Worship Theme:

God helps us in our troubles.

Weaving Faith Into Life:

Children will praise God for helping them through troubles in their lives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Let’s Praise God! (up to 25 minutes) | Sing  
- “Trust in the Lord” (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 11)  
- “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” (track 19)  
- “Praise Him” (track 5)  
- “He's the King” (track 2)  
- “Sing to Him” (1 Chronicles 16:9) (track 8)  
- “Give as Freely” (Matthew 10:8) (track 18) | KidsOwn Worship Kit: Songs From FaithWeaver  
Classroom Supplies: CD player |

Preschool

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Let’s Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes) | * Army Men  
Be surrounded by “soldiers,” and ask for God’s help. | Classroom Supplies: Toy army men |
| | What Trouble?  
Discuss God’s help, and learn a rhyme. | Classroom Supplies: Ball |
| | * Trouble Tag  
Play tag, and ask for God’s help. | |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Let’s Learn the Point!</strong> (up to 25 minutes)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Ambush!**  
See how God fought for Jehoshaphat. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
Bibles, markers, poster board |
| **Troubled Times**  
Illustrate psalms about God’s help in times of trouble. | **KidsOwn Worship Kit:**  
*Sing-Alongs From FaithWeaver:*  
“He Cares for You” (1 Peter 5:7) (8)  
**Classroom Supplies:**  
TV, DVD player, paper, pencils, trash can |
| **“He Cares for You”**  
Sing along with a video, and give their troubles to God. | |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Let’s Pray!</strong> (up to 10 minutes)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **The Offering**  
Offer their gifts to God with a cheer. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
Offering bowls |
| **Stand Strong**  
Pray, using words that Jehoshaphat used. | **KidsOwn Worship Kit:**  
*Songs From FaithWeaver:*  
“Sing to Him” (1 Chronicles 16:9) (track 8)  
**Classroom Supplies:**  
CD player |
| **“Sing to Him”**  
Sing in praise as Jehoshaphat’s singers did. | |

* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together. Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Let’s Learn the Point! Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.*
The events in this passage occurred at about the same time that Elisha succeeded Elijah as Israel’s prophet. Jehoshaphat was the king of Judah at about the same time that Ahab was the king of Israel. God was with Jehoshaphat in his early days as king because he followed God and didn’t worship Baal. Jehoshaphat’s father, Asa, had done much to return the people of Judah to the worship of God, and Jehoshaphat followed in his footsteps. Because of God’s blessing, Jehoshaphat grew powerful. Leaders of the lands around Judah sought his favor by bringing him gifts (2 Chronicles 17:1-13). The number of fighting men available to Jehoshaphat was astounding—over a million men, according to 2 Chronicles 17:14-18.

When Jehoshaphat learned of the threat of a vast army invading from Edom, he didn’t respond by sounding the battle cry and mustering his troops. Rather, he went to the Lord to discover what God wanted him to do. This king was a man who had his priorities right!

God responded to Jehoshaphat’s prayer through Jahaziel. His message must have been tough to accept. How could they win a battle without fighting? But Jehoshaphat responded in faith and encouraged his fighting men to meet their enemies without initiating the fighting.

At that time it was not unusual for soldiers to go into battle shouting and chanting war cries. However, Jehoshaphat’s commandment was different. Instead of trumpeting their own strength or courage, his soldiers were to summon God’s help through their praise and worship.

In the ambushes described in 2 Chronicles 20:22-23, the allied armies coming against Judah apparently began fighting one another in the confusion of battle. This event is similar to the victory God provided Gideon and his 300 men against the Midianite army (Judges 7:22).

After God won the battle for them, the armies of Judah carried off the plunder of war; then they gathered specifically to praise God for the victory. When they returned to Jerusalem, they went immediately to the Temple to praise and worship God there.

