

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Sometimes God moves in ways we cannot see for our good.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn we can trust God because He moves in ways we can't see.

KEY PASSAGE:

Exodus 14:5-28, Crossing the Red Sea

MEMORY VERSE:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

With Pharaoh's army on one side and the Red Sea on the other, the Israelites thought they were doomed. But God made a way that surprised them all. Kids will play Camouflage (<https://www.fatherly.com/play/camouflage-is-the-very-best-version-of-hide-and-go-seek/>) as a reminder that God moves in ways that we don't expect.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for all you do for us.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

MEMORY VERSE

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways remember him. Then he will make your paths smooth and straight.”

- Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” - Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” - Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” - Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Read the verse in a normal speed with the kids. Then read it super slow. Then read it super fast!

SMALL GROUP:

Split the verse up into sections, as many as you have kids in the group. Give each child a section to read or recite. See how well your group can read the verse together!

SKIT

MOVING WITH MR. SIMMONS: CAMOUFLAGE!!

ITEMS NEEDED:

An easy chair

A few boxes, tables, etc

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

2M

CHARACTERS:

Mr. Simmons - A fitness guru

Ernest - A lazy, out of shape man

Ernest is asleep in his chair. A box, and end table, and a few other "hiding spots" are scattered on stage. Mr. Simmons calls to him over a microphone from off stage.

SIMMONS: Ernest! Oh Ernest!

ERNEST: *(wakes up)* Oh no. It's him again! Is it Sunday already?

SIMMONS: It's your pal, Mr. Simmons.

ERNEST: You're not my pal! You're a pest!

SIMMONS: I have a game for you, Ernest. The game ends when you find me, and so does your movement for the day.

Ernest stands up. He races around the stage looking for Mr. Simmons.

ERNEST: Oh yeah? I like that idea! Where are you?

SIMMONS: You have to find me!

ERNEST: Are you behind the chair?

SIMMONS: No I'm not!

SKIT

ERNEST: Are you in this box?

SIMMONS: No I'm not!

ERNEST: Are you under the table?

SIMMONS: No I'm not!

ERNEST: Are you off stage left?

SIMMONS: No I'm not!

ERNEST: Where are you, you menace?

SIMMONS: Look at you up and moving, Ernest, getting your exercise.

ERNEST: Exercise? Oh, so that's your game.

SIMMONS: I surprised you, didn't I? Kind of like how God surprised Israel when he parted the Red Sea. And then surprised them again when he closed the sea over top of the Egyptians! Boy, they never saw that one coming.

ERNEST: Come out of that hiding spot, Simmons! Show your face!

SIMMONS: I told you, I'll go away when you find me.

ERNEST: Why are you doing this to me?

SIMMONS: You mean doing good things for you in ways you can't see? To show you that we can trust God to move in ways we cannot see because He always works things out for the good of those who love Him!

ERNEST: I told you, I trust the Lord! I don't trust you!

SIMMONS: Come on, Ernest! Find me!

ERNEST: I don't want to exercise anymore!

SIMMONS: Come on Ernest, keep moving.

Ernest runs off stage right.

SIMMONS: Oops, he's moving this way!

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A remote control

Hide a remote control on stage, preferably somewhere in the same set where the skit takes place. Pick several kids to come on stage, and task them with searching for the remote. See if they can find it within 30 seconds.

Have you ever sat down on the couch and turned on the TV? When that happens, it can only mean one thing – the remote control is hiding somewhere in the couch cushions. We can't see it, but we know it's there. It has to be, because the TV can't turn on all by itself.

God wants us to trust Him. He wants us to know that even when we can't see it, He is moving on our behalf. Knowing God is moving in seen and unseen ways can help us find the faith to move when He calls us to move. We can go forward trusting that God will make a way even when we think it is impossible.

God is still moving among His people, just as He did for Israel. We can trust God will work things out for our good, even if we never see it with our eyes.

LARGE GROUP GAME

CAMOUFLAGE

ITEMS NEEDED:

A hula-hoop

INSTRUCTIONS:

This game can be played by the entire group. Choose one person to be It. It will stand inside a hula-hoop and count to twenty while everyone hides. After counting to twenty, It will open their eyes and look for people. Instead of searching for them, they must stay inside the hoop and call out anyone they can see in their hiding spots.

After calling out everyone they can see, they shut their eyes and yell, "Camouflage 15!" Everyone who is hiding must run, tag It, and then run back to their hiding places while It counts to 15. It will have another chance to spot people until they can't find anyone else and then call "Camouflage 10." Everyone must run and tag It while It counts to ten and get back into hiding. Continue down to Camouflage 5, and see if It can catch everyone.

VARIATION:

This can be done with a small group competing for prizes, or the whole room. Two people standing in two hoops several feet apart can also be It with a large group.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Sometimes we can't see God moving, but He is still moving on our behalf!

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Sometimes God moves in ways we cannot see for our good.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn we can trust God because He moves in ways we can't see.

