

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

When we have God, we have nothing to fear.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will say, "With God's protection, I will not be afraid."

KEY PASSAGE:

Exodus 10:3-19, The Plague of Locusts

MEMORY VERSE:

"God gave us his Spirit. And the Spirit doesn't make us weak and fearful. Instead, the Spirit gives us power and love. He helps us control ourselves." 2 Timothy 1:7 (NirV)

SUMMARY:

Some of us are scared of bugs and spiders. Even if we're not, none of us would want to encounter a swarm of them. Pharaoh's people encountered not only locusts, but gnats, flies, frogs, and many other things. But God's people sought out God and they were protected. Whatever might scare us, we can turn to God and trust him to give us courage.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for always protecting us.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

MEMORY VERSE

"God gave us his Spirit. And the Spirit doesn't make us weak and fearful. Instead, the Spirit gives us power and love. He helps us control ourselves." 2 Timothy 1:7 (NirV)

"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT)

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7 (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Divide the room in half. Pick one side to start and have them all shout the first word, then the other side shouts the second word, and so on until they finish the verse.

SMALL GROUP:

Ask if anyone already has this verse memorized from previous memory verse studies. Have those kids recite the verse by themselves, then review it with the other kids.

SKIT

FEAR TALK: BUGS

ITEMS NEEDED:

A monster mask

An all black costume for The Dark

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

2 M or F

CHARACTERS:

The Monster

The Dark

The stage is set up like a talk show, with two chairs angled toward one another at center. The Monster and The Dark sit in the chairs.

MONSTER: Good morning, and Welcome to Fear Talk. I'm the Monster that lives in a closet.

DARK: And I'm the Dark.

MONSTER: Each week we're going to talk about something that gives us the heebie jeebies.

DARK: That's right, Monster. I know it's going to surprise a lot of people to hear this, but even the two of us are afraid of things.

MONSTER: It doesn't surprise people who know us. We're really nice guys.

DARK: We are, and we have fears just like everybody else.

MONSTER: Dark, what's one thing that really scares you?

DARK: Oh man, that's easy. Bugs!

MONSTER: Oooh, I don't like bugs either. Spiders and centipedes and creepy crawlies. They freak me out.

SKIT

DARK: They freak you out? Do you know where spiders and centipedes and creepy crawlies like to live the most?

MONSTER: Gas station bathrooms?

DARK: No, man! They live in the dark!

MONSTER: Whoa! That must be a nightmare for you.

DARK: Total nightmare, man. Everywhere I go, it's bugs. Bugs making webs. Bugs making nests. Bugs making their creepy little bug sounds. It makes me itch just thinking about it!

MONSTER: Well, Dark, there's a story in the Bible about bugs that teaches us we don't have to be afraid.

DARK: Really? How did that work?

MONSTER: Well, there were these people in Egypt who were holding God's people as slaves. God told the Egyptians to let His people go, and when they said no, He sent ten plagues on Egypt.

DARK: Let me guess. There were bugs.

MONSTER: Lots of bugs.

DARK: What kind of bugs?

MONSTER: Gnats. Flies. Locusts.

DARK: Locusts? Yuck! Those are the big boys too.

MONSTER: Yes they are, and they did a lot of damage to Egypt.

DARK: This is terrifying!

MONSTER: But God protected His people, and He used those horrible ten plagues to convince the king of Egypt to finally let all the people go!

DARK: Man, He would have only needed one with me. Bugs, ick! All this bug talk is making me itchy!

SKIT

MONSTER: Kids, I know sometimes life can be scary, but if we trust in God, we do not need to be afraid. He's got us, and He will take care of us.

DARK: That's right! Trust in God, and be thankful you're not The Dark. Excuse me while I go take another bath and try to get rid of all these cobwebs! Yuck!

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A can of OFF bug repellent

How many of you spray yourselves with bug repellent before you go outside? If you're camping overnight, especially in the woods, and especially without a tent, this bug spray is a life saver. Not only does bug spray reduce your chances of itching and scratching bites for the next several days, it saves you from the aggravation of feeling bugs buzzing and crawling over you all night.

Just as bug spray can ward off bugs, we have a God who is so powerful, He can take away our fears. Whether your biggest fear is public speaking, rejection, loneliness, or whatever else might terrify you, God loves you and wants to give you the courage to face those fears. We can trust that God will always look out for us and protect us, and we can face our fears knowing that no matter what happens, God has our back.

Fear can keep you from doing a lot of things, from camping to standing up for what's right. Use bug spray for bugs, but use God for the big scares. He will be with you, and He will take care of you!

LARGE GROUP GAME

CRAB RACE

ITEMS NEEDED:

Tape to mark a starting line and a finish line.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose several players for this game. Kids will race from the start to the finish by crawling on their hands and feet. The catch is, they will be inverted. Instead of crawling belly down, they must crawl belly up, going either forwards or backwards.

VARIATION:

To make things more interesting, add some orange cones the kids have to weave around on the racecourse.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

The stories about the plagues with bugs remind us that God protects us when we are afraid.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

When we have God, we have nothing to fear.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will say, “With God’s protection, I will not be afraid.”

