

HALLELUJAH ANYWAY

SERMON
on the Mount
LESSON 5

LESSON TEXT

Matthew 6:25-34

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- The students will explain how God provides for his creation and how he meets their needs.
- The students will list three reasons why it is more important to trust God than to worry.
- The students will describe God's prescription for worry and apply it to their own lives this week.

MATERIALS NEEDED

For each student:

- pen or pencil
- 1 sheet of lined paper

For the teacher:

- 1 copy of "Good News from the Kingdom"
- globe or map of the world
- optional: doctor's outfit and clipboard
- extra Bibles
- 3 poster boards
- markers
- 19 pieces of white construction paper, 8½" x 11"
- 19 pieces of yellow construction paper, 8½" x 11"
- blue or black marker
- masking tape

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each student
- Page B, 1 copy for every 4 students
- Page C, 1 copy for each student
- Page D, 1 copy for each student

LESSON PLAN

Getting Ready

Faithful Instruction
 Teacher Focus
 Teacher Tips
 Preclass Activity: God and Me/
 One Thing in Common
 Starting Up
 Welcome and Singing
 Opening Prayer
 Victories
 Good News from the Kingdom

Getting into God's Word

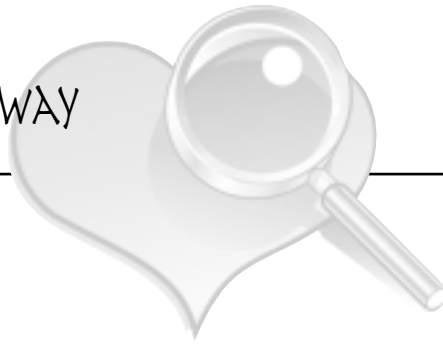
Story: "Research Task Force"
 Scripture Study
 Activity: Task Groups

Getting It to Others

Scripture Memory: Matthew 6:33
 Weekly Challenge and Snack Time
 Conclusion

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
 Matthew 6:33



FAITHFUL INSTRUCTION

TEACHER FOCUS

Pray before preparing this lesson. Read and meditate on Matthew 6:25-34. Ask yourself why you worry. In this passage, Jesus tried to get us to think differently about how much God cares for and will take care of us. Worry is never to be part of a disciple's character, reaction or response. We must trust God and his love for us, and we must depend on him.

Make verse 33 practical for yourself: What does it really mean for you to seek first the kingdom? Does it mean deeper relationships in the kingdom, being more open, more available, working through conflict and disappointments or just showing up at church? What does seeking his righteousness mean to you? Does it mean not being a people-pleaser or impure in your thoughts, but being honest, real and humble before God and others? Have some victories in trusting God this week so that you can teach this class with deep conviction that will change and impact your preteens.

TEACHER TIPS

This class should move quickly, so be sure to allow for smooth transitions. Keep the preteens thinking and "moving."

PRECLASS ACTIVITY

GOD AND ME/ONE THING IN COMMON

The students will see, through these two short activities, how important they are to God.

MATERIALS USED

For each student:

- pen or pencil

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each student
- Page B, 1 copy for every 4 students

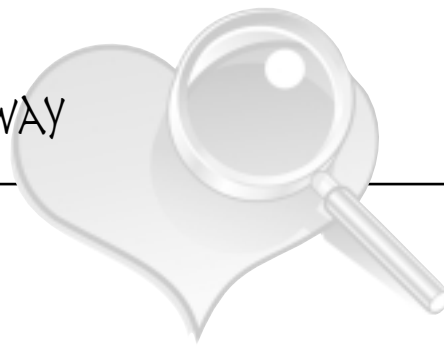
PREPARATION

Cut each copy of Reproducible Page B into four separate lists.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Give each student a copy of Reproducible Page A (God and Me) and a pen or pencil as they arrive. (They may use their Bibles to look up Matthew 6 if that will help them.) Be sure the students answer the question at the bottom of the worksheet. (See answer key below.)
2. As the students finish Page A, give them the copies of the list on Reproducible Page B (One Thing in Common).
3. The students may work quietly in groups of two or three to come up with an answer as to what these things have in common.
4. Let them share their ideas, but wait until the end of the lesson before revealing the answer.

