

References

Acts 20:1-12;
The Acts of the Apostles, p. 391



Memory Verse

“For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways” (Psalm 91:11).



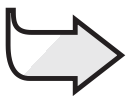
Objectives

The children will:

Know that helping others in emergency situations is one way to serve God.

Feel willing to help others at all times, even when it is not convenient.

Respond to needs of others who have an emergency.



The Message

I serve God by helping people in urgent situations.

Miracle at Midnight!

Monthly Theme

Others can see God in us.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Paul and his team are together in Troas. On the last evening of Paul’s stay he and the believers there come together to eat. Paul gives a parting message. He is to leave in the morning. He talks until midnight. A young man named Eutychus attends the meeting and falls asleep while sitting in a window. He falls out of the window and dies from his injuries. Paul immediately stops speaking, goes down to the young man, puts his arms around him, and earnestly asks God to restore his life. Eutychus comes to life, and there is great rejoicing.

This is a lesson about service.

Sometimes opportunities to serve come unexpectedly and in ways that require immediate attention. We should be ready to act and to help as needed, even if it means changing our plans and stopping some important task to do so.

Teacher Enrichment

Speculation abounds that Eutychus was not actually dead from his fall, thus, canceling the claim that God performed a miracle through Paul. However, in the book of Kings we find two similar instances whereby God’s servants were used by Him to bring back life.

“She said to Elijah, ‘What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?’ ‘Give me your son,’ Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. Then he cried out to the Lord, ‘Lord my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?’ Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the Lord, ‘Lord my God, let this boy’s life return to him!’ The Lord heard Elijah’s cry, and the boy’s life returned to him, and he lived” (1 Kings 18-22, NIV).

“When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his couch. He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the Lord. Then he got on the bed and lay on the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out on him, the boy’s body grew warm. Elisha turned away and walked back and forth in the room and then got on the bed and stretched out on him once more. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes” (2 Kings 4:32-35, NIV).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Emergency Helpers</i> B. <i>Bandages to the Rescue</i> C. <i>Visit From a Paramedic, Firefighter, or Police Officer</i>	index cards, pens/pencils Bible, varying sizes of bandages, none
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	<i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> container that represents where this quarter's offering is going chalkboard or whiteboard, marker or chalk, newspapers
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	large cardboard box, chair or table, doll or puppet, Bible-times costume large outline of human body, bandages Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Emergency!</i>	pictures of emergency vehicles and/or personnel
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Let's Help</i>	construction paper, art supplies

***Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.**

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- index cards
- pens/pencils

A. Emergency Helpers

Give each child an index card. Have them write "Emergency Numbers" at the top, then write the emergency number 9-1-1 or numbers for the local fire and police departments below. (The children may take their cards home.)

Debriefing

Ask: **When should you call the emergency numbers?** (Only when there is a true emergency.) **How can you help in emergencies?** (By staying out of the way of the rescue team; by calling the police, fire department, etc.) **How do you feel when you see someone who is in an emergency?** (willing to help if possible; feel sorry for them, etc.) **Today's message is:**



I SERVE GOD BY HELPING PEOPLE IN URGENT SITUATIONS.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- Bible
- various types of bandages

B. Bandages to the Rescue

Show the bandages. Let the class share times they needed bandages—when they fell, grazed their knee, cut their finger. Optional: Let the children bandage each other.

Debriefing

Ask: **When you get a bandage for someone, how are you serving God?** (When I help someone, it is the same as helping, or serving, God; God wants to help people through me, so I'm helping Him too.) Read aloud and discuss Matthew 25:40. **How do you feel when someone comes to help and rescue you?** (thankful, grateful) **When you see someone you can help, what will you try to do?** (Help any way I can.) **What is today's message?**



I SERVE GOD BY HELPING PEOPLE IN URGENT SITUATIONS.

Say that with me.