The fear of God came upon the surrounding countries, and Jehoshaphat and Judah were rewarded with rest as a result of their obedience. This pattern persists throughout Chronicles: Kings who were obedient to God experienced victory and peace, while those who were disobedient experienced turmoil and defeat. Those who turned to God had their problems solved. Those who turned away from God simply created more problems for themselves.

**Devotion for Leaders**

We who follow Christ are citizens of his amazing kingdom. When we face difficult battles, Jesus is beside us. He gives us wisdom—and a strategy that eventually leads to victory and peace.

**Weaving Faith Into Your Life:** Reread Jehoshaphat’s prayer in verses 6-12. Notice that he declares the power of God, remembers the works of God, and acknowledges his dependence upon God. Consider the battles in your own life, and write a similar prayer of praise and petition to God.
Why We Worship for Leaders

We worship God today because he helps us in our troubles. Our daily trials must seem somewhat trivial to the one who created the entire universe. But God cares about each trial we face. God cares when we’re frightened, and he offers comfort. God cares when we’re puzzled, and he offers wisdom and discernment. No matter how big or how small our troubles, we can be confident that God not only cares but will offer just the right kind of help to get us through it. We serve an awesome God! Let’s worship!

Easy Prep for Leaders

Let’s Praise God!—Place all the chairs and tables in disarray. Face chairs toward the back and sides of the room. The room should look like chaos. If your children generally sit on the floor, find other ways to mess up the room. For example, you might upend tables and wastebaskets and spread them around the spot where the children usually sit.

Troubled Times—Read the instructions for the activity and determine whether you’ll need more verses than the five listed. If you need more verses, look up trouble in a concordance and choose verses that tell of God’s deliverance.

“He Cares for You”—Set up a TV and DVD player to use with the the Sing-Along Songs From FaithWeaver DVD.

Preschool Activities—Refer to the preschool pages for preparations.

Web Help—Get bonus leader tips and ideas at kidsownworship.com.

Let’s Praise God!

Play Songs From FaithWeaver, Fall 2010 as children arrive. Greet children by name, and say to each one, “Trust in the Lord.” Ask children to excuse the mess and find their way to a seat or a spot on the floor. Ask the older children to help the younger children find a place to sit.

When everyone has arrived,

Say Hello, everyone! We’re worshipping God today because God helps us in our trouble.

As you look around the room in disgust,

Ask • Have you ever been in such a messy room?
    • Have you ever been in a mess of trouble in your life? Tell us about it. (Answers will vary.)

Say Stand up if you trust in God with all your heart. (Pause.) Let’s see what happens when we do. Let’s sing “Trust in the Lord.” As we sing, I’ll point to various sections of the room. When I point to you, straighten up your section of the room. As you sing each verse, point to a different group of kids.

Sing “Trust in the Lord” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.
Sometimes it looks like we are in a mess of trouble.

**Ask**

What happens to that mess when we trust God with all our heart? (God can help us see how to make it better; God helps us fix it.)

**Say**

God begins to straighten out what looks like a mess to us. God helps us with our troubles. God is the greatest help when we’re in trouble, because God is the greatest! There is no one more powerful than God.

Sing “I Sing the Mighty Power of God.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say**

When Jesus was on earth, he went to God many times when he needed God’s help. Jesus showed us that God helps when we’re having trouble. Today we praise the God who is the greatest because he helps us when we have troubles.

**Ask**

When will God help us? (When we ask; when we need help.)

**Say**

God helps us day and night. God helps us morning, noon, and night. Let’s sing “Praise Him” and thank God for helping us with our troubles.

Sing “Praise Him.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say**

There is no other who can help as well as God can, because God is our Lord and king. Let’s sing “He’s the King.”

Sing “He’s the King.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say**

When I think of how God helps us when we have troubles, it makes me want to praise him! Let’s thank God with all our hearts as we sing.

Sing “Sing to Him” (1 Chronicles 16:9).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say**

We praise the Lord because he helps us with our troubles. When I think about how much he helps me, I want to worship him all day. We serve a great God who helps us in times of trouble. Let’s think about what we can do to serve him.

