


the
Jesus 
Storybook
Bible
Curriculum

The Singer

The Sermon on the Mount, from Matthew 6, 9; and Luke 12

☉ Please see the curriculum Introduction .pdf for more guidance on praying with your group and on Scripture memory.

☉ The total allotted time per lesson is 45 minutes. This is the minimum amount of time it would take to complete the whole lesson. The time can easily be extended to increase the lesson to as much as 1.5 hours. If you have more than the allocated 45 minutes, please use the extra time to extend the time for activities, to learn the memory verse, and to pray.

☉ The “Notes for Teachers on the Text” section is intended as explanation of the Bible text and advance preparation for you only; it is not expressed in terms or language the children could understand.

The Jesus Storybook Bible Curriculum
By Sally Lloyd-Jones and Sam Shammas

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Recap of the Previous Story

3 min. 

- ☉ Welcome the children and ask them to sit in a circle.
- ☉ Briefly recap the main point of the previous story: “Last time we learned about prayer. We also memorized the Lord’s Prayer that Jesus taught us to pray.”

- ☉ Pray the Lord’s Prayer aloud together.
- ☉ To lead into the theme of today’s story, ask: “What does the word ‘worry’ mean? Correct, it means to feel uneasy or anxious.”

Activity Introducing the Story

10 min. 

Aim: To expend energy and learn about worry and trust.

Materials: 2 blindfolds; objects to form a simple obstacle course, e.g., cushions, boxes, or anything soft.

1. Say: “There are many things that make people feel worried. We’re going to play a game about trust and worry.”
2. Divide the circle into two teams saying: “I have set up two obstacle courses.”
3. Point to the two small obstacle courses you have set up ahead of time.
4. Walk through the course, explaining how the obstacles are to be navigated.
5. Explain the game: The first child on the team is blindfolded. The rest of the team guides the child through the course by calling out instructions; e.g., “Take two steps to the right”; “Walk forward”; “Stop”; etc. If an obstacle is touched, then the child has to go back to the top of the course and start again. Once the child reaches the opposite wall, they can take off the blindfold, run as fast as they can back to their team, and hand the blindfold to the next child, who is then guided through the course. The first team to get all the members through the course wins.

6. Ask the first child on both teams to wear the blindfold, then say “Go!” Make appropriate remarks as the game is played; e.g., “Trust your team to guide you”; “Don’t start until you have the blindfold on”; etc.
7. Announce the winning team. Ask the children to help you put away the obstacle courses and then sit back down in the circle.
8. Ask: “How did you feel going through the course blindfolded?”
9. Get answers and stress that everyone felt worried and helpless, but once they trusted their team to guide them they got faster and better.
10. Say: “In the story today there are some people who are worried about things. Let’s find out what Jesus has to say to them.”

For larger groups: You may want to ask them to navigate the course in pairs so that this game does not take too long.

Join the children in the circle and announce the title of the story. Read aloud pages 228–235 from *The Jesus Storybook Bible* or listen to CD2 track 15.

Notes for Teachers on the Text

Jonathan Edwards, in his sermon entitled “Christian Happiness,” said that there are three reasons why any Christian who knows Christ, and knows they know Christ, can be completely content and free from worry. The three reasons are: your bad things will turn out for good; your good things can never be taken away from you; and the best things are yet to come.

First, your bad things will turn out for good. If God is with you, then not only do you know that he hates the evil in the world—he hates the suffering and the brokenness—but Romans 8:28 says he will walk with you through it, so that even the bad things will have good effects in your life and your heart.

Second, your good things can’t be taken away from you. What are your good things? You are adopted into the family of God; the Holy Spirit has been put into your life; you are justified by Christ’s death for you on the cross; you are being transformed into the image of Christ; all your sins past, present, and future have been forgiven. Those things can’t be taken away—ever.

Third, the best things are yet to come. Eventually you are going to be transformed into a being so glorious—something far greater than your aspirations or anything you can even imagine—and you will live with God forever in the new heaven and new earth.

Lack of worry comes from an assurance that these things are true, from an assurance of your salvation.

Jesus says, “Do not worry ... consider ... why do you worry ... consider ...” (Luke 12:22–27). If you are worried, if you are anxious, you’re not considering, you are not thinking. Put it like this: you can either talk to your heart or you can listen to your heart. At some point your heart’s going to start to say, “Oh, no, what am I going to do about this? What am I going to do about that?” At that point, there are two things you can do with your heart. You can sit and listen to your heart and ... worry. Or you can pray and talk to your heart.

You can consider the birds and the flowers. You can consider your salvation. You can consider that your bad things will turn out for good; your good things can never be taken away from you; and the best things are yet to come. You can pray and say to your heart: “Think about this ... don’t forget that ... don’t forget who it is that made you. Don’t forget who it is that saved you. Consider!” Your inner peace and your inner poise are not based on circumstances at all. You can have confidence and trust in God’s wise and good control of your life.