C. Visit From a Paramedic, Firefighter, or Police Officer

Invite a paramedic, firefighter, or police officer to speak to the children. Ask the person to tell about their work and explain some of the emergency procedures.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How did you like having _____ here today? What did (he or she) want you to remember? What do you want to be when you grow up? How can YOU help people who are hurt or are having other emergencies?** (Bring bandages, pillows, etc.; ask how you can help; get help, etc.) **Our message for today is:**



I SERVE GOD BY HELPING PEOPLE IN URGENT SITUATIONS.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

Any
Time



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Review the memory verse and allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- "Be Like Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 115)
- "We Are Climbing Jesus' Ladder" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 120)
- "I Want to Be" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 124)
- "Cross Over the Road" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 131)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. If the mission story tells of some emergency, emphasize that part.



Offering

Say: **Our Sabbath School offerings will go to _____ this quarter. Let's collect an offering that will help the people in _____.**

You Need:

- offering container decorated to represent where Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go



Prayer

Ask the children if they know anyone who had an emergency this past week. Write the names where everyone may see. If there has been a disaster or emergency that the children have heard about, show some of the news pictures from the paper. Form prayer bands and pray for the people they named and the victims mentioned in the newspaper. Close by asking God to make us ready and willing to be helpers in emergencies.

You Need:

- chalkboard or whiteboard
- marker or chalk
- newspapers

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- large cardboard box
- chair or table
- doll or puppet
- Bible-times costume

Experiencing the Story

Characters: Paul, Eutychus, people in the upper room (all other children)

Props: Bible-times costume, doll or puppet, cardboard box “window” on chair or table

Setting the Scene

Make a window by cutting the side out of the large cardboard box. Put the box on a chair or table so all may see. Position a doll or puppet to fall at the appropriate time in the story. Have your best storyteller share the story with the children in an animated fashion.

Read or tell the story.

[Paul stands in front of the class and appears to preach.] Eutychus swatted at a fly buzzing by his ear. *Whew! It’s hot in here!* he thought. *I wish there were a little more of a breeze.*

The third-floor meeting room was crowded with people who had come to say goodbye to Paul. He had come back to the city of Troas to visit his friends again. Tonight was his last night with them. But no one wanted him to leave! After eating together, they had asked Paul to preach one more time.

“Be strong in Jesus!” Paul encouraged. The time passed quickly as Paul spoke, and before long it was midnight. Sitting on the ledge of an open window, Eutychus began to yawn. *[Point to box with “window” and the doll or puppet.]* It had been a long day, and the heat made Eutychus feel sleepy. He shifted a little bit on the windowsill. Since the room was so crowded, it had seemed like a good seat. He yawned again.

Suddenly a friend sitting close to Eutychus gasped. *[Make the doll or puppet fall out of the “window.”]* “Eutychus!” he yelled. “Oh, no! Eutychus fell out of the window!” The man sprang through the door leading to the stairs and raced down toward the street. *[A member of the class runs toward the fallen doll or puppet.]* Paul followed close behind him. *[Paul stops “preaching” and runs toward the fallen doll or puppet.]*

Everyone else in the room was shocked into action. People ran to see if there was anything they could do to help. *[The rest of the class rushes toward the fallen doll or puppet.]* They rushed over to him. He was so still. There was no doubt that he was dead. The people were stunned; they didn’t know what to say.

Bending down, Paul lifted Eutychus and held him carefully. Silently he prayed. *[Paul bends down, hugs the doll or puppet, and prays.]* Then Paul looked up at his friends. “Don’t worry,” he said. “He is alive!” *[Paul looks up and smiles at the group.]*

Eutychus opened his eyes and looked around. He saw the tears on the faces of his friends. “What happened?” he asked. “Why are you crying?”