1. T	6. T	11. T	16. T	21. F
2. F	7. F	12. F	17. T	22. F
3. T	8. T	13. F	18. F	
4. T	9. T	14. T	19. T	
5. T	10. T	15. T	20. F	



STARTING UP

WELCOME AND SINGING

Call the students together in a circle. Welcome everyone by name, being sure to recognize anyone who is visiting. Let them know how glad you are to see them and how much you looked forward to being with them. Sing a few great songs.

OPENING PRAYER

Who would like to say a prayer to start today's time together? Select one or two students to pray for several minutes. Include special prayer requests for the preteens, the church and the kingdom.

VICTORIES

Take the time to have the students share about the challenge they were given at the end of last week's class. *Did everyone complete their challenge? How did it go? What fears did you face as you met the challenge to put the lesson into practice? How did everyone do with having consistent quiet times? Who would like to share something they learned this week?*

Praise and encourage all the students' efforts, especially noting any area of significant growth. Offer help and suggestions so they can have even more victories in the coming week.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE KINGDOM

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:

- 1 copy of "Good News from the Kingdom"
- globe or map of the world

INSTRUCTIONS

Now let's take a few minutes to share "Good News from the Kingdom." Be excited as you read about what is happening around the world. Have a globe or map ready, pointing out the location as you share. Remind your students that the kingdom of God is worldwide and the victories of our brothers and sisters on other continents can inspire us and spur us on.





STORY

"RESEARCH TASK FORCE"

This short story serves as a segue into the Bible story and the activity. It figuratively describes worry as a disease, and the preteens are asked to help the researchers study it.

MATERIALS USED

For the student:

- pen or pencil

For the teacher:

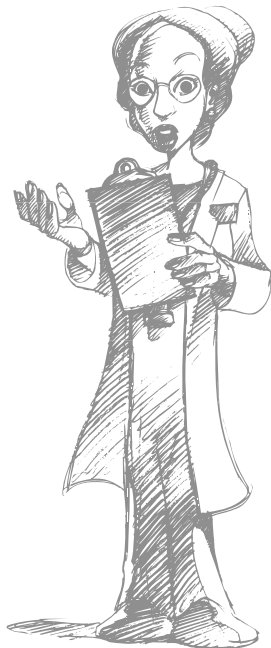
- optional: doctor's outfit and clipboard

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page C ("Research Task Force") to the students.
2. Tell the students to listen as you read the story. (If you decide to dress in a doctor's outfit, pretend to be one of the people involved in the research.)
3. Divide the students into three groups and give them about eight minutes to make their lists. One student should write the list on the back of his or her copy of Page C. Remind them about the time at different intervals. This will keep them on task.
4. Have them keep their lists until the Activity time.



SCRIPTURE STUDY

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:

- extra Bibles

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Ask one student from each of the groups to present their research findings from the previous activity for the class. As the research doctor, be serious and talk about how the information that they have reported has confirmed your fears: specifically that worry is a serious disease.
2. Ask: *Is there a cure? Do you think you could help find a cure in the remaining time that we have?*
3. Hopefully, the students will suggest that the Bible may help. Agree with them: *Yes, yes, I do remember Jesus talking about worry...*
4. Have the students turn in their Bibles to Matthew 6:25-34.
5. Read the passage aloud to the students. Discuss:
 - *Do you think that worry is a recent problem?*
 - *Do you think people worried back in Jesus' time? (Yes, they did.)*
 - *Do you think Jesus noticed it? (Yes, and he cared about the people and wanted to relieve their worries.)*
 - *Who was Jesus talking to? (Go back to Matthew 5:1.)*
 - *Who were "disciples"? (Jesus was talking to the people who followed him.)*
 - *What did he say? (not to worry about life, what we eat or drink or wear)*
 - *Why did he say we should not worry? (God will take care of our needs.)*
 - *Was he just out of touch? (No—since he was living on the earth in the flesh, he knew clearly what his daily needs were.)*
 - *What examples did he use? (God's care of the birds and flowers.)*
 - *Just because he takes care of them, do you really think he will take care of you?*
 - *How do you know? (because Jesus says so)*
 - *What did he say? (If God takes care of things that are here one day and gone the next, how much more will he take care of us!)*
 - *Are you not much more valuable than these*