KEY PASSAGE:

Exodus 10:3-19, The Plague of Locusts

INTRO:

Do you know what the most popular type of movie in the world is? It’s not comedy. It’s not drama. It’s not action. It’s horror. Every year there are more horror movies made than any other type of film, and not just in the US! Horror films are popular – in Mexico, Japan, Korea, Europe, and just about any place they make movies. There’s a wide range of movies that fall under horror too featuring monsters, animals gone wild, natural disasters, diseases, haunted houses, and of course... clowns. There’s no limit to the types of scares you find in a horror film because there’s literally no limit to the kinds of things that scare us. People are afraid of many things including loneliness, darkness, confined spaces, heights, animals, and yes, even clowns.

A little fear is good for us. Fear keeps us from doing things that are foolish, reckless, and dangerous that could bring harm to us. But fear can also be a bad thing that keeps us from living life and experiencing the blessings of God. When those types of fears creep into our life, we can rely on God to help us find the courage to face them so that we can fear less!

We’re going to talk about some very big, very real fears in this series, and the first fear is one that affects just about everyone: bugs. Bugs are a part of God’s Creation. Bugs do everything from pollinate plants to making honey to cleaning up poop. But as useful as bugs are, most of us would rather just never see them. Sure, we all love fireflies and lady bugs, but how many people do you know that are fans of mosquitos, roaches, or spiders?

Bugs played a key role in one of the big stories of the Old Testament. When God sent ten plagues on the nation of Egypt in an effort to set the children of Israel free from slavery, three out of ten were bugs. For the people of Egypt, it was a living nightmare. I think it’s safe to say we’d think it was a nightmare too.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

But the real story is not about the bugs, but about the all-powerful God who used those bugs to set His people free!

READ EXODUS 10:3-19

MAIN POINT:

We usually don't have much trouble with bugs. That's because we usually only see one or two bugs at a time. But imagine a whole swarm of flies or gnats or locusts. Imagine there being so many bugs that they're literally in everything – your hair, your food, your clothes. Pretty horrifying, isn't it?

As bad as it was for the Egyptians, God spared the Israelites the worst of these plagues. The Israelites were faithful to God, and God not only protected them from the swarms, He saved them from an even greater danger. The biggest fear the Israelites had was remaining slaves forever. God used His tremendous power to show the Egyptians that He is the Almighty God. He used the plagues to show Israel that they had placed their faith in the One True God. He used the plagues to show us that when we are under God's protection, we do not need to be afraid.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Being under God's protection means we have given our hearts to Jesus. Instead of living for ourselves and doing whatever we want, we submit to the Bible and choose to live the way God wants us to live. God gives us protection first and foremost from the punishment for our sins. By the blood of His Son Jesus, He forgives our sins and gives us eternal life. He also gives us the Holy Spirit to guide us as we strive to follow the example Jesus set for us.

When we are under God's protection, we can rely on Him to help us face the biggest of fears. God can give us the courage to speak up for justice and for what is right when no one else will. He can give us the courage to say no to peer pressure and do the right thing instead of following the crowd. God can comfort us when we're afraid, giving us peace in troubled times. He is always with, always watching over us, always protecting us.

Now, will God protect us from spiders and mosquitos and other creepy crawlies? No, He won't. That's why we have bug sprays and fly swatters. But if we find ourselves in difficult times with no way out, as the Israelites did in Egypt, we can trust that God is with us. God will carry us through our trials. God makes all things work out for the good of those who love Him, and if we trust God, He will guide us every step of the way.

I don't know what your biggest fear may be, whether it's heights or snakes or the dark or even bugs. But I do know that there are fears greater than these that only God can help us face.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

No matter what fears are in our heart, I hope you'll give all of them to God – even bugs. Our God is bigger and stronger than anything we will ever fear, and if we have God's protection, we never need to feel afraid!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for always protecting us.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

Are you afraid of bugs?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

2 Timothy 1:7

Without putting the verse on display or looking it up, see how many kids can recite the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

See who can imitate the sounds and the movements of different kinds of bugs.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Exodus 10:3-19

What did God want Pharaoh to do?

What was Pharaoh's answer to Moses?

What bugs did God send to plague Egypt?

How did God use the bugs to help save His people?

What should we do when we feel afraid?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us your protection when we feel afraid.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

Are you afraid of bugs?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:**2 Timothy 1:7**

Without putting the verse on display or looking it up, see how many kids can recite the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

See who can imitate the sounds and the movements of different kinds of bugs.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**Read Exodus 10:3-19**

Why did God send so many plagues to Egypt?

How did God use these plagues and bugs to save His people?

How do we know God will protect us from things we are afraid of?

What should we do when we are afraid?

Is there something that scares you that you'd like to give to God today?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us your protection when we feel afraid.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

FILL IN THE BLANK

_____ refused to set the Israelite slaves free.

PHARAOH

God sent _____ to speak to Pharaoh.

MOSES (Or Moses and Aaron)

When Pharaoh refused to set the Israelites free, God sent a plague of _____ to eat the Egyptian's crops.

LOCUSTS

When we are _____, God will protect us.