The night wasn’t quiet anymore! Everyone was suddenly wide awake and full of joy. “Eutychus! Eutychus, you’re alive! Oh, thank You, God!” they cried. *[The group jumps up and excitedly repeats, “Eutychus! Eutychus, you’re alive! Oh, thank You, God!”]*

Back up the stairs they went, into the warm room. *[The group goes back to their seats.]* No one was sleepy now. They listened eagerly as Paul spoke with his friends until early in the morning. *[Paul continues to “preach.”]*

Even though Paul was doing a good thing by talking to his friends about

Jesus, he stopped right away to help someone in need. How about you? Let's ask Jesus right now to make you willing to help others at any time. Serving Jesus means that we are always willing to help others especially in emergencies.

Debriefing

Ask: **How would you have felt if you had seen Eutychus fall?** (panicky, worried, wanting to help) **Imagine that you are with the people who saw that the boy was dead, then saw him sit up and talk. How would you feel?** (I would have praised God; would have been speechless.) **How did Paul serve God in this scary situation?** (He stopped the important thing that he was doing to help someone who had an emergency.) **If you were Paul, what would you have done in this scary situation?** (I would have stopped what I was doing and tried to help.) **Why? Let's say our message:**



I SERVE GOD BY HELPING PEOPLE IN URGENT SITUATIONS.

Memory Verse

Write each word of the memory verse on a different adhesive bandage. Write the text on one. Stick the bandages in the order of the memory verse on the outline of the human body. If class

size allows, have each child who can do so read the entire memory verse. After each child reads the verse, remove one bandage, so that each successive try leaves one more space to remember as they read/recite. When all the bandages are removed, the children should be reciting the verse from memory.

You Need:

- large outline of human body
- adhesive bandage strips

Bible Study

Ask: **What do you suppose Paul did after he picked up Eutychus and before he announced to the people that he is alive? Let's look at Acts 20:10.** (He prayed, talked to God, asked God to help, etc.) **Whom can we turn to when we have an emergency situation? How do we know that God will help us?** Divide the children into groups. Have each group find and read a text, then decide among themselves what kind of help God gave.

Exodus 4:12 (help with speaking)

Joshua 24:7 (help against people trying to hurt them)

Psalms 10:14 (help for those who have problems or those who have lost a parent or parents)

Psalms 30:2 (help for those who are sick)

Students will be asked to share what they found out in the debriefing below.

Debriefing

Ask: **According to the texts that we just read, whom can we turn to when we need help? (God) What kinds of trouble can God help us with?** (Have students say what they learned from the texts.) **How many of our troubles can God help us with? (all) God is pleased when we help others just as He helps us. Let's say today's message:**



I SERVE GOD BY HELPING PEOPLE IN URGENT SITUATIONS.

You Need:

- Bibles

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- pictures of emergency vehicles and/or personnel

Emergency!

Show pictures of various emergency vehicles or personnel, such as firefighter/fire engine, police officer/police car, doctor or nurse/ambulance. Review with each picture the proper response to different emergencies.

Read the following scenarios aloud, one at a time, and ask the children to tell what they would do in each situation. Affirm each positive response and encourage the children to be prepared to help in emergency situations.

1. You are riding your bicycle in your neighborhood. You turn the corner, and you see your neighbor lying on the ground in her front yard. What will you do?
2. You are on the playground at school. Some children are playing soccer. Someone kicks the ball, and it hits another child in the face. That child cries out and falls to the ground.
3. You are in the lunchroom enjoying your lunch. Suddenly the child sitting next to you starts to choke on something.
4. You are at home in the kitchen making some toast for breakfast. Suddenly the toaster bursts into flames.
5. It is a hot summer. You are in the community swimming pool enjoying the cool water. You see a toddler run away from his mother and accidentally fall into the pool.

Debriefing

Ask: **What kind of emergencies have you or your family experienced?** (Ask the children to share their experiences.) **Did someone help you?** (yes, no) **Were you able to help someone?** (yes, no) **If yes, what did you do?** (Accept answers.) **How do you feel when someone needs help and interrupts what you are doing?** (I often don't want to stop what I am doing, but I feel that I should help all I can anyway; I am happy to help any way that I can.) **What message from today's lesson are you going to remember? Let's say it together:**



I SERVE GOD BY HELPING PEOPLE IN URGENT SITUATIONS.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Let's Help

Choose from the following activities:

1. Plan a trip to a local nursing home or hospital. Make cards to take with you. This should be arranged ahead of time through the local administrators. You might plan to visit on Sabbath afternoon.
2. Have the children make and sign a thank-you card to be sent to local emergency services.
3. Make a list of sick or shut-in members in your church. Have the children make a get-well or "we miss you" card to be sent to a member. Or arrange for the children to visit a sick or shut-in member.