Sing “Give as Freely” (Matthew 10:8).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Pray**

God, we thank you so much for helping us with our troubles. We know that, no matter what happens to us, you’re always with us to help us, to guide us, and to love us. Help us learn to rely on you and the help you give. In Jesus’ name, amen.
Let’s Learn the Point!

Preschool Activities, pages 171-172

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let’s Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They will work well with both elementary and preschool children.

Elementary Activities

Ambush!

Have the children sit in rows facing the front of the room—they don’t need to be seated in chairs. Make as many rows across as you need to fit all the children in. Make the aisles so that someone could pass between the rows from the front of the room to the back of the room as pictured.

Say

We have an amazing Bible story today about how God helps us with our troubles. Our Bible story comes from 2 Chronicles 20:1-30, and it’s about a man named Jehoshaphat, who was the king of Judah.

Jehoshaphat was in a mess of trouble. Let’s play a game to find out what it would have been like to be Jehoshaphat. I need one volunteer to play Jehoshaphat and stand at the front of the room. Choose a volunteer.

Jehoshaphat trusted in God. He was a leader who turned the people back to God. One day, Jehoshaphat got news that a great army was coming to make war against Judah. All of you seated in rows represent that army. The army was very fierce, and Jehoshaphat didn’t stand a chance. Army, let’s see the best fierce expression you can make.

Jehoshaphat, your job is to try to get to the back of room by going down one of these aisles. If you can get to the back without anyone tagging you, you have succeeded. Army, you stay seated and reach out and carefully tag Jehoshaphat, as he goes by. Feel free to use your “fierce face” and snarl at him as he goes by. Allow “Jehoshaphat” to try to navigate more than one aisle. The volunteer won’t be able to make it on his own.

Ask

• What do you think Jehoshaphat did when he realized he was outnumbered and there was no way his army could win? (Looked for more men; surrendered.)

Say

Jehoshaphat prayed. And his prayer ended with these words, “We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you.”
• What do you think God said about the upcoming battle? (That he would be with Jehoshaphat.)

Say

God said, “Do not be afraid...Go out and face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you.” God even told them where the attacking armies would be. Sounds good, right? So Jehoshaphat had singers leading the army, singing, “Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever.” Jehoshaphat, you’ll be happy to know that we’re not going to ask you to sing, but say those words for us, please. (Pause.)

• What do you think happened? (Jehoshaphat won.)

Ask

Say

Let’s see what happened. The Bible says that the Lord set up ambushes against the bad guys’ army. Ask an adult volunteer help you to remove children from one of the aisles while saying, “Ambush!” Next another amazing thing happened. All the bad guys started fighting each other! All Jehoshaphat’s army had to do was stand and watch what God did. Imagine yourself standing there watching the enemies who came to destroy you destroying one another instead! Imagine God himself coming to fight your battles for you!

• What can Jehoshaphat do now?

Ask

Say

Jehoshaphat, you can safely go down this aisle now. God created ambushes for your enemies, and the ones who were left turned on one another and fought one another. What an amazing story of God’s help in times of trouble!

• What’s the best thing to do when you find yourself in a mess of trouble like Jehoshaphat’s trouble? (Ask God for help; pray.)

• Why did God help Jehoshaphat in his time of terrible trouble? (Because Jehoshaphat trusted God; because Jehoshaphat was faithful.)

• When has God helped you in a time of trouble? (Answers will vary.)

• Why does God help you in your times of trouble? (Because God loves me; because I ask.)

Say

The amazing thing about God is that he loves all of us and will help each one of us in times of trouble.

Troubled Times

Have the children sit at tables in groups of four. Provide materials so that each child can make a poster. Give each group a reference for a verse from Psalms about God’s help in times of trouble. Verses that would work well include Psalms 9:9; 46:1; 107:6; 138:7; and 143:1.