AFRAID

When we need courage, we can give our fears to _____.

GOD



FEAR LESS

Our God Can Conquer Fear

4 Week Children's Ministry Curriculum

MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Fear<Less Lesson 1

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: BUGS



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Some of us are scared of bugs and spiders. Even if we're not, none of us would want to encounter a swarm of them. Pharaoh's people encountered not only locusts, but gnats, flies, frogs, and many other things. But God's people sought out God and they were protected. Whatever might scare us, we can turn to God and trust him to give us courage.

Exodus 10:3-19, The Plague of Locusts



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

What are some things you and your family are afraid of? How do you avoid those fears? Which ones are you unable to avoid? If someone's facing a scary situation this week, no matter how big or trivial, pray with them.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why did God send bugs to Egypt?
- How did God use the bugs to save His people?
- How do we know God will protect us when we're afraid?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

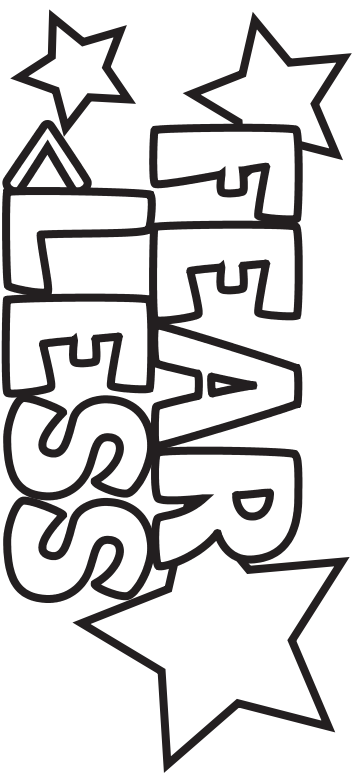
"God gave us his Spirit. And the Spirit doesn't make us weak and fearful. Instead, the Spirit gives us power and love. He helps us control ourselves." 2 Timothy 1:7 (NirV)



PARENT TIME:

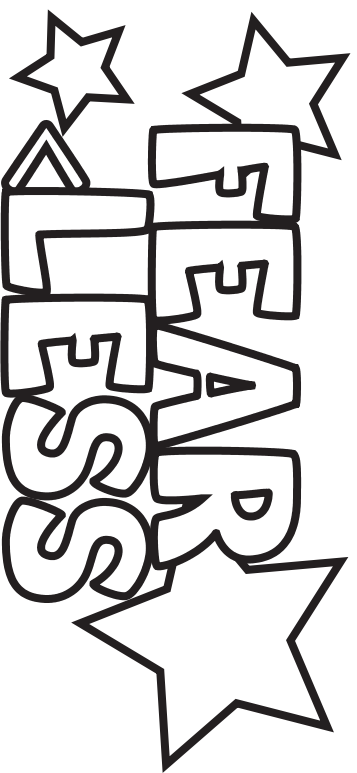
What you need to know:

Some fears are easily avoided. Others are not. For those times in our life when we must face our fears, we can rely on God to give us courage. Ask God to help everyone in your family to face their fears this week and thank Him for His protection.



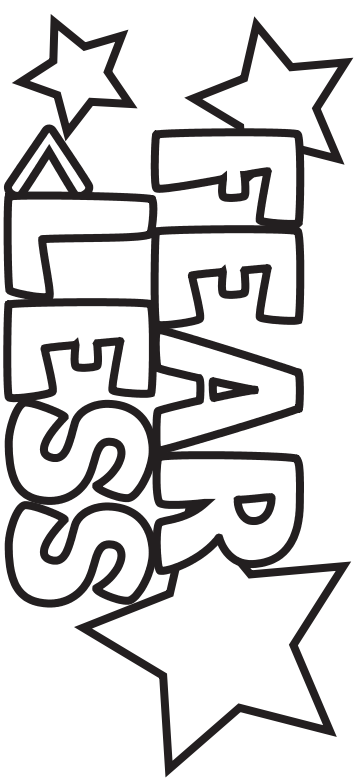
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- 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)



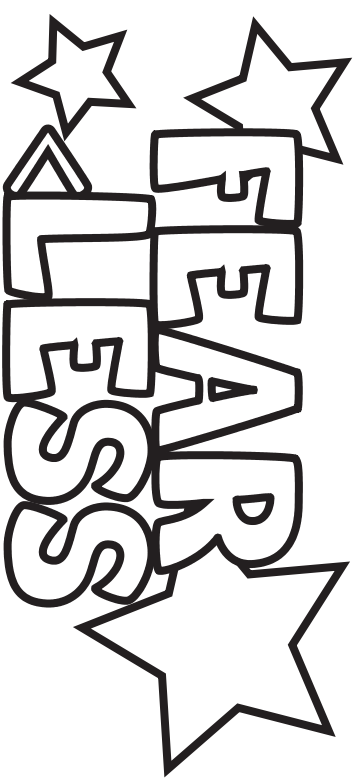
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- 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids make a big craft using fuzzy pipe cleaners. They can use them to make the bodies, legs, and even wings and antennae. These bugs will be a reminder that God protects us when we are afraid!