Understanding the Story

15 min. 

Aim: To understand that God made us, loves us, and is very pleased with us because of Jesus, so we do not need to worry.

Materials: Decorating items, e.g., stickers, pieces of colored paper, tin foil, etc.; child-safe glue; crayons; copies of the handout (the last page of this document).

1. At the end of the story, say: “Remember the words to the song? The words are ‘God made us. He loves us. He is very pleased with us.’”
2. Ask: “Why is God pleased with us?”
3. Get responses, and then stress that God is pleased with us because of Jesus. Remind the children of what they have discovered so far: that we are all sinners, but Jesus takes away our sin by dying on the cross; and if we have faith in him, then God is pleased with us because he is pleased with Jesus.
4. Say: “Let’s add the words ‘because of Jesus.’ ‘God made us. He loves us. He is very pleased with us because of Jesus.’ Let’s say it all together.”
5. Say the words aloud together and repeat until everyone has it right; then give each child a copy of the handout and a crayon. Distribute the decorating items. Say: “This game is called ‘Missing Pictures.’ In each of the four empty boxes we will need to draw the missing picture so that the story is complete. Let me read you the story first. I will say ‘missing picture’ when I get to a box.” (If possible, it would be helpful to put the words and boxes from the handout onto a blackboard ahead of time so that you can point to it throughout the activity and the children can follow you more easily.)
6. Read the words on the handout aloud, saying “missing picture” when you get to an empty box. Then ask the children to draw pictures in the empty boxes. Encourage them to help each other to think of ideas for the pictures. Give them about 7 minutes to draw the four pictures (1–clothes/money/food; 2–birds; 3–flowers; 4–people, including a picture of themselves). Walk around admiring their work and helping them draw things as needed.
7. After about 7 minutes, ask the children to help you put away the decorating items.
8. Ask: “What did you draw? Let’s start at the beginning of the story. ‘Wherever Jesus went lots of people went too. The people were worried about missing picture and lots of other things.’ What were people worried about; what did you draw for **missing picture number 1**?”
9. Get a few different answers; then say: “Yes, they were worried about clothes, food, money, and lots of things. Jesus talked to them about that. ‘Jesus told them that God looks after the missing picture and the missing picture.’ What did you draw for **missing pictures numbers 2 and 3**. Correct, birds and flowers. Do birds have to worry about where they get food; do they go shopping for food like we do? Nod or shake your head.”

10. Show the children the picture on pages 230–231 of *The Jesus Storybook Bible* and say: “Birds don’t look like this!”

11. Then show them the picture on page 232 and say: “What about flowers; do they look like this? Are they worried about where they will get their clothes? Nod or shake your head.”

12. Say: “Back to our story. ‘Jesus said that the birds and the flowers don’t worry about things. Missing picture are more important to God than the birds and the flowers. God does not want us to worry. God looks after us too.’ What did you draw for **missing picture number 4**. Correct, people again, but in this picture you could also draw yourself.”

13. Say: “We are more important to God than the birds and the flowers, so if God looks after them and does not want them to worry, we know he also looks after us and does not want us to worry. Remember the words of the song. Let’s say it again all together. ‘God made us. He loves us. He is very pleased with us because of Jesus.’”

For larger groups: You may want to divide the group into smaller circles, each with a teacher. Each teacher can then help their circle draw the missing pictures.

Drawing the Story to a Close

1 min. 

Say: "God takes care of everything he has created, including us."

Say: "We can trust God to look after us. We do not have to worry."

Jesus in the Story

2 min. 

Ask: "What did we discover about Jesus from today's story?"

Get a few children to share their answers aloud, commenting appropriately; then ask everyone to write an answer in the space on their handout.

Praying about the Story

5 min. 

Pray aloud, thanking God that he made us, he loves us, and he is very pleased with us because of Jesus. Ask God to help you and the children to trust him and not to worry.

Ask the children to think about a time when they find it hard to trust Jesus and to pray that God would help them to trust Jesus and to not worry.

To Learn at Home

2 min. 

☉ Say: "A good thing to do if you are worried is to pray. A good prayer to pray is the Lord's Prayer that we memorized together. So, instead of memorizing a verse, please keep learning and praying the Lord's Prayer."

☉ Pray the Lord's Prayer aloud together to end the lesson.

☉ Remind the children to give the handout to their parents.



Wherever Jesus went lots of people went too. The people were worried about

1

and lots of other things. Jesus told them that God looks after

3

2

the

and the

. Jesus said that the birds and

4

the flowers don't worry about things.

are more

important to God than the birds and the flowers. God does not want us to worry. God looks after us too.

Jesus in the Story



What did you discover about Jesus from this story?



Jesus

To Learn at Home

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Notes for parents: From the story we learned that God takes care of everything he has created, including us. Please help your child to learn and pray the Lord's Prayer.

www.jesusstorybookbible.com

