



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

God can use bad things that happen to us for our good.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will be able to share something bad that turned out to be good.

KEY PASSAGE:

Genesis 45, Joseph Saves His Family

MEMORY VERSE:

"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31b (NIV)

SUMMARY:

Bruce Wayne turned the greatest tragedy of his life into something good when he chose to become Batman. Bad things are going to happen, but it's up to us to give those things to God so something good can come from them.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for working all things out for good.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

MEMORY VERSE

"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31b (NIV)

"Do everything else for the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31b (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

Play a rap/hip-hop beat on the drums, and rap the memory verse for the kids, then have them repeat it back to you. Do this 3-4 times. See if they can do it the last time without reading it off the screen.

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!

HOW TO BE A SUPERHERO

SKIT

I AM MORBIDMAN

ITEMS NEEDED:

Superhero costumes for the Diva and Morbidman

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 1M, 1F

CHARACTERS:

The Supreme Diva - A teenage superhero

Morbidman - A kind of sad superhero

The Supreme Diva enters.

DIVA: Hi, guys! How is everyone this morning? I'm happy to say that there's no crime to fight this morning. Dr. Insidious is still in jail, and I'm really glad. I finally get a chance to say hi to you guys. You know, fighting crime isn't easy, but as a teenage girl who received her super powers from aliens, I know I have a responsibility to use my powers for good. And I'm not the only one fighting crime here in my city. I'd like to introduce you to one of my crime fighting friends. Say hello to... Morbidman!

Morbidman enters, frowning, dressed all in black.

DIVA: Hi, Scott!

MORBIDMAN: Hey! I told you never to call me that! Never, ever reveal my secret identity.

DIVA: Sorry, Scott. At least I didn't tell them your last name.

MORBIDMAN: Thank you.

DIVA: It's Brooder. Scott Brooder.

MORBIDMAN: Hey!!

DIVA: Come on, Scott, these kids won't give your secret away. Besides, I think it's great that a billionaire like you wanted to become a hero.

SKIT

MORBIDMAN: Great? You think it's great? Do you know why I became a hero?

DIVA: Yes, but I have a feeling you're going to tell me again.

MORBIDMAN: Because every day of my life has been the worst day of my life.

DIVA: Yep, here we go.

MORBIDMAN: Ever since I was a boy, I have suffered because everyone I loved died. My parents. My dog. My cat. My pet gerbil. My faithful butler. My girlfriend Vicky. My girlfriend Selena. My girlfriend Annabella. Everyone I love!

DIVA: Not everyone, Scott. I'm still here.

MORBIDMAN: I don't like you.

DIVA: Oh yeah, that's right.

MORBIDMAN: It's been a bad, bad life for Scott Brooder.

DIVA: But you know what? You took something bad, and you turned it around for good. I mean, a guy like you could just as easily become a super-villain. You could have taken all that pain and all your money and conquered the world as a super-villain!

MORBIDMAN: You're right. I could have. I could have conquered the world! I could have forced a beautiful pop star to marry me. Aww man, I messed up!

DIVA: No, no, no! Scott, you did the right thing. You took something bad, and you made it into something good.

MORBIDMAN: Impossible!

DIVA: Scott, God is always taking bad things and using them for good because He loves us. God is using you to keep our city safe, and I know God will take the bad things that happen to our friends and use them for good as well.

MORBIDMAN: Really? Will God give them super powers like you have?

DIVA: You don't need super powers with God. He's our Creator, and He has all the power we need.

MORBIDMAN: That's good, because He didn't give me any super powers at all.

SKIT

DIVA: Super powers or not, God's going to use the bad things in your life for good. Trust me, Scott, everything's gonna be all right.

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A mismatched sock

Is there anything sadder in your dresser drawers than a good sock with no match? Socks are usually worn in pairs, and if one sock goes missing, the other sock becomes useless. Losing that other sock is the worst thing that could happen to the sock.

Or is it?

Put the sock on your hand, turning it into a sock puppet. Have the sock puppet finish the lesson.

