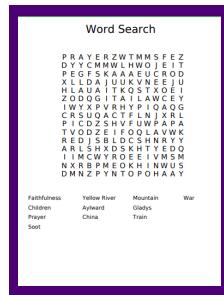




Lesson	Gladys Aylward
Bible Passage	Psalm 100:5b
Story Point	Gladys trusted in the Lord's Faithfulness
Key Passage	<p>Psalm 100 NIV</p> <p>¹ Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.</p> <p>² Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.</p> <p>³ Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.</p> <p>⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.</p> <p>⁵ For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.</p>
Big Picture Q & A	<p>Why can I trust the Lord in every situation?</p> <p>I can trust in the Lord because I know His character and He is God.</p>



leader bible study

Gladys Aylward's story is one of faith, strength, and ultimate trust in our Heavenly Father— seeing His **faithfulness** exemplified. Facing obstacles before she even became a missionary in China, she prayed and pursued God's plan for her, even when it wasn't easy.

Eight years later, Gladys was settled in Yangcheng and spreading the gospel to visitors at the Inn of Eight Happinesses, when the war broke out. More and more bombings led to her taking on and caring for the orphans of the town. She trusted in the Lord's faithfulness to provide for all 94 children- children in need of clothes, shelter, and food- she trusted in Him to make a way! The war made it too dangerous to stay, so she trusted in Him to see them through the mountains on a 12 day journey, across a river, and on a train with almost 100 kids to take them to Sian. They traveled over rough terrain with no little to no shoes and food, finally making it to the Yellow River where they waited until a boat could take them across. Then they took a train, but it couldn't take them all the way to Sian due to a bombed out bridge. They had to walk five days further! No trains except coal trains were running when they finally did arrive, but she still didn't lose hope and they were snuck aboard the coal cars. They finally made it to Sian, but soon found they couldn't yet end their wearisome journey- she continued to trust God. She and the children stayed on the train and pressed further on, making it to Fufeng where they could make a new home for all of the children. None were lost over that entire journey! They made it over mountains, rivers, danger, and innumerable difficulties and were finally safe!

Gladys didn't give up on God in the midst of impossibilities. She didn't give up on God in the midst of hardship. She didn't give up on God in the midst of life-threatening situations. She knew who He was and trusted in Him to make a way for them. She trusted God to be faithful, and He showed His character.

Vision for Grace Airways

**We navigate the scriptures,
training up bold disciples,
on our ongoing journey to Jesus!**



KEY NOTES: TRUE NORTH SUMMER

There are many stories- both from scripture and after the Bible was written- about people who find themselves in wild situations! Oftentimes people face fear, uncertainty, and confusion in these places and feel like they can't get out of it alone. We are going to look at some people and their stories and see how they trusted in the Lord to get them through.

We can trust the Lord in a wild world!

Grace Airways True North Content in Children's Ministry will focus on "wild stories" in the Bible and some Missionary highlights to continue our VBS theme of trusting in the Lord.

SUMMER PSALM—let's all learn Psalm 100 to give the students consistent excitement and practice each week! We will practice all summer to create a video to share with the rest of Grace Community Church at the Fall-Kick off (Sept 7th) on the big screen.

Key Dates:

Aug 9th GCC BBQ (baptisms)

Aug 24th Film Summer Psalm & All Sunday Teams Fall Training

Sept 7th FALL KICKOFF

Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: _____
- Where is the gospel in this story?

We can trust in the Lord in a Wild World



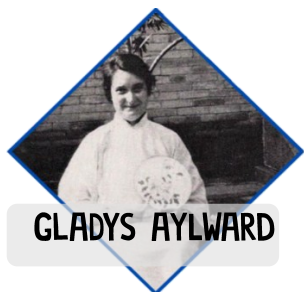
**NOAH & THE
ARK**



**PATRICK OF
IRELAND**



**BATTLE OF
JERICO**



GLADYS AYLWARD



DEBORAH



DAVID & GOLIATH



LILLIAN TRASHER



KING JOSIAH



CORRIE TEN BOOM



**DANIEL &
THE LIONS**



JOHN GASANGWA



**ELIJAH &
THE WIDOW**

Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co-Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co-pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- **Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?**
- **How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?**
- **What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?**
- **In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?**

Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with _____.
- You really helped me while I was _____.
- Thank you for being _____'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- _____ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

Sunday Morning Flight Plan



Take Off

- Open in Prayer
- Hook
- BPQ and A & Key Passage
- Timeline & Introduce Story

10 Min

Journey

- Attendance & Bible Sticker
- Bible Story
- God's Attributes

15 Min

Flight Lab

- Experience of the Bible Story
(Make connections through an activity & motion)

15 Min

Pilot's Log

- Pray
- Calm activity during pick-up
- Give activity sheets to parents as they pick up students

5 Min



10 min

Take Off

Celebrate being here! Introduce the morning.

