try to get their attention—maybe even some of the class. Of course, our music lover won’t respond until it gets really obvious that they are trying to get his or her attention. Then make the point that God tries to get our attention like this all of the time. We just don’t listen because we are doing something that won’t let us hear Him.

The Lesson:

DO THE OBJECT LESSON: ***“The Man in a Flood”***

1. God never leaves us

QUESTION: Why do you think God leaves us alone to work out our own problems sometimes? HE DOESN'T!

Have someone from the class look up and **read:**

De 31:8 “It is the LORD who goes before you; he will be with you, he will not fail you or forsake you; do not fear or be dismayed.”

QUESTION: If this scripture is true, then why do you think it seems like He leaves us in times when we need him?

There are a lot of reasons why we can feel this way. God sometimes allows us to go through troubles. He wants to help us learn some very important lessons. These lessons help us learn how to live a good Christian life.

DO THE OBJECT LESSON: ***“The Dollar Bill”***

2. Instant God

We often want God to hurry: even do things instantly. We know when we have trouble, and we just want it to go away.

QUESTION: If God took care of every problem we have—even before it happens—do you think we would ever learn to stop getting into trouble? Not likely!

God wants to teach us how to live so we can stay away from trouble and sin. God even wants to teach you how to stay away from dangerous things.

a. God's Perfect Timing

QUESTION: God does things that we ask for when *He* wants to rather than when we want it done. Why do you think He does that?

- **Because it's not the right time.** We want things to happen right now, but that's not always best for us. God knows the right time to make things happen in our lives so that everything will work out great. **We need to get ready for him to do it.** Sometimes we are just not ready for Him to do something in our lives. Have you ever had your mom or dad say, "When you're older" to you? That's because you were not ready. God works in the same way.
- **He wants to teach us things along the way.** Did you ever have someone tell you the ending of a movie or a book, and it ruined the whole thing for you? Living your life for God is just like that. We want to go straight to the end, but God wants to show us things along the way that we need to know first.
- **He waits until "we" are ready.** Only God knows when that is. When God does what we ask for when we are ready, then we can receive it and do what He wants us to do. Did you ever get a Christmas present that you asked for, but it was too grown up for you? If you did, then you know that you couldn't do it properly because you were not ready.

b. Responsibility

QUESTION: What does "responsibility" mean?

QUESTION: When your parents do things for you that *you* should be doing, do you learn responsibility? NO.

As Christians, God expects us to be responsible. Remember Moses and the Israelites when God brought them out of Egypt? He took them into the desert. When they acted responsible, God blessed them. When they were not responsible, God did not bless them. It is the same with us. If we do not act responsible, God will not bless our actions. He lets us go through some things that help us learn responsibility.

QUESTION: What do your parents do when you do not act responsible? We are corrected.

3. God's Way

a. God's way is different from ours

God does the same thing with us in a loving way. He doesn't want to hurt us, but sometimes we have to go through some correction to learn the lesson.

God has what we call "The Way." There is a way that things are supposed to go. It's the only true way that things can happen. Every other way is false (phony). Remember the two paths? There is only one way; that way is Jesus' way.

QUESTION: We ask God for something, but he doesn't do it exactly how as we asked him to do it. Maybe God even does something completely different. Why do you think He does things that way?

- Think about how your parents do for you sometimes: **(a)** You want something; **(b)** your parents get you something different; **(c)** In time, you discover that what your parents got you was better for you than what you wanted. God does things this way.
- **Perhaps you asked for the wrong reason:** out of jealousy, greed, selfishness, pride, hate. God will not help us if we are doing things for the wrong reasons. He doesn't like that at all. If we do wrong, God is ready to take us right back. He will, if we change our reason for doing things to the right reasons: love, giving, and sharing.

b. God Corrects Us

QUESTION: Why would God let something unpleasant, or even kind of bad happen to you?

- **Because we won't appreciate what he does** until there is a price to pay. Say we were not doing our best at school, and we are heading towards getting a bad grade on our report card. We will not appreciate that we should have done better until we get home with it. Our parents quickly remind us that we *will* do better. God works like this too.
- **He wants to change your way you live.** God will not deliver you from the payment for your sins until you are ready to repent.

QUESTION: What does "repent" mean? To ask God for forgiveness, turn away from something sinful, and not do it anymore.

c. God responds to us

QUESTION: Why does it seem like God doesn't hear us sometimes?

- **He hears us, but we are not ready to listen to Him.** Sometimes we won't listen until he gets our attention. Have you ever been so deep into a TV show that you didn't hear someone talking to you? Some times we are so busy that God can't get our attention. We totally forget to talk with Him and ask what He would like us to do.
- **Sometimes we're too noisy.**

DO THE OBJECT LESSON:

"The Walkman Scenario"

Too much noise makes it impossible to hear God. He doesn't want to scream at you: He wants to talk to you gently.

- **Sometimes we don't give him our full attention.** We suppose to be listening, but is distracted by other things.

5. God Loves Us

QUESTION: Can the bad way we treat God hurt him?
YES!

God loves us so very much. He never wants to be away from us. Sometimes we do these things that we talked about today that keep us from God. We like to be with the ones who love us—like our family. God is our Heavenly Father, and we need to spend time with Him more than we do anybody else.

God wants to do every good thing we ask of Him. He wants to do it, and He wants to do it as soon as possible. Sometimes that is quick—sometimes not. It depends on how obedient WE are.

QUESTION: How can we please him so he will do things for us and answer our prayers?

- Be obedient
- Quit doing wrong
- Be patient, and wait
- Being Responsible
- Listen for Him
- Do what He wants
- Trusting Him
- Repenting

6. Summary

Review and prayer.

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