Say

The Bible is full of verses about how God helps us in times of trouble. Jehoshaphat knew that God would help him through
Preschool Activities

Jehoshaphat Trusts God for Victory

2 Chronicles 20:1-30

Worship Theme:

God helps us in our troubles.

Easy Prep for Leaders

None necessary.

Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

• Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
• Have Theo teach kids the rhyme in “What Trouble?”
• See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today’s worship session.

* Army Men

Say


Jehoshaphat loved God and helped God’s people serve God.

Ask the children to sit on the floor in the middle of the room. Ask them to help you set up the toy army men in a circle around them.

Say

Jehoshaphat found out that a great big army was coming to destroy him. Let’s pretend you’re in Jehoshaphat’s kingdom and bad men surround you.

Ask

• If these men were real and not toys, how do you think we could escape from them?

Say

We’re in trouble. Everyone stand up and shout, “Trouble!”

Ask

• What do you think Jehoshaphat did?
  • Who do you think could help Jehoshaphat and his army?

Say

Jehoshaphat knew that God would help him, so he prayed to God. He got all the people to pray, too. Everyone stand up and shout, “Help, God!”

All the people fasted. That means they didn’t eat. They spent their time praying instead.

Then one man of God stood up and said, “Don’t be afraid! You won’t have to fight tomorrow. The battle is the Lord’s. Take your positions, and see what God will do.” “Take your positions” means stand in the right place for battle. Let’s all stand in place as if we’re ready for battle.

Jehoshaphat asked the singers to praise God. Let’s sing a song of praise to God, just as they did. Allow the children to choose a praise song to sing together. Now you can help me show you what God did for his people. Instead of fighting Jehoshaphat’s army, the bad guys starting fighting each other. Have the children help you knock all the toy army men over.

Jehoshaphat’s army didn’t have to fight at all—just as God said! God saved Jehoshaphat and his people! God will help you when you’re in trouble, too.
Preschool Activities

What Trouble?

**Ask**
- If God helps you when you’re in trouble, does that mean God will get you out of trouble with your mom when you disobey?
- What kinds of trouble will God help you with?

Hold up a ball, and gently toss it to one of the kids.

**Say**
Pretend you are outside playing and some mean kids take your ball and are mean to you. Take the ball gently from the child who is holding it.

**Ask**
- How can God help you with this kind of trouble?

**Say**
Raise your hand if you can tell us about a time God helped you out of trouble.

I’m going to teach you a rhyme for all of us to say together. But first, we need to know what “on the double” means. Sometimes people say, “On the double!” when they want something to be done really fast. If I were an army captain, I might tell my troops to march on the double. Show me how they would march on the double. (Pause.) That’s really good. They would march very fast. We’re going to use that in our rhyme.

Let’s say this rhyme together:

**God will help me**
(Throw your hands up in the air.)
**In times of trouble.**
(Fold your hands in prayer.)
**God will save me**
(Hug yourself.)
**On the double!**
(March quickly in place.)

God helped Jehoshaphat on the double! God helped him right when the battle was happening. God knows when we’re in trouble, and he knows exactly what kind of help we need.

* Trouble Tag

Have the children stand in a circle around you.

**Say**
We are going to play Trouble Tag. It’s like Freeze Tag with walking instead of running. We don’t want anyone to get hurt.

One person is “It.” Choose a volunteer. We’ll walk around the room. The one who is It will tag people. If it tags you, you’ll freeze because you’re in trouble. If you’re frozen, you need to call out one kind of trouble—getting lost, for example—that you could get into.

One of you will be the Helper. That person will unfreeze you and save you from trouble.

When you’re saved from trouble, you can walk around again.

Play the game several times. Choose a new person to be It and a new person to be the Helper each time.

**Ask**
- What kinds of troubles does God help us with?
- When does God help us with our troubles?
- Why does God help us with our troubles?

