Bible Point

God can take care of the people we love.

Bible Verse

“God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble” (Psalm 46:1).

Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will

• learn that God is their shield,
• discover that God has enough power to take care of everyone, and
• find that they can trust God to take care of them and their loved ones.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

1 Kings 17:17-24

Elijah raises the widow’s son from the dead.

God had sent judgment on Israel in the form of a drought and sent the prophet Elijah away from the land. Elijah had camped near a brook and trusted God to take care of him. God responded by sending ravens to feed Elijah morning and night. From there, God sent Elijah to the widow of Zarephath, who gave up her last bit of food for Elijah, did as the prophet requested, and was rewarded by having all the food she, Elijah, and her son needed. God had miraculously intervened and provided for them all.

Today’s passage begins some time later, when the widow’s son grew ill and died. Elijah was apparently still staying with her. The woman assumed that her son’s death was a result of some sin she had committed and that Elijah’s presence in her house had alerted God to her sin. So she blamed Elijah.

The child’s death was an opportunity for God to lead the widow a step further in her faith journey. Her first response to her son’s death was to lash out at God by lashing out at Elijah, God’s prophet. The Bible doesn’t state that God commanded Elijah to raise the child from the dead. But Elijah had faith that God intended this child to live. Acting on this faith, Elijah cried out to God, and God brought the child back to life. This is the first instance recorded in the Bible of someone being raised from the dead.

The widow’s response revealed her true trust in God. Elijah demonstrated his powerful faith, and as a result, the widow believed in God. Yet God’s people, the people of Israel, remained unfaithful, worshipping the pagan god Baal.

Prayer

• Consider John 11:39-44.
• How has God taken care of you and your loved ones? Explain.
• Pray: Lord, thank you for loving us so much and for providing for me, my students, and our families. Help me encourage my students that you…
Lesson 2

Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart.
- Make photocopies of the “Growing Together” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for your students and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

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Welcome

**SUPPLIES:** “Trust God” name tags (p. 24), markers, scissors, tape or safety pins

- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week’s lesson and “Growing Together” activities. Use questions such as “What did you do to learn about trusting God?” and “What did you discover about what God gives to us?”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that God can take care of the people we love.**

- Help children put on their name tags. If some children weren’t in class last week, or if some of the name tags were damaged, photocopy the “Trust God” name tags and have children follow the instructions to create new name tags.
- Tell the children that the attention-getting signal you’ll use during this lesson is clapping your hands three times. Ask children to respond by clapping their hands three times as they stop talking and focus their attention on you. Rehearse the signal with the children, telling them to respond quickly so you have plenty of time for all the fun activities planned for this lesson.

Attention Grabber

**Rabbit**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

Choose one child to be the Hunter. Have the rest of the class form groups of three. In each trio, choose one child to be the Rabbit. The other two children will face each other and join hands to form a rabbit hutch. (Explain to the children that a rabbit hutch is a pen for small animals, a place where the rabbits can go and be safe.)

If your class can’t be evenly divided by three, form as many groups of three as possible and have the extra children be Rabbits.

The Hunter will toss the foam animals at the Rabbits as the Rabbits run from the Hunter. The Rabbits may hide in a hutch and be safe from the Hunter, but they may only stay there for three seconds. No Rabbit may seek safety in the same rabbit hutch twice in a row, unless you have a small class and there is only one hutch. If a Rabbit is hit by one of the foam animals, he or she becomes the Hunter, the Hunter becomes a Rabbit, and the chase begins again.

The rabbit hutch may also move around the room, looking for Rabbits who are in danger of being hit and trying to reach them before they get hit.

Give the foam animals to the Hunter, and say “go” to start the game.

Stop the game every now and then and have the Rabbits trade places with children forming the rabbit hutch so that everyone has a chance to be chased.

BIBLE POINT

Repeating the Bible Point over and over will help the children remember it and apply it to their lives. Help children learn one point that will stay with them for days and even years to come.
After several minutes, end the game. Return the foam animals to the Learning Lab. Then gather the children on the floor, and ask:

- **What did you think when you were being chased by the Hunter?** Were you scared, excited, or what? (I was scared because I didn’t want to be caught; I thought it was fun to be chased; I thought it was exciting but scary all at the same time.)

- **How did you feel while you were in the rabbit hutch?** (I felt safe; I was happy; I was glad to escape from the Hunter.)

- **When do you get worried and scared about your safety in real life?** (When it’s storming; when I hear about people shooting each other.)

- **When do you feel safe in real life?** (When I’m at home with my mom and dad; when I’m tucked into bed; when I’m at church.)

