

Lesson 23: God Never Changes!

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Define the word change and determine that God never changes by looking at bible verses
- 2) Look at the story of David and Goliath to see how God never changes and is our hero!
- 3) Do activities that help reinforce the idea that God does not change
- 4) Create a "God Never Changes" banner to help remember all the ways God Never Changes!

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons/Crayons
- Pencils
- Attendance Chart
- Stickers for Attendance
- God Never Changes Scripture Verse Look up – 6 on a page – one per child
- Scissors to cut out Scripture verse look up sheet
- Banner Paper (11 x 17 computer copy paper or large construction paper) - one per child
- David and Goliath Connect the Dots Page – one per child
- David and Goliath Maze – one per child
- Chalkboard or Easel to write down ideas for all to see

Optional

Caterpillar Craft

- Construction Paper – any color one per child
- Cotton Balls (three per child) brown if available otherwise white will do
- Glue
- Markers and/or Crayons

Snack:

- Your Choice one per child
- Napkins for snack one per child
- Juice or water and cup one per child

Lesson:

1) Introduction to lesson

10-15 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, God is worthy of praise, God is faithful, God is fair and just, God is our provider, God is merciful, righteous, holy, in control, is Spirit, and personal) **Today we are going to learn that God is also a God that will never change. Let's turn to our Bibles and read from Hebrews 1:11-12.** Hand out bibles if some students forgot theirs.

11 They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment.

12 You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed.

But you remain the same, and your years will never end.”

The verse says that all other things get old and wear out, but what about God? (He stays the same!)

WHAT IS CHANGE?

Can anyone tell me what change is? Raise your hand if you know. (Encourage children to raise hands and tell you what they think change is. Examples may be – be different, go from one thing to another.)

The word change means to make or become different. It means to alter - exchange - vary - shift - convert - transform

But, in the case of God; God never changes, so that means He will never be different, He will never altar, exchange, vary, shift, convert, or transform into something else, He will always be God and will always want to love, protect, and care for us, He will also always be powerful, merciful, righteous, holy and all the other wonderful things God is. He will always stay the same!

In 30 seconds, let's name as many characteristics about God that will never change. (His power, holiness, love, everywhere, truthfulness, mercy, knowledge, always right, faithfulness, creator king, and just.)

Now let's turn in our Bibles to James 1:17. Can someone raise their hand and volunteer to read?

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

What does God never do? (God never changes!)

Do you think it's a good thing that God never changes? Why/Why not?

If God did change, it would have a huge effect on His other attributes!

For example:

God is Perfect and Holy (If God changed, He would no longer be perfect.)

God is Love (If God changed, He could decide not to love, or to love with conditions.)

God is Totally Truthful (If God changed, He could tell a lie.)

God Knows Everything (If God changed, He wouldn't know everything. He could forget things.)

God is Always Right - Righteous (If God changed, He could do something wrong.)

God is Faithful (If God changed, He could break His promises.)

God is Creator/King (If God changed, He could lose control of His creation.)

Because God Never Changes, you never have to worry that any of His attributes will change. You can count on each of them, no matter what!

God tells us that His Word is the Bible.

What is your favorite story from the Bible? Raise your hand if you want to answer.

Why is it your favorite?

What does it teach you about God? Let a few children answer these questions before moving on.

Let's read Isaiah 40:8. Turn to your bibles and we will read it together.

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."

No matter what happens in the world, God's Word, the Bible, stays the same.

Some people like to say that the God of the Old Testament changed in the New Testament.

Let's see what you think:

Read Genesis 15:6 from the Old Testament.

Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Why is Abraham counted righteous? (Because he believed the Lord – He had faith in God.)

Now let's read what it says Romans 3:28 from the New Testament.

For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

In the New Testament, how does God say we are made right with Him? (By faith in Him.)

God did not change. The principle of Faith in Him and being willing to follow His Commandments because of our faith has always been the only way to be made right.

Abraham trusted God would send a Savior.

You and I trust in the Savior He sent. Both are expressions of faith.

God made hundreds of promises throughout the Bible, and they are as trustworthy today as they were when they were written centuries ago. His promises do not change -- ever-- you can count on them!

Hand out God never changes Scripture Verse one to each child. There are five on a page so cut them out before class or quickly during class so each child gets one along with a pencil. Read the instructions, look up the verse and then ask each child together to write in the correct answer.

Read the verses below. On the blank after each verse, write what that verse says will last forever.

Psalm 90:2 _____ Isaiah 57:15 _____

Daniel 6:26 _____ Hebrews 13:8 _____

Jeremiah 33:11 _____

Answers are below.

Psalm 90:2	God	Daniel 6:26	God	Jeremiah 33:11	God's Love
Isaiah 57:15	God	Hebrews 13:8	Jesus		

Because God Never Changes, He is still the same today as He was in King David's day. God wants us to stand up for His name and honor.

You have probably read the story of David and Goliath.

Who do you think the hero of the story is? Why?

Most people would say that David is the hero.

I'm going to read the story from 1 Samuel; listen carefully for another hero.

Let's all turn our Bibles 1 Samuel 17:4, 8-11 and follow along.

David and Goliath

⁴ A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span.