Debriefing

Ask: **Did you enjoy making the card? Why?** (Because it would encourage someone who needs help/is helping others.) **How does your encouragement help people who have had an emergency?** (Lets them know someone cares, is praying for them, wants to help them.) **Making a card was not a big, difficult thing, but this simple thing helps people. What other things can you do to help people in trouble?** (Smile at them; pray with them; bring flowers, food, etc.) **Let's say our message together:**



**I SERVE GOD BY HELPING
PEOPLE IN URGENT
SITUATIONS.**

Closing

Sing "We Are His Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 129). Pray that we all will be ready and willing to help if we notice that someone is in trouble during this coming week.

You Need:

- construction paper
- art supplies

Miracle at Midnight!

References

Acts 20:1-12;
The Acts of the
Apostles, p. 391

Memory Verse

“For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways” (Psalm 91:11).

The Message

I serve God by helping people in urgent situations.

It was Friday afternoon, and Juan was in his front yard picking up toys. Next door, his friend’s little sister, Tina, was practicing riding her bicycle. She had only learned how a week before. Suddenly Juan heard a crash. He turned around and saw that Tina had hit her mailbox and fallen off her bike. He immediately ran over to help her up. In a few minutes she was back on her bike. The emergency was over.

Here’s a story about a more serious emergency, and someone who helped. This is how it may have happened. (Read Acts 20:1-12.)

The third-floor meeting room was crowded. It seemed as if everyone in Troas had come to say goodbye to Paul. Tonight was his last night with them. But no one wanted him to leave! After eating together, they had asked Paul to preach one more time.

“Be strong in Jesus!” Paul encouraged.

The time passed quickly as Paul spoke, and before long it was midnight. Sitting on the ledge of an open window, Eutychus (yoo´-tee-khos) began to yawn. It had been a long day, and the heat made him feel sleepy. He shifted a little bit on the windowsill. He may have arrived late. Since the room was so crowded, it had seemed like a good seat. And perhaps it would be a little cooler. He yawned again.

Suddenly a friend who was sitting close to Eutychus gasped. “Eutychus!” he yelled. “Oh, no! Eutychus fell out of the window!”

The man sprang through the doorway leading to the

stairs, and raced down to the street. Paul followed close behind him. Everyone else in the room was shocked into action.

Many people ran down to see if there was anything they could do. They rushed to Eutychus, but he was so still. There was no doubt that he was dead. The people were stunned; they didn’t know what to say.

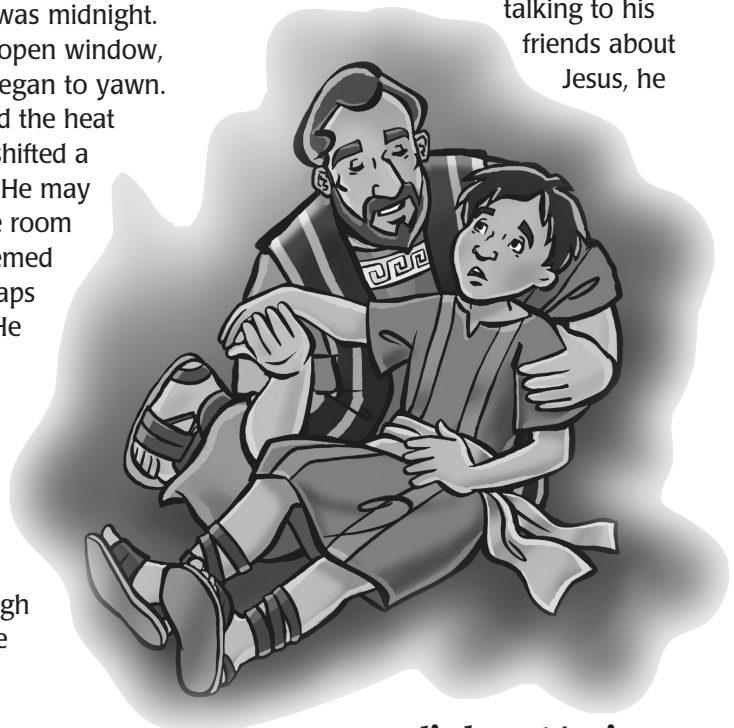
Bending down, Paul lifted Eutychus and held him in his arms. Quietly he prayed. Finally Paul looked up at his friends. “Don’t worry,” he said. “Eutychus is alive!”