Say: **We all worry about our safety and the safety of the people we care about.** Today we’re going to talk about a widow who was worried about her son. She learned that God can take care of the people we love. The Bible even tells us that God wants to protect us. Listen to our Bible verse for today, Psalm 46:1. Open your Bible to Psalm 46:1, and read it aloud for the children: “God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.”

A refuge can be a place where we go to when we want to feel safe, or it can be a person we go to who will make us feel safe. God is like that. God is ready to help us at any time with anything, because God cares about the people we love. Now we are going to hear the story of this widow and her son and find out how God helped them.

**Bible Insight**

Though little is known of Elijah’s family or background, he is one of the outstanding heroes of the Bible. His importance in God’s plan for the ages is apparent from his predicted reappearing before “the great and dreadful day of the Lord” (Malachi 4:5) and from his presence with Moses and the Lord upon the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-13; Mark 9:2-3; Luke 9:28-36).

**Bible Exploration & Application**

### The Widow’s Son

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

Keep the children gathered in a circle on the floor. Say: **In today’s story, a widow’s son gets sick.** Let me hear you cough as if you were sick. (Pause.) Now let me hear your cough when it gets worse. (Pause.) **Good!** You’ll also need to count out loud to three. Let’s do that. One! Two! Three! And you’ll need to cheer. (Pause.) Listen carefully, because I may also ask you to do certain motions when I tell you to, OK? Let’s begin!

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 17:17–24, and show the passage to the children. Say: Today our story is about Elijah, the widow we learned about last week, and her son.

Elijah stayed with the widow for a long time. One day the widow’s son got sick. Have the children cough. **He didn’t feel well at all.** And every day he got **worse and worse.** Have the children cough more and more. **One day, he stopped breathing.** Hold your finger on your lips and say “hush.” **The boy died.** Have the children stand up and then fall down and lie prone on the floor.

The widow was very sad. Her husband had already died, and her son was the only family member left to her. She loved her son, and she felt terrible when he died. The widow said to Elijah, “Why has this happened? Why did you do this to me? Did you come to remind me of my sin and punish me by killing my son?”
Have the children sit up and return to their circle. Continue with the story. **Elijah** felt bad, too. He took the boy and placed him on a bed. Then he prayed: “God, this kind widow has allowed me to stay in her home. She is taking care of me just as you asked. How could you let her son die? Lord God, please let this boy live again.”

Then he stretched out over the boy three times. Have the class count to three.

God heard Elijah’s prayer and made the boy start to breathe again. Elijah carried him downstairs to his mother and said, “See! Your son is alive!”

Have everyone jump to their feet and cheer. Then the widow said, “Now I know that you are a man from God. God really does speak through you!”

Have the children sit down again. Then ask:

- **What’s it like when you’re sick?** (I feel awful; I have to stay inside; I get to stay home from school.)
- **How do you feel when someone you love gets sick?** (Worried; mad; sad; upset; when my mom’s sick, I feel hungry because there’s no one to make dinner.)
- **How do you think the widow felt when her son got sick?** (Sad; scared for him; worried.)
- **What would you have thought if you had seen the boy come back to life?** (I would have been scarred; I would have known that God had healed him; I’d be surprised to see a real miracle.)
- **Why did God answer Elijah’s prayer?** (Because he loved the boy; because he cared about the widow; because he’s a loving God.)
- **Tell about a time you were worried because you were sick or because someone you knew was sick. What happened?** (My mom was really sick once, and the rest of us had to do all the cooking; my grandfather was in the hospital for an operation, but he’s OK now; my uncle died in a car wreck.)

Say: **Being sick is no fun. And it can be scary when people we love are sick. Most of the time, people get better. But sometimes they stay sick for a long time, and they might even die, as the widow’s son in our story did. It’s hard to understand some things that happen. But we do know for sure that God loves us. God promises that no matter what happens, he’ll take care of us. And we can trust that God can take care of the people we love, too. Now let’s try a game to see how well we do at protecting our loved ones without God’s help.**

### Count the Bubbles

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, bubble solution, bowl

If you don’t have any bubble solution, mix two parts dish soap and one part water to make bubble water.

Have the children stand up and spread out to form a big circle. Say: **Each of us will have a chance to make bubbles. When it’s your turn, dip a wand in the bowl with bubble water and wave the wand in the air. Then all of us will count the bubbles before they pop. I’ll go first.**

Dip a large bubble wand in the bubble water and wave it vigorously in the air. Have the children quickly count as many of the bubbles as they can. When all of the bubbles have popped, see how many bubbles the children counted. Then have the child on your right make bubbles.
Continue around the circle until everyone has had a chance to make bubbles. Then have the children sit down.

Ask:

• **How many bubbles did you count?** (2; 15; 31.)

• **Could you count them all? Why or why not?** (I couldn’t count them all before they popped; there were too many at once.)

