

WEEK 2

GOD'S PLAN REVEALED

GOD'S PLAN NEVER FAILS

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

 THE FOUR KEYS . . .

KEY VERSE

Not one word of all the good promises that the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.
Joshua 21:45

KEY IDEAS

1. God's plans are always good.
2. God's plans are better than our own.
3. Man cannot stop God's plans.

KEY PASSAGE

Exodus 7-14

KEY PRINCIPLES



EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

nothing can stop God's plans and they are always good.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

thankful that God's plans are better than we can imagine.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

trust that God's plans are the best for our lives.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

to see God's plans be fulfilled.

INTRODUCTION

God's people dwelt in Egypt after the time of Joseph. In that time they grew in number so greatly that the king of Egypt, the Pharaoh, became afraid of them. This caused him to treat them poorly and put his people in charge of them so that they could not continue to grow and take over. God allowed this to happen because it was part of His plan to prove to His people that He had power to save them from anything and that He was their God. At the time the people of Israel did not understand this plan and why God would allow these things to happen to them. They cried out to God in their sorrow and He answered them with great signs and wonders so that they would know without a doubt that He was God and that He had the power to save.

OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Begin class with the introduction, explaining the background of the Exodus story and why God's people were in slavery in Egypt. Explain that Pharaoh had ordered all Hebrew baby boys to be killed to prevent the people from becoming too strong and mighty. Moses should have been killed, but his mother placed him in a basket in the river to spare him, and Pharaoh's daughter found him and rescued him. Moses was raised Egyptian but God called him back for a special purpose, to free His people from slavery. Turn on the Prince of Egypt movie, picking up where Moses asks Pharaoh to let his people go. Play the movie through all plagues and through the parting of the Red Sea. FF in between as necessary to minimize time so that no more than 15-20 minutes is played total but be sure to play it through the plagues and final rescue through the Red Sea. Afterward, continue with discussion and activity.

KEY IDEAS

Recap what was seen in the film and use the following points for guided discussion.

- God's plans are always good.
 - How was God's plan good in this story? God knew that His people would face hardship many times until the Messiah would come. This hardship would challenge their faith in Him, but He would use it to bring them closer to Him. He allowed them to endure hardship, including slavery under the Egyptians, because He knew that He was going to demonstrate His power and might in their rescue and that through those miracles, their faith and trust in Him would grow.
 - Why do we doubt if we know God's plans are always good? We often doubt because we cannot see the whole picture that God sees. In our own life, God is able to see the whole story from beginning to end, but we can only see the part that we are walking right then. It can be difficult to keep the faith when we don't know how the story ends, but God always does. Because we can trust that God knows the whole story and uses it for good purposes, we can trust in Him no matter what circumstances we face.
- God's plans are better than our own.
 - What do you think might have happened if the Israelites had taken matters into their own hands instead of waiting on God for their rescue? We know that all things work together for good for those who trust in God and don't take matters into their own hands (Prov. 3:5-6, Rom. 8:28). If they Israelites had taken their own path, we can't know for sure what would've happened, but they might not have seen God work the miracles He worked that helped them have faith in His power and might.
- Man cannot stop God's plans.
 - Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart? God searches and knows the hearts of all men, and Pharaoh had already hardened his own heart toward God previously (Jer. 17:9, Ex. 8:15,32). God knew that Pharaoh's heart was already wicked and that he would not repent and believe. We all have a choice to repent or reject

Activity

Instruct the class to make plans for building a house. What materials would you need? Where would you start? Have them start from the foundation and make plans all the way to the roof. What would need to be done to construct the house? After their plans are made, present "problems" that would derail their plan. For example, tell them that as they are laying the foundation, there is a sinkhole under the concrete. Have them adjust their plan accordingly. Next give them another "problem" and tell them that once their walls have gone up, they forgot to run the electricity. Another problem might be that someone comes and steals their equipment. After you've presented a few problems, explain that often times the plans we make don't go as we think they should or they fail altogether. But God's plans never fail and never have to be adjusted because God is never surprised. Proverbs 19:21 says "Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand."

Prayer

Thank God that His plans never fail and can never be disrupted. Thank Him that His plans are always good. Ask God to help you trust that His plans are always good even when you do not understand them.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

ACTIVITY

Memorize the key verse Joshua 21:45 and also Proverbs 19:21.

Take time this week to talk to your child about a time when you made a plan that did not go as you thought it would. Tell them what you did in response. Did you make a plan b? Did you adjust your plan a? Why or why not?

Then spend time talking about how God never needs a plan b because His plans never fail.

DISCUSSION

- How do you respond when things don't go your way?
- How should we respond when we think things should be different? Proverbs 3:5-6
- What is God's plan for us and how do we know that it is good?
God does not conceal His plan for our lives, even though sometimes we think He does only because we don't know all the details of it when we think we should. Just because God doesn't always tell us what's next doesn't mean He hasn't revealed His plan for us already. You can know God's plan for your life by reading the following passages:
 - Micah 6:8
 - Matthew 28:18-20
 - 2 Corinthians 5:20
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
 - Romans 12:1-2
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7
 - James 4:8
 - Ephesians 2:10
 - Galatians 5:16
 - John 13:34
 - 1 Corinthians 10:31

PRAYER

Thank God that He is good and His plans are always good. Thank Him that He is always in control and never surprised and that nothing can stop His plans. Ask God to help you trust in His plans even when they don't make sense to you. We can always look back and know that God is good and that can help us trust Him when we can't see clearly what's up ahead.