Preschool–Grade 6

Jehoshaphat and the Singers

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: When I am scared, I can pray to God and praise Him. God is bigger than my problem.
Bible passage: 2 Chronicles 20:1–30. Read it yourself before class.
Memory verse: "for the battle is not yours, but God's" *2 Chronicles 20:15 (KJV)*. The old words mean: the **battle** is the fight, and it is **not yours**: God will take care of it.
You need: a Bible, a heavy box (books or blocks inside) that is too heavy for you to lift alone, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at 2 Chronicles 20. Set the heavy box in the middle of the room.

1. Opening game: Too Big for Me (5 minutes)

Try to lift the heavy box. Puff and pull, and say, "It's too big for me! I can't do it by myself!" Ask: "What should I do when something is too big for me?" Let the kids help you push the box together. Say: "Today we will hear a true story about a king who had a problem too big for him. He asked God for help!"

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 2 Chronicles 20. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Jehoshaphat was a king (2 Chronicles 20:15). *(Put a pretend crown on your head.)*
A big, big army was coming to fight (20:1–2). *(Stomp your feet.)*
The king was afraid (20:3). *(Make a scared face.)*
So he prayed to God (20:3). *(Fold your hands.)*
The people told God they did not know what to do, but their eyes were on Him (20:12). *(Hand over your eyes, look up.)*
Say it with me: "We are looking to You, God!"
God said, "Be not afraid" (20:15). The battle was God's! *(Shake your head no, then point up.)*
Say it with me: "The battle is God's!"
The singers went out in front (20:21). *(March in place.)*
They sang, "Praise the LORD!" (20:21). *(Lift your hands up high.)*
When they sang, God fought for them (20:22). *(Make a big, strong arm.)*
They did not have to fight at all (20:17). *(Hands open wide.)*
They went home happy, with harps and trumpets (20:27–28). *(Pretend to play a trumpet.)*
Say it with me: "God is bigger!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What did the king do when he was afraid? *(He prayed to God, 2 Chronicles 20:3–4)*
2. Who went out in front, singing? *(The singers, 20:21)*
3. Who fought for them? *(God did, 20:22)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "God said, 'the battle is not yours, but God's.' That means, 'This fight is not yours. God will take care of it.'" Teach the motion: point to a friend on "not yours," then point up high on "but God's." Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "2 Chronicles 20:15" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Praise Parade (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw the singers going out in front, with music notes in the air. Then everyone lines up and marches around the room singing, "Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!" While they march, ask: "What did the king do when he was scared? Who fought for him?"

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, that You are big and strong.
When I am scared, I will pray to You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving. If they get wiggly, do the marching and "Praise the LORD!" motions again. Keep the battle part simple: God fought for His people, and they did not have to fight. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

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