Not so fast, kids! I may be just one sock, but that doesn't mean I am useless. One sock is all you need to make a sock puppet. Now I can sing, I can talk, I can play, and best of all, I will never, ever get stuck with your stinky foot smell again.

Sometimes bad things happen in your lives, but when they do, you can trust God to take those bad things and work them out for good. So the next time things don't go your way, don't get mad. Remember that God loves you, and He can take even the worst of times and use them for your good.

LARGE GROUP GAME

BATMAN DANCE OFF

ITEMS NEEDED:

The theme from the old Batman show

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose five contestants for this game. Bring them on stage. Tell them they are going to hear the theme from the original Batman TV show, and they are going to have a dance off. Play the whole theme song, and let the kids dance. By applause, let the audience pick a winner.

VARIATION:

To add to the fun of this game, put Batman masks on everybody!

WHAT'S THE POINT?

God can turn bad things into good, just as Batman did in his story.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

God can use bad things that happen to us for our good.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will be able to share something bad that turned out to be good.

KEY PASSAGE:

Genesis 45, Joseph Saves His Family

INTRO:

Without question, one of the most popular of all superheroes has to be Batman. Batman made his debut in Detective Comics issue #27 in May of 1939. He began as a mysterious caped crusader who hunted the bad guys of Gotham City. Six months later, in Detective Comics #33, his creators finally told us the story of how Batman came to be.

Batman's true identity is Bruce Wayne, a billionaire who inherited his parents' fortune when they were murdered right in front of him after leaving the theater late one night. When young Bruce saw both of his parents die, he vowed that he would spend the rest of his life fighting crime.

The story of Bruce Wayne's parents has been re-told over and over again in the comics. It was depicted in the first Batman movie in 1989. It was re-told in Batman Begins, Batman vs Superman, and the first episode of the TV show Gotham. It's a tragic story, but it's a crucial part of the legend of Batman. Without the Wayne murders, there is no Batman, and without Batman, the city of Gotham has no hero.

Bruce Wayne could easily have gone the other way. He could have allowed his parents' death to make him turn to evil. Bruce chose to take a horrible tragedy and use it for good. True, Bruce Wayne's story is only a work of fiction, but the Batman story is a great reminder that bad things can turn out for good for us as well. When we take the tragedies in our lives and give them to God, He has a way of using them for our good and for His glory.

If anyone in the Bible could relate to Bruce Wayne, it would be a boy named Joseph.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Joseph was his father's favorite son, but at a young age, his jealous brothers sold him as a slave. He was taken far from home to the land of Egypt where he lived as a slave and then a prisoner until one day, God used Joseph to save the country of Egypt from a terrible famine. Joseph became second in command of all of Egypt because of his wisdom. He saved food for the people of Egypt so they wouldn't starve. Then one day, the wicked brothers who sold him into slavery came calling.

READ GENESIS 45

MAIN POINT:

Joseph's brothers had betrayed him. They'd done the worst thing a brother could ever do to him, selling him into slavery and telling Joseph's father he was dead. Because of these eleven men, Joseph was a slave for years, wondering if God was still with him and why such bad things had happened to him!

Joseph could have done anything he wanted to his brothers. He could have tossed them in jail, or sent them away without food. Instead, he embraced them. He forgave them for their cruelty, and he wept as he hugged every one of them. Joseph knew that God had used his misfortune for good. He saved Egypt, and now, he was saving his family. Joseph's story reminds us that when bad things happen, God can turn them around and use them for our good.

DRIVE IT HOME:

It isn't always easy to trust God when things don't go our way. When we get bad news, we want to get angry. When we lose a loved one or a favorite pet, we don't feel like praising God. When we get hurt, get cut from the team, or find out that our family is moving away from the home you love, it's hard to see any good at all.

Bad things happen to all of us, and there's nothing we can do to stop it. But like Joseph, and like Bruce Wayne, we do not have to be defeated. We can trust God to see us through those bad times. We can have faith that no matter what happens, God still loves us.