⁸ Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. ⁹ If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." ¹⁰ Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." ¹¹ On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

Let's stop for a second.

What did Goliath call the Israelites in verse 8? ("the servants of Saul.")

Did the fact that they were called servants of Saul give them courage? (No.)

David and Goliath continued.

Read 1 Samuel 17:22-26.

²² David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and asked his brothers how they were. ²³ As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. ²⁴ Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear.

²⁵ Now the Israelites had been saying, "Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel."

²⁶ David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

Let's stop again for a second.

What did David call the armies of Israel in verse 26? ("Armies of the living God.")

David didn't see them simply as servants of Saul, but he also saw them as the armies of God.

Who was Goliath making fun of? (The Israelites and God.)

David and Goliath continued

Read 1 Samuel 17:31-37.

³¹ What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him.

32 David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

33 Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth."

34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, 35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. 36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. 37 The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."

Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you."

In David's time, all young boys and girls had jobs they had to do every day. David's was to take care of the sheep. Little did he know that by being faithful to do his daily chores well, he was preparing to defeat a giant!

Who did David say delivered him from the lions and the bears? (God!)

Part of the preparation for meeting the giant was for David to learn what his responsibility was and what God's responsibility was. See if you can figure it out as we read the end of the story . . .

David and Goliath continued

Read 1 Samuel 17:41-49.

1 Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. 42 He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. 43 He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!"

45 David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. 47 All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

48 As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. 49 Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

Who did David say would conquer Goliath? (God!)

When Goliath started walking toward David with his shield bearer beside him to protect him from this "dog" of a boy, David ran toward Goliath.

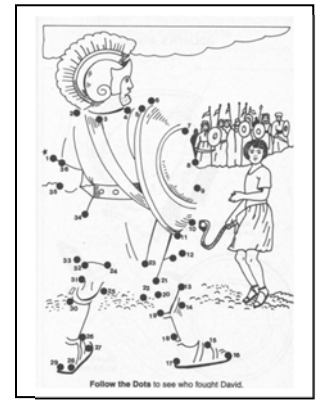
What do you think gave David such courage?

Have you figured out what David's responsibility was and what God's responsibility was? (David's responsibility was to stand up for God. He used the skills God gave him and he trusted God to do the rest. God's responsibility was to win the battle.)

Who do you think the true hero is in this story? (God!)

David knew who made him win against the lions and the bears and who would win against Goliath . . . and it wasn't him! David is a hero for showing up, but God is the hero

for winning! Because God never changes we can trust that he will be with us too in everyday situations that we face. Just like David – God did not literally show up and save him, but God gave the ability to David to take care of the situation and God was there spiritually, just like He wants to be there for us today! Thanks to God that He never changes.



To help us remember we are going to do two activity pages, one is a maze and one is a connect the dots and color page. Here are some pencil crayons so please write your name on the back of the pages before starting and then work your way through the pages. Hand out sheets and then ask if there are any questions. Help if needed and remind students that **just like David we can trust in God because God never changes and because of that we can always count on Him!**

4) Optional: Caterpillar Craft

5-10 minutes

Caterpillars change into what? Butterflies! Let's make a craft that shows that Caterpillars change, but God never will.

Take the construction paper I am handing out to each one of you and along with the three cotton balls you each get and some glue, glue the three cotton balls in a row on the bottom of the paper to show a fuzzy caterpillar. Make sure you put the caterpillar at the bottom because we are going to need to put something at the top later. Next, we will draw an arrow pointing to the top of the page, where you will each draw a beautiful butterfly. Hand out crayons or pencil crayons for them to draw the arrow and butterfly. Help if needed to write, "Caterpillars change into beautiful butterflies, but God never changes!" on each page. Let glue dry before taking home.

Make sure kids write their name on the page and help clean up before moving on to next activity.

5) God Never Changes 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 and bibles to share.

"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 Never Changes page! Write the title God Never Changes and then draw pictures of things that remind you of God's steadfastness and the fact that He will never change. You can also include words or phrases that show that God never changes. Remember to fill up the whole banner with things and ways that show God never changes!

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 for ideas and if necessary help them with 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!

6) Optional: God Never Changes Hopping Memory Verse Game 5-10 minutes

Use the Memory Verse from Hebrews 13:8:

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Have children line up against a wall. Clear a path in front of them for some hopping room. Say the first part of the verse together, **“Jesus Christ is the same...”** and then let them hop forward once each time as they say, **“yesterday” and “today” and “forever.”**

For extra fun, see you can hop the farthest especially on the word **“forever.”** Continue a few times until everyone remembers the verse and remind them, it is from Hebrews 13:8.

7) Optional - Snack : Your choice 5 minutes

Hand out one snack along with a glass of water or juice to each child. Have a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions and examples of how God never changes while snacking!) You may also talk about how snacks can change, but God doesn't – example: the cracker recipe can change, the apple can change from one brand to another, the juice can change from one recipe to another, but God never does!

8) Close in prayer

Thank you God for never changing. Thank you that we can always rely on You, always trust in You and always know that Your word is true and constant. We pray that You will help us to turn to You and know that Your Word is forever and so are You and Your Son! Help our friends, family, pets, and selves to have good health, safety, and peace. And it is in your Son's precious and holy name we pray, Amen.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!