KEY PASSAGE:

Exodus 14:5-28, Crossing the Red Sea

INTRO:

Begin this lesson by having a handful of kids come on stage to play another quick round of Camouflage.

How many of you guys have played Camouflage before? It's a different twist on hide and seek, isn't it? In traditional hide and seek, everyone hides and the seeker has to come and find people. In Camouflage, the seeker stays in one place, but... the hiders can't go too far away, or else they'll be caught trying to hide a second time when the seeker makes them come and tag in. Camouflage is a game that doesn't favor fast kids over slow kids or older kids over young. It's not enough to find the best hiding spot. You have to find the best hiding spot that's close enough to the seeker to get in and out within seconds. You have to move quickly and quietly to keep the seeker from finding you out as you race away from the seeker back to safety.

If there's one thing that frustrates people about God the most, it's the fact we cannot see Him. While the Bible warns us that we, as humans, cannot look upon the face of God in our earthly form, that's little comfort for people who want to believe in God but like to see some evidence He's really there. We know that Jesus was real and that many people not only saw Him in person but knew Him as their friend and teacher. We also know from the Bible that when we give our hearts to Jesus, He sends the Holy Spirit to dwell with us. The Holy Spirit is that little nudge, that still, small voice that tells us when God want to move. But just like God the Father and His Son Jesus, the Holy Spirit is someone we cannot see.

How do we know God is there? How do we know He knows about our problems? How can we trust Him to make a way for us, especially when we can't see a way around ourselves?

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Last week, we talked about the Israelites, who had the faith to gather their things and move quickly when God told them to leave Egypt and head for freedom. They were barely out of Egypt when they came to a dead end at the Red Sea. They looked back and saw the entire Egyptian army coming after them. They couldn't see a way out, and some of them forgot all God had already done and wondered aloud if anyone was watching out for them.

God was watching, and He was moving. What He did was nothing short of amazing.

READ EXODUS 14:5-28

MAIN POINT:

The Israelites couldn't see a way to safety. In their minds, there was no way over, through or around the sea, not with the army of Egypt bearing down on them. God stunned them all when He made a way for them to cross through the sea, walking on the sea floor on dry land. Then as soon as the Israelites were free and the chariots of Egypt attempted to cross by the same path, the sea swallowed the enemies of Israel. God moved. He made a way. Israel was truly free.

No one saw God's hand part the sea, but they saw the result. God is moving even when we can't see the results. Stories like these should give us the faith to trust God in every situation. God is always there, and He's always moving on our behalf. We can move forward in faith, trusting God will make a way for us.

DRIVE IT HOME:

It's unfair that we hold God to a standard that we don't hold other things. Every day we put our faith in things we cannot see. We don't see the computers that run traffic lights, but we trust them to make our path clear while stopping the path of people who might hit us coming the other way. We cannot see the cell phone towers or the wifi router that keep us all connected on our phones, but we trust that every time we unlock our phones, we will connect not just to the worldwide web, but to our friends and family. We don't see oxygen, but we've all been breathing it from the moment we were born. Right now, even as I've been speaking to you, every one of us has taken countless breaths during this service, trusting that a gas we cannot see can keep us alive.

God gave us the Bible to show us the many ways God has already moved on our behalf. From creating the world we live in, to saving the Israelites from destruction, to aiding a shepherd boy in defeating a giant, to sending His only Son to die for our sins, God has done amazing things out of love for us. God wants us to trust Him and follow Him, and He's given us all these personal testimonies to give us the courage to follow Him.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Once we begin to follow God, we will soon see His invisible hand at work in our own lives. We will continue following God not because of someone else's experience, but our own. Experience tells us that our phone will connect us to Amazon because it's connected us before. Experience tells us that the air is full of oxygen because we haven't dropped dead for lack of proper air. Experience will tell us God will make a way for us to do great things for Him because God has always made a way before. Even though we can't see Him, we can trust God is not far. He is always moving, always working. As Paul wrote in Romans 8:28:

READ ROMANS 8:28

No, we can't see God, but we can trust He is there. He is with us, and He is working everything out in ways we cannot see. Once you start following the Lord, it won't be long before you do see Him move, working all things out for good because He loves you.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for all you do for us.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

What is your strategy for hide and seek?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Proverbs 3:5-6

Split the verse up into sections, as many as you have kids in the group. Give each child a section to read or recite. See how well your group can read the verse together!

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a game of Camouflage with your small group, if space allows.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Exodus 14:5-28

How did the Israelites become trapped at the Red Sea?

What did God do to block the Egyptians' view of the Israelites?

How did God help the Israelites cross the sea?

How did God stop the Egyptians once and for all?

Is God still there with us, even though we can't see Him?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for being there for us, even when we cannot see you.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

What is your strategy for hide and seek?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Proverbs 3:5-6

Split the verse up into sections, as many as you have kids in the group. Give each child a section to read or recite. See how well your group can read the verse together!

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a game of Camouflage with your small group, if space allows.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Exodus 14:5-28

Why were the Israelites in trouble at the Red Sea?