Open in Prayer

Hook

- Imagine that you must go on a long journey, but you're not riding in your car or traveling in an airplane. You are walking to your destination! Not only are you walking, but the only things you can bring are what you can carry on your back or in your hands. Tell me some of the things you would carry.

Big Picture Question

Throughout our time together, we are focusing on the big picture question: **Why can I trust the Lord in every situation?**

I can trust in the Lord because I know His character and He is God.

Key Passage

Practice the Psalm 100 song!

Encourage and build excitement for memorizing, we will video the children on Sunday, August 24th

Our key passage helps answer the BPQ!

⁵ **For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;**
his **faithfulness continues** through all generations.

Timeline/Introduce Bible Story:

- Today, we are going to hear a story about a missionary named Gladys Aylward. A missionary is someone that goes to a different place to talk about God! Gladys lived in China, helping orphaned children during the war. Not only did Gladys help the children, but she also told them of Jesus' love! Let's hear more about the amazing things Gladys did to help others.
- Transition to the Missionary Story: (OPTIONAL) Show the Missionary Story Video.



15 Min

Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Missionary Story

Use a globe or a map to help children see where Gladys lived.

Gladys Aylward's story was pretty incredible! Following her calling to become a missionary in China, Gladys left home on her own. She traveled through Siberia on the Trans-Siberian Railway. She was almost detained by Russians, but managed to evade them with local help and a ride on a Japanese ship. Gladys traveled through Japan, taking another ship to enter China. Gladys trusted God and knew that He had given her courage and hope to reach her destination.

In Yangcheng County, Gladys shared the gospel at the Inn of Eight Happinesses as travelers stayed with them along their journey. She was able to tell stories from the Bible and of the good news of Jesus!

Gladys became well known among the people for helping those in need. As the war became violent in 1938, Gladys risked her life to bring around 100 orphans to safety. She spent 12 difficult days traveling through the mountains, with little food and limited supplies. It was not an easy journey, but Gladys never lost her faith and hope in the Lord. She sang hymns with the children and shared her trust in God. Finally, Gladys and the children safely made it through the mountains!

After the war, Gladys continued her mission work. She spent time in China, England, and eventually settled in Taiwan. There, Gladys founded the Gladys Aylward Orphanage, where she worked until her death in 1970.

Gladys faced peril many times and knew that she could be hurt or killed helping those in need. Yet even being aware of all of this, Gladys courageously carried on knowing of God's promise of heaven through Jesus Christ!



Age Appropriate Story

Gladys Aylward Psalm 100:5b

Born just north of London, Gladys Aylward worked as a maid and spent her days off learning to share the good news of Jesus. As she focused on the gospel, she felt called to become a missionary in China. Even though Gladys was not accepted to become a part of a missionary group, she did not give up and chose to travel to China on her own.

Gladys asked God to clear the way for her and He did! Another missionary requested a young woman to help with work in Yangcheng. Gladys was the perfect person for the job. Her trip to China was not easy and full of danger, but Gladys trusted in the Lord to get her to her destination safely. Gladys finally made it to China!

She worked at the Inn of Eight Happinesses, taking care of travelers. As people came and went, she was able to spread the gospel and her love for Jesus.

Over the next few years, Gladys continued helping the people of



Yangcheng, including approximately 100 abandoned or orphaned children. In 1938, China was at war with Japan. Gladys knew this was no longer a safe place for the children to stay. It was time for her to leave and get the children to safety.

Looking to the mountain pathways, Gladys found a way to escape! The trip was difficult and grueling, taking twelve days to complete. There was little food and that trails made

walking difficult. Gladys looked to God for help. She prayed and sang hymns with the children. Finally, they made it to Fefung—the children were safe! After the war, Gladys continued her mission, helping other children in need.

Gladys was determined to become a missionary and refused to allow any excuses to hold her back. Although many people doubted Gladys, God affirmed her calling and helped her overcome each obstacle she encountered along the way. Gladys trusted in the Lord's faithfulness!