ACTIVITY

things that are so common, like flowers or birds? What do you think? Are you more valuable than those things to God?

- *Sometimes others can make us feel like we are not very important at all. But what does Jesus say? (that we are very important)*
- *Who is right? (Jesus, of course)*
- *How do you know?*
- *What is another name Jesus used for God? (He used "Father.")*
- *Why do you think he used that name in this passage? (Help the students to see that as a father, God loves and cares for us even more than any human father. Some of your preteens may not even know their fathers. If that is the case, be sure to help them understand what God being a father to them really means.)*
- *In verse 32, who are the pagans? Are there any around today? (They are people who do not understand that God wants to be their father and take care of them, so they run after things, rather than God.)*
- *How do you know that they are around today? (Most people are not seeking to please God.)*
- *Does God know your needs?*
- *How do you know he knows your needs?*
- *Did Jesus say to just not worry and to do your own thing?*
- *What did Jesus say to do instead of worrying? (seek first to please God)*
- *What does all that mean in your everyday life? (Have students give specific examples of ways at school and in their families that they can decide to trust God and not to worry.)*

TASK GROUPS

The task groups will research how to "cure" worry by using the passage they just read.

MATERIALS USED

For each student:

- 1 sheet of lined paper

For the teacher:

- 3 poster boards
- markers

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Allow the groups to share their finding from the precious activity with the class.
2. Give them the following assignments to research now:
Task Group #1: Research the top ten areas in which we should trust God.
Task Group #2: Find three reasons to trust God, using the passage.
Task Group #3: Research the "symptoms" of people who do not worry: how they feel, think, etc. (In other words, how people act and think when they are confident in God.)
3. Have each group write up their findings on a piece of the poster board to present to the class. Encourage the groups to make their charts attractive.
4. Give each group an opportunity to present their findings to the class.
5. Remind the students of the list that they considered in the Preclass Activity. The question was "What do all the things in this list have in common?" The answer? None of them worry!!





SCRIPTURE MEMORY

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
Matthew 6:33

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:

- 19 pieces of white construction paper, 8½" x 11"
- 19 pieces of yellow construction paper, 8½" x 11"
- blue or black marker
- masking tape

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 1 copy for each student

PREPARATION

1. Write one word of the memory scripture on each piece of white paper.
2. Do the same with the yellow paper.
3. When you arrive at your classroom, tape each piece of paper (words facing the wall) to a different spot in the room. Put some of the pieces in places where they will not be seen as quickly.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Divide the class into two teams.
2. Assign the color of white or yellow to each team.
3. At the word "Go!" have each team search for all the pieces of paper in their color.
4. As they find the pieces, have them bring them back to their team to try to create the verse from the words. (The students should be familiar enough with the verse to be able to do this without being told the verse first.)

5. The first team that finds all the pieces and constructs the verse correctly is the winner.
6. Give each student a copy of Reproducible Page D (Memory Verse).

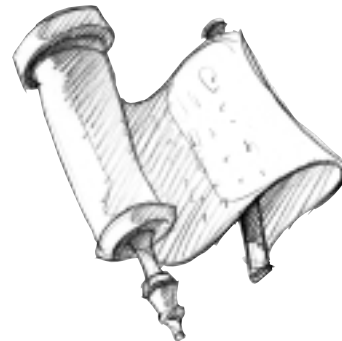
WEEKLY CHALLENGE AND SNACK TIME

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat while you explain to them the challenge for the week.

