

# WHEN TROUBLE COMES

## LESSON 3: JESUS HELPS US GROW

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*Through this lesson children will learn that difficulties, although not pleasant, help us grow and mature in our walk with Jesus. Jesus is there, lovingly helping us through these times of refinement.*

### TOPICS

Discipline, Spiritual Growth

### OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE (5 minutes)

Praise and worship are an important part of a believer's life and children often learn best by watching and repeating what they see. So please, praise and worship together.

### SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

#### Introduction:

People often treat discipline and punishment as the same. Why? Because they can both cause discomfort but there is a big difference between the two. Punishment is a penalty given for not obeying a law or a person of authority. Its purpose is usually to deter you from disobeying again. Discipline is different. Discipline is needed to transform us into the people God wants us to become, without it we are lost. Let's look at what God says about discipline.

#### Read Hebrews 12:5-13 (God's Disciplines Those He Loves)

Read the passage to the children as they follow along in their own Bibles.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. Whom does God discipline? *(Those that He Loves.)*
2. When God disciplines us, how is He treating us? *(As sons and daughters.)*
3. Why does God discipline us? *(God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His Holiness.)*
4. How does it feel to be disciplined? *(Unpleasant and painful.)*
5. What does discipline produce? *(A harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.)*
6. How should we endure hardships? *(As discipline.)*
7. Without God's discipline what would happen to our spiritual lives? *(They would become weak and feeble.)*

### ALTERNATE CLASS EXERCISE (10 minutes)

#### Transformed (See Separate Video)

#### Funny Face Activity (see page 2)

### APPLICATION (2 minutes)

Behold the beauty of wildflowers. They start off as seeds that fall to the ground, get covered in dirt and go through rainstorms. It's through these hardships that the seeds can grow into beautiful flowers. So, it is with us, the hardships in our lives stretch us and allow us to grow. We should never fear these difficult times, because we do not go through these times alone—God is with us every step of the way. Just as sculptors or artists create beautiful art, God creates beauty and purpose in those who love Him.

### NEXT WEEK

Next week we'll see how we can be real live Royal Rescue Rangers! You don't want to miss it!

### CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)

Further info? [Click here](#)

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## FUNNY FACE

### TOPICS:

Discernment, Guidance, Listening, Walking with God, Wisdom

### MATERIALS:

Paper  
Pencils  
Markers

### DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes

### PREPARATION

Give each child a pencil and two sheets of paper.

### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Instruct the children to pick up their pencils, and using their fingertips on their other hand, hold the edge of the first sheet of paper. Tell them to close their eyes and not to peek. If they peek, it will ruin the fun of the activity. Keeping their eyes closed, instruct them to draw a picture of themselves or a family member. Remind them not to peek. This will be a silly drawing to help the children learn an important principle, so let them have fun with this project.

Allow them several minutes to complete their drawings. When the time is up, have them open their eyes to view their pictures. Allow time for sharing their drawings with each other.

Next have the kids draw the same person on the other sheet of paper, but this time with their eyes open. Allow the same amount of time.

### Discussion Questions:

- 1) Which picture was easier to complete?
- 2) Which picture was more fun to draw?
- 3) Which drawing had greater detail?
- 3) Which picture turned out best?

Going through life without God is like trying to draw a picture with our eyes closed. It may seem like more fun to lead our own life and leave God out of the picture, but the longer we leave God out of our lives the more confusing and messed up they become. When we ask God into our lives and spend time reading the Bible and praying, our lives become clearer and more meaningful. God always has a better plan for our lives, because He sees the big picture.