God uses those bad times to strengthen our relationship with Him. God wants us to rely on Him, and not on our own wisdom, to set things right. God wants us to believe so that when things turn out for the best, we will praise Him and give Him the glory for all He has done.

Has something happened to you lately that made you feel down? Did you get some bad news? Did you lose something special? Or someone? God is there for you. God knows your pain, and He wants you to give it to Him so He can take what is bad right now and use it for something good.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Trust God when times get tough. Give your fears and frustrations to Jesus, and let God turn that bad news into something good.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for working all things out for good.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

Who is your favorite Batman or Superman?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

1 Corinthians 10:31b

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 musical chairs with the kids, using music from one of the many Batman movies or TV shows.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Genesis 45

What did Joseph's brothers do to him?

Why were Joseph's brothers afraid when they learned it was Joseph?

Why did Joseph forgive his brothers?

What did God do to turn Joseph's tragedy into something good?

Can you think of a time when something bad in your life was turned into something good?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Take our bad days and turn them into something good.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

Who is your favorite Batman or Superman?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

1 Corinthians 10:31b

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 musical chairs with the kids, using music from one of the many Batman movies or TV shows.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Genesis 45

What did God do to turn Joseph's tragedy into something good?

Why did Joseph forgive his brothers?

Would you have done the same thing as Joseph?

Can you think of a time when something bad in your life was turned into something good?

How can we remind ourselves to give our bad days to Jesus?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Take our bad days and turn them into something good.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

TRUE OR FALSE

Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery.

TRUE

Joseph was still in jail when they found him in Egypt.

FALSE

Joseph decided to punish his brothers for their cruelty.

FALSE

Joseph forgave his brothers because he knew God had used him to save his family.

TRUE

God can turn the bad times in our lives into something good.

TRUE

MAKE IT STICK

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

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: FOR GOOD



IN THE CAR:

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

Bruce Wayne turned the greatest tragedy of his life into something good when he chose to become Batman. Bad things are going to happen, but it's up to us to give those things to God so that something good can come from them. Genesis 45, Joseph Saves His Family



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

When something disappointing happens this week, stop a moment with your kids. Why is this a disappointment? Can you think of any good that might come of it? Pray about it as a family, and let God turn something bad into something good.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why did Joseph forgive his brothers?
- How did God use Joseph's bad fortune for good?
- Why do we need to give bad times and disappointments to God?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

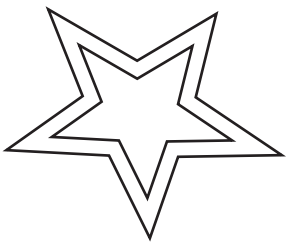
"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31b (NIV)



PARENT TIME:

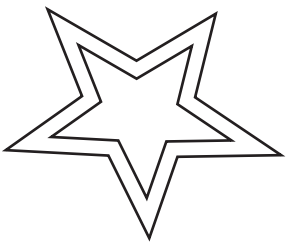
What you need to know:

God uses our bad times, our disappointments, and our heartbreaks to build our faith and draw us closer to God. If your family or someone you know is going through rough times, ask God to step in and make all things work out for His glory.



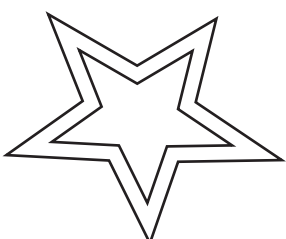
"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

- 1 Corinthians 10:31b (NIV)



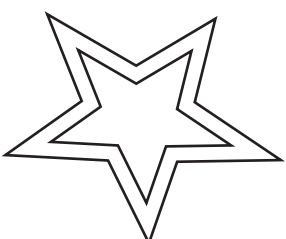
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"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

- 1 Corinthians 10:31b (NIV)

HOW TO BE A SUPERHERO

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Let the kids make their own superhero sock puppets. Let them pick from an assortment of mismatched socks. Help them cut out a superhero mask from felt and glue it to their puppet's head. Capes and other accessories are optional.