Say: It was hard to count all the bubbles because there were so many of them. Maybe it seems like there are too many people for God to take care of all at once, just like there were too many bubbles to count all at once. But God is not like us; he has special power.

Another thing we sometimes do is worry about the people we love, and we try to keep them safe and protected. When I blow these bubbles, try to keep them from popping. Dip a wand in the bubble water one more time and wave it in the air. Have the children try to prevent the bubbles from popping. Set the large bubble wands out of sight, and then ask:

• **How did you feel when your bubbles popped?** (Sad; disappointed; like I did a bad job.)

• **What could you have done to keep all the bubbles from popping?** (Nothing, there were too many of them; maybe I could have tried to stop them from landing on the floor.)

Say: It’s OK that we couldn’t keep all the bubbles from popping. We can’t always keep the people we love safe, either. We’re human beings. We’re not like God; we don’t have the power that he does. That’s why we have to trust God. Listen to this Bible passage about God.

Read Psalm 147:4-5.

God could have counted all of the bubbles, and God could have kept them all from popping. We couldn’t keep them safe, and we couldn’t keep track of them all. But God can keep track of everything. He knows how many stars there are and what each one is called—he even knows exactly how many hairs we have on our heads! God loves all of the people in the world, and we can trust God to take care of the people we love. God covers us with love. Let’s find out how that works.

**HANDS-ON BIBLE**

Have children open their Hands-On Bibles to Psalm 46 and look at the activity called “Hey! Quiet Down!” on the opposite page. Read the beginning of the activity aloud as children follow along. Say: We’re going to try this activity now. For the next 10 seconds, sit quietly and don’t say anything. Please don’t look around or make faces at one another. I’ll tell you when time’s up.

Use a second hand on your watch or a clock (or count to 10 slowly), and signal children when time is up.

Ask: • **What did you hear?** (I heard Ryan breathing next to me; I heard a door close from a room down the hall; I heard someone cough.)
Elijah Raises the Widow’s Son From the Dead

**Say:** Let’s try it again, but this time we’ll close our eyes. I’m going to give us more time this time. We’ll be quiet for 30 seconds. Ready? Here we go.

When the time is up, have children open their eyes.

**Ask:** • What did you hear this time that you didn’t hear before? (I heard Ashley giggle; I heard my stomach growl.)

• How do you think sitting still in our classroom is like having our quiet times with God? (It’s like this when I’m in my room, praying; sometimes it’s quiet like this very early in the morning when nobody else, not even the dog, is awake yet.)

**Say:** Psalm 46:10 tells us that we should be still before the Lord, like we did just now. That’s something we can practice even at home. But this psalm actually begins with our Bible verse for today, Psalm 46:1. Let’s say it together from our Hands-On Bibles: “God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.” When we are troubled about something, especially if someone we love needs God’s help, we can trust God to help out. God wants to be our refuge—that is, our safe place. God can take care of the people we love, just as we know he takes care of us. Sometimes we just have to be still and get quiet before God to remember that.

Have children sit quietly for a moment and think about what that’s like; then they should each turn to the person next to them and repeat the Bible Point. Have that person reply, “Yes, God can take care of the people we love.” Have children take turns repeating the Bible Point and affirming one another. Close in prayer, thanking God for being our refuge and strength, not only for us but for the people we love.

### A Shield

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, scrap paper

Scatter the black insects on top of a small table. Distribute the foam animals to the children. Also let children each crumple up several sheets of scrap paper. **Say:** Let’s pretend that these foam animals and crumpled papers are bad things that happen to people.

**Ask:** • What bad things are you afraid might happen to the people you love? (They might get in an accident; my parents might get divorced; my dad might move away; my grandma might die.)

• What does it feel like to have bad things happen to you? (Scary; it feels like someone beat me up; I just want to cry.)

**Say:** Now let’s try to knock the bugs off the table with the bad things. Have the children stand around the table, about five feet away from it. Have them throw the foam animals and crumpled papers at the bugs.

**Ask:** • What happened to the bugs when you threw things at them? (They fell off the table; nothing, because I missed.)

• How do you think you would feel if you were one of these bugs and things were coming at you? (I would be nervous; I wouldn’t like it.)

**Say:** Everyone gets hit by troubles sometimes. These bugs were scattered by the troubles that hit them. In the same way, we can feel like our whole lives have been messed up when troubles hit us. But God promises to protect us and the people we love. Listen to what the Bible says.