**Say**
That’s right. God helps us because he loves us.

**Pray**
Thank you, God, for helping us in times of trouble. In Jesus’ name, amen.
his troubles. Another person in the Bible who knew that was David. David wrote a lot of the book of Psalms. He wrote many verses about how God helped him through troubles. People chased David and tried to kill him many times. Every time, God delivered David from his troubles.

Look up the Scripture verse I’ve given you. Talk about what it means. Then make a poster that illustrates the verse. For example, some verses talk about how God hides you from trouble. You could make a poster illustrating a hiding place or a safe place. When each of you has finished a poster, select one person from your table to read the verse to the entire group while the rest of you hold up your posters for the rest of us to see. Allow a few minutes for the children to prepare their posters. Let the groups share the verses and the posters.

Ask
- What do these verses teach us about God? (God is strong; God will make a safe place.)
- What do they teach us about the person who wrote the verses? (He trusted God; he prayed.)

Say
God is right there when we need him. God is with us in times of trouble. He’s always there to help us. You can be a person like Jehoshaphat who trusted in God.

* “He Cares for You”*

Have kids stay in the small groups from the “Troubled Times” activity (or form new groups), but have them stand and spread out so they can easily see the TV.

Show the Sing-Along Songs From FaithWeaver track “He Cares for You” (1 Peter 5:7) (8). Encourage kids to sing along and do the motions.

Ask
- In what ways does God care for people? (God helps people get well; he helps people with their troubles.)
- How is God good to you? (God gives me friends; God loves me; God keeps me safe.)
- When you’re upset about something or in trouble, what can you count on God to do? (God helps me figure things out when I’m confused; I can count on God to help me.)

Say
Take a minute to talk with your small group about times God has helped you. (Pause.)

Now think about something you need God to help you with right now. After you’ve thought of it, write it on a slip of paper. If you need help, ask an older person at your table to help you.

Allow a few minutes for kids to write.

Say
First Peter 5:7 tells us to cast all our troubles on God because he cares for us.
What does it mean to cast all our troubles on God? (To ask God for help with our troubles; to believe God will take care of us.)

We can give God all our troubles just as Jehoshaphat did. We don’t have to worry about anything because God cares for us. Crumple your trouble papers right now, and tell God about what’s troubling you. (Pause.)

Now ask God to take care of your problem and give you peace. (Pause.)

You can be confident that God heard your prayer and will help you with your troubles. Let’s take a moment to throw away our trouble papers. We don’t need to worry about those troubles anymore! God will help us! Now let’s praise God and thank him for helping us with our troubles.

Let’s Pray!

The Offering

As we put our offering in the bowls, let’s do what Jehoshaphat did and praise him. We’re going to use a cheer that starts out a whisper and ends in a shout of praise. Pass the offering bowls and lead the following cheer, beginning in a whisper and ending in a shout.

Give thanks to the Lord!
Give thanks to the Lord!
Give thanks to the Lord!
For his love endures forever!

Jehoshaphat had so much to thank God for, and so do we. His prayer is a good example of praise to our wonderful God. God—with his amazing love and power—will help us when we need help, just as he helped Jehoshaphat.

Stand Strong

When Jehoshaphat faced his troubles, he stood strong in the Lord because he knew God would help him. If you’re facing troubles, stand up. If you would like to help someone stand strong, stand beside that person and join hands or touch his or her shoulders and say, “Stand strong.” When everyone is ready, we’ll pray a prayer using some of the words that Jehoshaphat used in his prayer. God hears our prayers, just as he heard Jehoshaphat’s prayers.

Repeat after me:

God, when we’re in trouble,
We will cry out to you.
You will hear us and save us,
For your love endures forever.
In Jesus’ name, amen.
“Sing to Him”

**Ask**
- What did the singers do when Jehoshaphat’s army was ready for battle?
- What happened after they sang praises to God?

**Say**
Let’s sing our praise to God as Jehoshaphat’s singers did. Let’s sing “Sing to Him,” as our closing prayer.

Sing “Sing to Him” (1 Chronicles 16:9).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.