Eutychus opened his eyes and looked around. He saw the tears on the faces of his friends. “What happened?” he asked. “Why are you crying?”

The night wasn’t quiet anymore! Everyone was suddenly wide awake and full of joy. “Eutychus! Eutychus, you’re alive! Oh, thank You, God!” they cried.

Back up the stairs they went, into the warm room. No one was sleepy now! Paul continued to preach to a wide-awake crowd. He spoke with his friends until early in the morning.

Even though Paul was talking to his friends about Jesus, he



stopped right away to help Eutychus. That is what God wants us to do. Ask Jesus right now to help you help others at any time. Serving Jesus means being ready and willing to help others, especially in emergencies.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- If your class plans to go to a nursing home or visit a shut-in this afternoon, try to go along. Deliver the card you made in Sabbath School. Or go with your family to visit someone who needs encouragement.
- With your family, find a quiet place outside, if possible. Read your lesson story together. Look at a clock or watch. What time is “midnight”? When did you stay up until midnight?
- Teach the memory verse to your family. Then thank God for angels.

Sunday

- During family worship, cut pictures from newspapers of emergencies such as accidents, sickness, fires, floods, and earthquakes. Put them on a poster. At the top of the poster, write: “EMERGENCY!” Discuss: How can your family help in these situations? How can you help in the future?
- Ask Jesus to help you to help others.

Monday

- During worship, read Acts 20:6. Use a Bible map to find Troas. (It’s on a coast.) Draw a picture of a seacoast. Put Paul’s boat in your picture. Add three things usually found along a seashore.
- Say your memory verse together. Then sing “I Would Be True” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 117) before prayer.

Tuesday

- With your family, read Acts 20:9. Then say your memory verse in your own words.
- Pretend that you are Eutychus. Tell what happened to you. How did you feel? Write a thank-

you note to Paul. Write another note to thank God.

Wednesday

- With your family, read these Bible texts and tell about emergencies that happened to Paul: Acts 16:22, 23; Acts 27:39-44; Acts 28:3-5.
- Make a cutout in the shape of a red cross as seen on first-aid kits. Write your memory verse on the cutout. Use an encyclopedia or other book to learn three things about the Red Cross. Or learn three things about ADRA, also an international relief agency. Pray for ADRA workers today.

Thursday

- Make an emergency poster for your bedroom. Find the telephone numbers for your ambulance, fire department, and police. Write them on the poster. Draw a picture by each.
- Help update your family’s emergency supplies. If you don’t have one, encourage your family to put one together. Read Acts 20:35. How did Paul feel about helping others? How do *you* feel? Ask Jesus to help you be willing to help others.
- Say your memory verse to your family.

Friday

- For Friday evening worship, draw different parts of this week’s Bible lesson on separate sheets of paper. Arrange the pictures in order. Use the pictures to tell your Bible story.
- Tell how you and your family helped others this week. Did you help in any emergencies? What can you do to be ready to help others? Read together Galatians 6:2.
- Say your memory verse together.
- Sing “Cross Over the Road” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 131) before you pray.