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If there are kids in your class who are going through tough times, give them plenty of time to talk about what’s happening in their lives. Take time to pray about their situations, asking God to care for them and everyone else involved. You may also want to send a note of encouragement to each child in your class later this week. In your notes, tell the children that you love them and that you are praying for them. And don’t forget to follow through on that promise!
Lesson 2

**Jesus Connection**

Read Psalm 3:3, and then say: A shield is something that we can hold on to when bad things are coming against us. The Bible says God will be our shield; we can hold on to God when we are troubled. Let’s be shields now for the bugs. Have all the children stand in a circle around the table to shield the bugs. Gently toss the foam animals and papers at the bugs. It’s OK if some of the items sneak through the shield. Gather the children and say: You did a good job of protecting the bugs! You were a good shield to them. We can trust God to be a good shield for us, too, when bad things are coming at us.

Ask: • How do you feel, knowing that God promises to be your shield? (Good; happy; less worried.)

• What do you think God will shield you and your family from? (From getting sick; from dying; from being separated.)

Say: God can take care of the people we love. God promises to take care of us, to protect us, and to be a shield for us. But bad things still happen sometimes. Even God’s own Son, Jesus, faced bad things and died on a cross for us. That’s hard for us to understand, but God had a bigger plan in mind. Jesus came back to life!

Sometimes grown-ups don’t understand, either, why God allows some things to happen. But when God says he’ll shield us, he doesn’t mean we’ll never get hurt. What God means is that even when we do get hurt, he’ll be with us and love us and take care of us. Jesus knew that God, his heavenly Father, loved him and would be with him no matter what. Like Jesus, we can trust our heavenly Father with the people we love because God promises to be with all of us and love all of us, all of the time. Let’s work together now on one more special reminder of the way God cares for us and the people we love.

Return the black insects and foam animals to the Learning Lab.

**Closing**

**Family Shields**

**SUPPLIES:** “Shield” handout (p. 36), paper or chalkboard and chalk, scissors, markers

Before class, photocopy the “Shield” handout for each child.

Ask: • What did you learn today? (I learned that God protects us; I learned that God loves us; I learned that God will be with me even when bad things happen.) Give each child a photocopy of the “Shield” handout, and have children cut on the solid lines. Show the children how to fold the handout on the dotted lines so that it looks like a shield. On the middle section, have them draw pictures of their families. Then have them fold their shields over the pictures. On the outside, have them write, “God is our shield.” Print the words on a piece of paper or a chalkboard to help children with spelling.
When children have finished, pray: **God, thank you for being a shield that protects us. We know that you can take care of the people we love.** Help us remember to trust you. In Jesus’ name, amen.

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**Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.**

Photocopy the “Growing Together” handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage children and parents to use the handout to plan meaningful activities on this week’s topic. Follow up the “Growing Together” activities next week by asking children what their families did together.
Shield

Photocopy this handout for each child. Have children cut out the shield and then draw a picture of their families on the inside of the shield. Then have children fold the flaps and write “God is our shield” on the outside.
Today the first- and second-graders learned that no matter what happens, God can take care of them and the people they love. The children learned that God has amazing power and that he promises to care for them. Children also learned that God shields them from bad things and that even when bad things do happen, God is with them and loves them. Use these ideas to help children trust in God’s protection.

**Elijah 2:**

*God can take care of the people we love.*

**Soup Mix**

Put together this soup mix to give to an under-the-weather friend. In a plastic bag, combine 4 teaspoons of chicken-broth mix or 4 chicken-broth cubes; 1 teaspoon of parsley flakes; ¾ cup of instant rice; and 1 teaspoon of dried, minced onion. Write these directions on a recipe card and place the card in the bag: “Boil 4 cups of water in a 2-quart pan; then stir in the contents of this package and wait (if you can!). While the pot bubbles and stews, remember that I am praying for you! P.S. You can enjoy the soup as soon as the rice is tender.”

**God Watches**

Together sing “God Is Watching” to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It”:

- **God is watching over everyone I love.**
- **God is reaching down his hand from above.**
- I can trust God for his care
- ’Cause God is everywhere.
- **God is watching over everyone I love.**

**Good-Night Video**

Being separated from parents can make children anxious. When you must leave your child overnight, make a video to reassure your child. On the video, read a bedtime story, say a prayer, and share one way that God will take care of you and your child while you’re away. For example, you might say that God is providing a good time for you and has provided grandparents to take care of your child. When you return home, talk about how each of you felt God’s care while you were separated.

**Emergency**

When the widow’s son died, she knew to go to Elijah for help. Make sure that your child knows what to do and who to call in an emergency. Trim a 4x6-inch card with red ribbon. Write your local emergency numbers on it. Cut out photos of friends, neighbors, and nearby relatives. Glue the photos to the card and write their phone numbers next to their pictures. Post the card near your telephone or on the refrigerator where it can be easily accessed. With your child, pray for and thank God for each person he uses to take care of those you love.