

Time to Trust – Real Life Downloaded

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Upper Elementary

- Lesson 8
- Winter 2023-24
- By: RLD Editorial Team
- January 21, 2024

Lesson Focus:

Be willing to totally trust God.

Bible Basis:

Acts 20:22-24; 21:1-19, 27-33

Materials Needed:

Step 1:

Internet access

Step 4:

- Index cards
- Pens/pencils

Summary & Links:

In order to introduce the lesson topic of being willing to totally trust God, students will look at the things they trust in their daily lives as they discuss a recent data breach.

Memory Verse:

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

—Romans 8:28

Step 1:

In order to introduce the lesson topic of being willing to totally trust God, students will look at the things they trust in their daily lives as they discuss a recent data breach.

In a lot of ways, everything we do depends on trust. In school, you trust that your teachers are giving you information that's both accurate and important. At home, you trust your parents in more ways than you can probably think of!

- **Who can think of an example of ways you exercise trust on a daily basis?** *(Be prepared to give your own examples to help prompt discussion.)*
- **Does anyone you know trust or depend on you?** *(Answers will vary. Students may recognize that their parents trust them with tasks. They may discuss friends who have trusted them with secrets and teammates who depend on them during a sports event.)*

Most of the trust we exhibit in our daily lives involves pretty ordinary things. Being trustworthy involves integrity, such as doing what we say we are going to do.

Anything involving inputting our personal information online, such as online banking, requires trust that the companies and websites will store our data securely and not sell it to outside companies. But what happens when not everyone is trustworthy?

You may have heard a recent story of many people's profiles on 23andMe, a popular genetic testing website, getting hacked. According to an article about this hacking by BBC News, "Hackers have been able to gain access to personal information from about 6.9 million users of genetic testing company 23andMe, using customers' old passwords. In some cases this included family trees, birth years and geographic locations."

Because these users' accounts were accessed by hackers, much of their personal data about their ancestry and family trees was stolen.

If 23andMe had higher security and more customer information about creating secure accounts, what could have happened? *(Possible answers: accounts would have stayed secure, no data would have been stolen, etc.)*

Today's lesson is about how someone trusted God in both ordinary and extraordinary ways. Let's learn more.

Step 4:

As students finish their Step 3 exercise, continue discussing the lesson. If your class is meeting online, invite your students to bring supplies with them to class.

- **Why was Paul willing to totally trust God?** *(Answer: He wanted to see the Gospel preached.)*
- **How did Paul's trust help him?** *(Answers may vary; encourage discussion.)*

Paul knew that the only way he could complete his mission of preaching the Gospel was to completely trust God. We talked before about “everyday” trust, but I wonder if any of you can think of examples a little more out of the ordinary.

- **Has anyone ever experienced an extreme situation where trust was absolutely necessary?** *(Encourage discussion and sharing, being sensitive to anyone who might be recounting a traumatic experience.)*
- **How did trust help you in your situation?** *(Answers may vary.)*

I hope you never find yourselves in a tragic or scary situation, but we’ll always find areas of our lives that require continual trust in God.

Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home). If your class is meeting in person, divide the class up into groups of two or three students each. If your class is meeting online, you can have the discussion as a big group or use a break-out room feature on your video chat software. For the rest of your time together, have your preteens discuss areas in their lives that require them to trust God.

Think about what situations or circumstances you’re facing that require you to trust God. Write down the circumstance or situation on one side of the card, and then discuss with others what action you’ll take if you trust God with the situation rather than just trusting yourself. Write that action on the other side of the card. Be prepared to help prompt discussion and provide direction for students. **This week, pay attention to how you act when faced with these circumstances or situations, and use the card to help remind yourself what trust looks like.**

Close in prayer, asking God to help us trust Him.