



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for October 17, 2010
Released on Wednesday, October 13, 2010**

"God Provides Safety"

Lesson Text: Psalm 46:1-7

Background Scripture: Psalm 46:1-7

Memory Verse: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

Psalm 46:1-7

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;
- 3 Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.
- 4 There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.
- 5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.
- 6 The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted.
- 7 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

TEACHER'S NOTES

There are many threatening situations in children's lives today. This lesson can help them to know God as their place of safety, their refuge.

The point of the lesson is not that God provides a place of safety where trouble cannot touch us but that God Himself is our place of safety in the midst of even the worst troubles.

God is a very present help. He is always with us, no matter where we are. It is the knowledge that God is with us in the midst of the trouble that can give us strength.

The situations described in this psalm are best thought of as hyperbolic or exaggerated situations. They are meant to show us that God is with us in every worst-case scenario that may befall us. Whether the danger comes from the earth itself, as in a natural disaster, or from the hands of evil men, God is our place of safety in every situation.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

To teach that God is with His people no matter what happens.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. God is always with us, His people.
2. God is with us in every kind of trouble.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For Helping to Remember, bring old magazines, safety scissors (blunt tip), paper, glue, and crayons for each student. Bring a roll of paper or a large poster board. At the top, print today's memory verse in pencil.

For the lesson activity, make a copy of the Word Search (located at the end of this lesson) for each student.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Have you ever been afraid or in trouble? (Teacher, allow responses, but do not force a child to speak.) Everyone faces trouble, and everyone is afraid sometimes. When we are in trouble, we need someone to help us. We may cry out for a parent or a friend—for someone we trust. It is very hard if we are all alone in a time of trouble.

TELLING THE LESSON

The good news is that we who have trusted Jesus are never alone. God is always with us. He is with us in good times, and He is with us in times of trouble. Our memory verse tells us, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). A hiding place or refuge, a strength, help—that is what God is for us wherever we are, whenever we are in trouble. Because of this, we do not need to be afraid, no matter what we are facing.

Some children face difficult things that happen because the earth God gave us is messed up as a result of sin. There are earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes. If the earth shakes, that is good reason to be afraid. But God is still with us. He is our place of safety.

Sometimes we face hard things because people make wrong, sinful choices. They may be angry with God or even rage against Him. Maybe a loved one does something that really hurts us. That is very hard, but even then, God is still with us. Some children around the world face terrible problems like war. Maybe you have a friend or a relative who is in the military in a part of the world that is at war. Maybe you are afraid for his safety. If your loved one has trusted Jesus, God is with him wherever he is. God is always right there to help him in any kind of trouble.

We can always call on God and find help and comfort. Even if the trouble does not go away, God can give us peace and strength in the middle of it.

God is our refuge, or our place of safety. Have you ever covered yourself with blankets to shut out something you were afraid of? That blanket made you feel safe. It was your refuge, your place of safety. God is the best place of safety, for we really are safe in His hands. Nothing can touch us there unless it is part of His good plan. That is a comfort to our hearts.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

What are you facing that seems fearful to you? (Allow responses, but do not force the issue. Some children may be facing extreme situations that would best be discussed in private or with a counselor. Be open to talking with children after class about their fears or problems.)

Remember that no matter what problem you may have or trouble you may be in, God is always with you. He is a very present help. He will never go away. He is with you right now, and He is always with you when you are afraid or in trouble. Just call on Him and ask for help.

If you have not yet trusted Jesus as your Saviour, today is a wonderful time to do so. If you are ready to do that for the first time, just let me know during the handwork time. I will be very happy to pray with you. Then you can know that God is always with you too.

HELPING TO REMEMBER

Let the children trace over the words of the memory verse at the top of the poster with crayon. Then let the children draw pictures or find pictures in magazines that show

times they might be afraid or in trouble. Let them glue their pictures on the poster, explaining them if they so desire. Emphasize that God is with them in each of the situations they depict.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

This verse tells about God and His people. A "refuge" is a safe place to hide. God is our safe place. He can give us strength. He is always with us, no matter where we are or what kind of trouble we may be facing. He can always give us help when we are in trouble. We can always call on Him.

This is the key verse that inspired Martin Luther to write his great hymn of the Christian faith, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." We can trust in God's strength to accomplish all that we need. With a single word He will one day defeat all evil and bring His people to heaven forever! Amen!

CONCLUSION

Lead the children to think of God as One who really cares for them and who can be trusted.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for being there when we need your help! All we have to do is ask in You in prayer, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week's lesson is "God Rules over the World." We should sing praises to God because he rules over the world. Study Psalm 46:1-7.

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY

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The Pulpit Commentary, Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Hrsg.), Bellingham, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc.

The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books.

Holman Bible Dictionary, Holman Bible Publishers

WORD SEARCH

"God Provides Safety" (Psalm 46:1-7)

Find each of the following keywords from the lesson:

CITY

EARLY

EARTH

FEAR

GLAD

GOD

HELP

HOLY

MELTED

MOUNTAINS

MOVED

REFUGE

RIVER

SEA

SHAKE

TROUBLE

VOICE

WATERS

C T D M Y H K N Y S X W P S M
E R U E O V A V W J I L M R P
A O K U T V P A S C E B E B A
R U D A B L E S E H N V X R E
T B D G G P E D A E I K S E A
H L M A O V U M R R E A R L Y
M E M E L D V E V L K E B I I
P O G N Q G F S R E T A W N E
Q U U V M U H O L Y N W L D E
N X W N G E Z D H G V R A E F
H G Y E T K H N B O I T A D T
B U T E W A I J I K O H V J X
X F I T E H I C R A Y B C B H
Y B C O Y S E N V Y K Z E T V
O C I F K X E C S R R I N Y I

18 words were placed into the puzzle.

SOLUTION TO WORD SEARCH

"God Provides Safety" (Psalm 46:1-7)

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+ T D M + + + + + + + P + +  
E R + E O + + + + + L + R +  
A O + + T V + + S + E + E + +  
R U + + + L E + E H + V + + +  
T B D G + + E D A + I + + + +  
H L + A O + + M R R E A R L Y  
M E + + L D + E + + + + + +  
+ O + + + G F S R E T A W + +  
+ + U + + U H O L Y + + + + +  
+ + + N G E + + + + V R A E F  
+ + Y E T K + + + O + + + + +  
+ + T + + A + + I + + + + + +  
+ + I + + H I C + + + + + + +  
+ + C + + S E N + + + + + + +  
+ + + + + + + + S + + + + + +
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(Over, Down, Direction)

CITY (3, 14, N)

EARLY (11, 6, E)

EARTH (1, 2, S)

FEAR (15, 10, W)

GLAD (6, 8, NW)

GOD (4, 5, SE)

HELP (10, 4, NE)

HOLY (7, 9, E)

MELTED (8, 6, NW)

MOUNTAINS (1, 7, SE)

MOVED (4, 1, SE)

REFUGE (9, 6, SW)

RIVER (10, 6, NE)

SEA (9, 3, S)

SHAKE (6, 14, N)

TROUBLE (2, 1, S)

VOICE (11, 10, SW)

WATERS (13, 8, W)