How did God help the Israelites cross the sea?

How did God stop the Egyptians once and for all?

How do we know God is there for us, even though we can't see Him?

How can we have faith to know that God will be with us?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for being there for us, even when we cannot see you.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

FILL IN THE BLANKS

The Israelites became trapped when they reached the ____ Sea.

RED

The ____ army was chasing the Israelites.

EGYPTIAN

____ stretched out his hand, and God parted the waters of the sea.

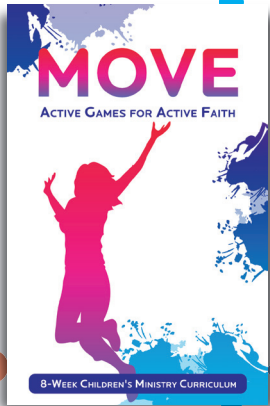
MOSES

The Israelites walked across the bottom of the sea on ____ land.

DRY

God is always moving, even though we cannot ____ Him.

SEE



MAKE IT STICK

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

Move Lesson 4

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: CAMOUFLAGE



IN THE CAR:

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

With Pharaoh's army on one side and the Red Sea on the other, the Israelites thought they were doomed. But God made a way that surprised them all. The game Camouflage reminds us that God moves in ways that we don't expect. Exodus 14:5-28, Crossing the Red Sea



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

What are some things we trust are there even though we cannot see? What about oxygen? What about wi-fi? Make a list with your kids, and say a prayer that God will help all of you to have faith in Him.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- How were the Israelites trapped at the Red Sea?
- How did God move to save His people?
- How do we know God is there, even though we cannot see Him?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)



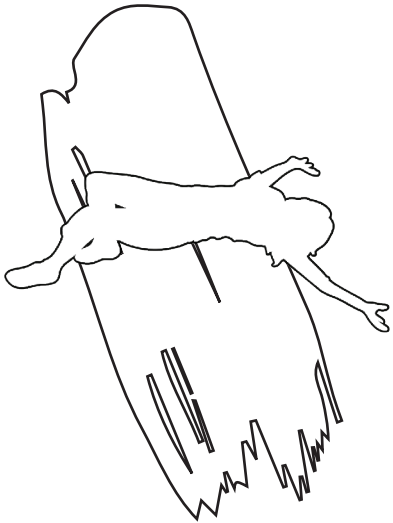
PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

Wherever we go, God is with us. When we choose to follow Him, He will be with us. Even though we cannot see Him, we can trust He is there. Ask God to help your kids grow in faith, trusting God will always be there for them.

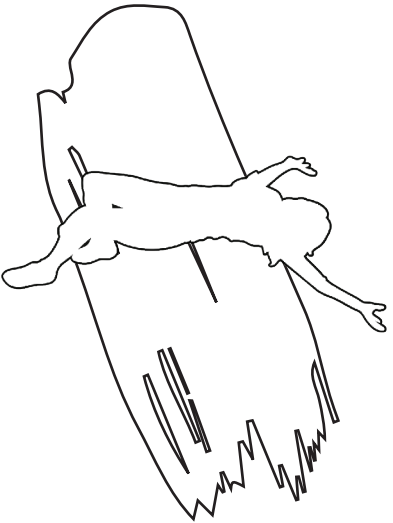
CRAFT ACTIVITY

Give all of the kids pinwheels, and let them write or draw on the fins with markers. The kids can write something to remind them that they can trust that God is there, even though we can't see Him, just as we know the wind is there when a pinwheel spins.



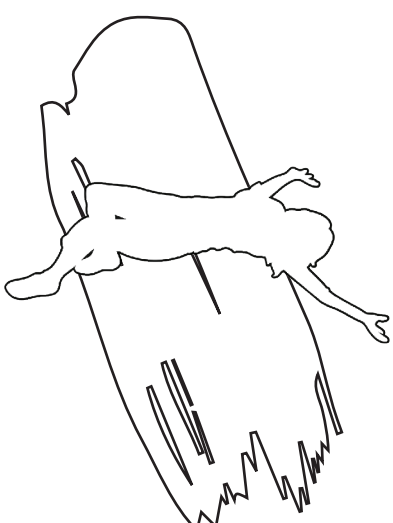
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- Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)



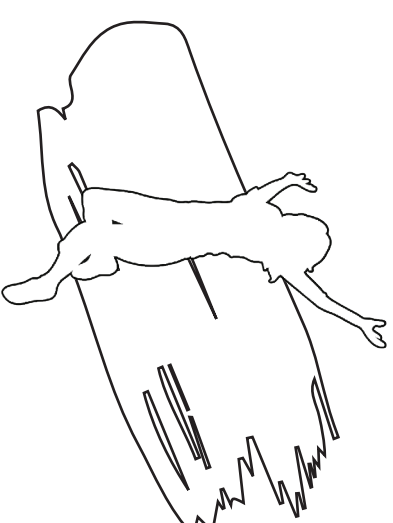
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