

Lesson 17: God is in Control!

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Define control and determine that God is in control of everything by looking at Bible verses
- 2) Do activities to help reinforce the idea
- 3) Create a "God is in Control" banner to help remember all the ways God is in control.

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons/Crayons
- Pencils
- Attendance Chart
- Stickers for Attendance
- Banner Paper (11 x 17 computer copy paper or large construction paper) - one per child
- Small sticks/twigs - to represent bird nests enough per child
- Flower petals fabric, paper, or real - to represent flowers of the field enough per child
- Cotton balls - to represent clouds in sky enough per child
- Scissors
- Chalkboard or Easel to write down ideas for all to see
- God is in Control Sunflower Activity - Print on White Cardstock
- Sunflower Seeds in shells - one medium sized bag for kids to share
- White Glue - enough for children to share
- God is in Control Math Riddle - one per child

Optional

God is in control itemizing activity

- Clock
- Plastic bag filled with dirt
- Pictures of family members either from photos or magazines
- Money (either a 5 dollar bill or some change)
- Toy car or airplane
- A locked diary

Dictionary: to define words that are discussed in commandments, bible verses etc.

Snack:

- Sunflower seeds from activity left over (or shelled ones) one handful per child
- Napkins for snack one per child
- Juice or water and cup one per child

Lesson:

1) Introduction to lesson

10 minutes

As students enter welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Have children put a sticker beside their name for this week on their attendance chart. Once children are seated say;

What have we learned about God so far? (God is Love, worthy of praise, faithful, fair and just, our provider, merciful, holy, and righteous) **Today we are going to learn that God is also in control.**

WHAT IS CONTROL?

Can anyone tell me what control is? Raise your hand if you know. (Encourage children to raise hands and tell you what they think it is. Examples may be – being the boss, dominating a situation, being in charge.

The word control means: The power to influence or direct people's behavior or the course of events. To supervise the running of; to exercise restraint or direction over; to dominate; or to command.

In the case of God, God is in control of creation, He commands and it happens, He has direction over the world and has the right to command us as to how to live according to His good, perfect, pleasing will.

2) God is in Control So Don't Worry- Sunflower Activity 15-20 minutes

Before class, print the sunflower picture paper on cardstock (white).

Say to the students, **“God knows everything and is control of everything, even how the flowers look! Let's all turn to our Bibles and read from Matthew Chapter 6:25-34.**

Matthew Chapter 6:25-34

Do Not Worry

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

²⁸ “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Have children write their name on the bottom of the sunflower picture and then color the sunflower. Finally, put some white glue in the middle and have them glue on sunflower seeds. Set aside to dry. Help children clean up and ***make sure you save some sunflower seeds and keep separate if you are doing their snack today, and save some seeds for the Banner activity later.

God is in control which means we don't have to be – leave it to God and follow him as he already knows the best path for you. As is says in verse 33: But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

God says nothing happens without him. He knows the birds, the flowers, and us. He knows everything about us. Just like these flowers that God has made and cares for, He is in control and if we go to Him, He will gladly care for us too!

3) Optional: God is In Control Activity

5- 10 minutes

Place the following objects on a table:

A clock - God knows when everything will take place in our lives.

A plastic bag filled with dirt - God knows everything about our world.

Pictures of family members - God knows everything about each one of us because He created and loves us.

A dollar bill - God knows and understands our material needs and wants.

A toy car or toy airplane - God knows the next step in our travel of life.

A locked diary - God knows our inmost secrets even when we think we can hide them from Him.

Each of the items represents the idea that God knows everything. Go around the room allowing each child to select an item and share what they think it reveals about what God knows. (Do not let them see the statements above describing what they represent.) How should this change the way we live on a daily basis? These items will help us remember that because God knows everything, we can go to Him with all our questions and worries. We should thank God that He knows everything including what is uncertain to us! God is wonderful and cares deeply for us, isn't it great that He knows what is best and can help?

4) God is Righteous Banner Craft

15-20 minutes

Hand out one piece of construction paper or large copy paper to each child for their banner.

Tell kids to write their name on the back of the paper. Then hand out markers, crayons or pencil crayons for each child.

“Each week that we study a characteristic about God we will make a banner. This will help us remember that God is many things and all of them amazing! This week we will add to our banner and make a God is in control page! I am handing out some items that will help us decorate our banners. I have twigs, cotton balls, sunflower seeds, and flower petals.

What could the twigs represent that show God is in control? Allow children to answer. One idea maybe to represent a bird's nest since God cares for birds.

What could the cotton balls represent? Allow children to answer. One idea might be God is in control of the weather (clouds.)

What could the flower petals represent that show God is in control? Allow children to answer. One answer could be God is in control of the flowers.

What could the sunflower seed represent that show God is in control? Allow children to answer. One example might be food from the plants He created, or that God is in control of the flowers and what they make and that what He has created can feed us.

You can go through your activity sheets for words or ideas of things that remind you of how God is in Control. You can also draw pictures of things that remind you. Remember to fill up the whole banner with things and ways that show God is in control! As well include the title “God is in Control!” on your page. (Write this title somewhere where students can see it) Maybe you make the words out of petals and seeds? However you like.

Hand out scissors and glue for students. Remind students to go easy on the white glue – a little goes a long way!

Go ahead and start and if you need help or have any questions feel free to ask!

Make sure students have access to their bibles and activity pages for ideas and if necessary help them with cutting, gluing, verse look ups, or other things. Ensure kids clean up before leaving. If banners are dry kids can take them home or you can collect them and then hand them out to each child at the end with all banners the child will make stapled together to make one huge rolled up banner!

5) Optional: God is in Control Math Riddle Activity Page

10-15 minutes

Hand out one math riddle page per child. Read the instructions at the top of the page, help students if needed (especially the young ones).

Answer to God's in Control Math Riddle: Isaiah 46:10

I SAY MY PURPOSE WILL STAND, AND I WILL DO ALL THAT I PLEASE.

6) Optional – Snack : Sunflower Seeds

5 minutes

Hand out sunflower seeds along with a glass of water or juice to each child. Show the kids that: **the snacks you are eating are made from sunflowers, like the ones they colored earlier. Just like God clothes and cares for flowers, He clothes, feeds, and cares for us too!** Have a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions and examples of how God is in control while snacking!

7) Close in prayer

Thank you God for being in control. Thank you that we can rely on you to do the right thing and be the right answer all the time so we know we can always trust in your word and commandments. Thank you for creating the world and all the things in it and continuing to take care of it every day! We pray that we will find peace and comfort knowing that you are in control and know our needs and problems! Thank you that we can come to you in prayer with our problems, worries, and questions and know that you will take care of us! We ask all of this in Your Son's precious, holy and righteous name, Amen.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!