Discussion & Bible Skills

Distribute a Bible to each child and read **Psalm 100**. Relate Psalm 100:5b to Gladys's story and her trust in the Lord's faithfulness. Lead children to discuss:

1. **What obstacles did Gladys face as a missionary?** (*was not accepted into a mission program, experienced a dangerous journey to China, could no longer live in Yangcheng because of the war, & traveling with children through the mountains without enough supplies*)
2. **How did Gladys' journey show her faith in God?** (*told travelers stories from the Bible, sang hymns to the children, etc...*)
3. **What are ways we can help people in our community?** (*volunteering, cleaning up trash, donating food and clothes, check on neighbors, making food for others, etc...*)
4. **How can your faith in God impact others?** (*being a source of hope, showing kindness, being a good role model, encouraging others, serving others, and showing gratitude, etc...*)

God's attributes- helping the children understand what God is like, shown to us in the Bible. In today's story we see that God is:

-Trustworthy -I am

Travel Guide:

Use the travel guide for maps, charts, etc... as useful with helping the children learn and understand today's story.



15 min

Flight Lab

Instill Wonder as you experience the Bible
CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY

Footsteps Project

Help students prepare a memento to remind them of the many ways God has worked in their lives. With their shoe on, have students trace their foot onto a piece of paper. On their traced foot print, ask the children to then write down or draw pictures of the ways God has helped them or times they put their trust in the Lord. Finally, have the students cut out the footprints to take home or create a chain for the classroom. *Gladys sang hymns and reminded the children of all the ways God had worked in her life to help them persevere. When we remember God's faithfulness, it helps us persevere too!*

Eight Happinesses Activity

The "Inn of the Eight Happinesses" was where Gladys first worked. *In China, eight is a special number.* They knew this name would help the travelers choose their inn, and if they could get them to visit, they would have the opportunity to share Jesus. They also knew that the travelers loved stories, so they would tell them stories from the Bible.

Today we will create paper cookies with one of the Eight Happinesses as a message. First, discuss the meanings of the words as they would be defined in the Bible.

- On small pieces of paper, have children choose one of the Eight Happinesses to write down (for the inside of the paper cookie).
 - Devotion—a profound dedication and commitment to God
 - Virtue—morally good
 - Gentleness—kind and considerate
 - Tolerance—Forbearance
 - Loyalty—faithfulness, and trust
 - Truth— absolute and unchanging
 - Beauty— inner qualities of goodness
 - Love— deep devotion and caring—our love of God!

- Trace circles about 3” in diameter onto desired paper
- Cut out circles. Choose one of the cut circles and gently fold it in half. Tightly crease only the very center – do not crease across the entire circle.



- Fold the circle in half again, this time in the opposite direction from the crease you just made. (This first crease will now be perpendicular to your new fold.)
- Carefully push the fold to the center while using your thumb and middle finger to bring both ends together



- Add the paper slip into one of the side openings before bringing both ends completely together. Add a small dab of glue near the fold to hold the cookie's shape.
- Use a clothespin to hold the cookie together until the glue dries.



- Even though Gladys faced some wild and difficult situations, she put her trust in the Lord's faithfulness. Jesus is here for us no matter what is happening in our lives! As children choose one of their "Eight Happinesses" words, ask them to give you an example of how that can relate to their faith in the Lord!



5 min Pilot's log

Where we prepare to depart.

Pray:

If time, share prayer requests and allow kids to record in the **prayer journal section of their *Travel Guide***.

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

Waiting for parents/Activity Page:

Tie back into the lesson, remind them of the Big Picture Question/verse, etc...

Be sure to **re-set expectations on what their choices are while waiting for mom and dad:**

- Activity page
- Key Passage Activity (See next page for list of options)
- Coloring page
- Gospel Kit Activities
- Anything quiet at the tables you are ok with (*origami, free draw on blank paper, hangman game at white board, putting Book of the Bible cards in order, etc....*)

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents so they can go home with families.

Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain—In small groups, ask children/co-pilot to write prayer requests on a few paper strips. Connect paper strips into a chain and display our growing conversation to the Lord. Feel free to revisit older requests as well.

Painted Rocks—Have each child choose a painted rock to write on. Write a word of encouragement, a word about Jesus, a name, etc. The goal is to take it with them and place it somewhere near their typical living space— a neighbor's house, a store, a playground, etc. Then pray over the place or the people who are there.

Pointing to a Map—Choose one or two kiddos to spin/close their eyes/ find a certain color (you can be creative and have fun) and point to a country on the map. Place a pin in the place(s) and pray over it as a group. Even if you don't know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus' light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

Looking out the Window—Grab a dry erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry erase marker, write those things on the window (PreK & K may draw things) and then pray over those things. Feel free to leave them on the window, so whenever we look through, those things are brought to our mind to pray for again.

Head Shoulders Knees and Toes—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.