The challenge for the students this week is to help a friend not to worry as they train themselves not to worry. Have the students form pairs, agreeing to help each other not worry about particular situations in their lives. Ask them to come prepared to share about how it went during the next class (Core Lesson).

CONCLUSION

End the class with a prayer.



WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Practice being worry-free! You and your partner should each choose one thing not to worry about this week and then challenge and encourage each other throughout the week.

HALLELUJAH ANYWAY

LESSON TEXT

Matthew 6:25-34; Luke 12:22-34

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- The students will explain what it means to “seek first his kingdom and his righteousness.”
- The students will determine two ways that they can seek the kingdom more in their own lives.
- The students will describe God’s prescription for worry and apply it to their own lives this week.

MATERIALS NEEDED

For each student:

- pen or pencil

For the teacher:

- extra Bibles

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 1 copy for each student
- Page F, 1 copy for half of the students
- Page G, 1 copy for half of the students

LESSON PLAN

Getting Ready

Faithful Instruction
 Teacher Focus
 Teacher Tips
 Preclass Activity: What If They Had Worried?
 Starting Up
 Welcome and Singing
 Opening Prayer and Review
 Great News Sharing

Getting into God's Word

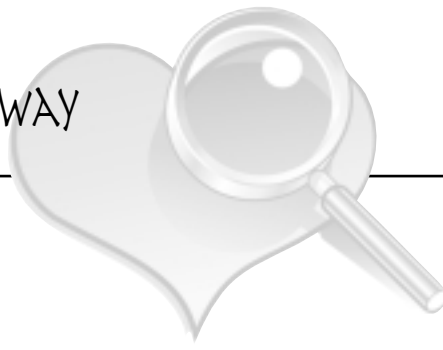
Scripture Study
 Activity: Seeking First His Righteousness

Getting It to Others

Scripture Memory: Matthew 6:33
 Weekly Challenge and Snack Time
 Conclusion

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”
 Matthew 6:33



FAITHFUL INSTRUCTION

TEACHER FOCUS

Pray before preparing this lesson. Read and meditate on Matthew 6:25-34 and Luke 12:22-34. What did it really mean for you to seek first his kingdom and his righteousness when you were first baptized? How are you different now? Do you still seek him first, or have worries and concerns begun to choke out your faith?

Remember that your students need help in determining how they can seek God and righteousness. "Righteousness" is a big, religious-sounding word. Help them to understand that it simply means "being right with God" or "being pleasing to God." Use the example of your own life to show them some of the changes they can make now, setting them up well for studying the Bible in the future.

TEACHER TIPS

This class provides lots of practical advice on seeking the kingdom first and not worrying about other things. Look for ways that your students may "stress out" and not rely on God, both in class and outside of class. Remind them of the blessings of trusting in God always.

Some students may not be aware of all the Biblical situations in the Preclass Activity. Be ready to summarize each story listed on Reproducible Page E.

PRECLASS ACTIVITY

WHAT IF THEY HAD WORRIED?

This worksheet will allow your students to predict what might have happened to different Biblical figures if they had worried instead of trusting God in their situations.

MATERIALS USED

For each student:

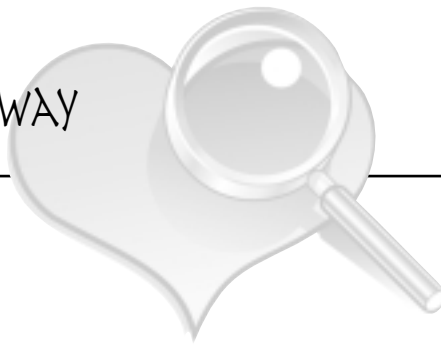
- pen or pencil

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 1 copy for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Give each student a copy of Reproducible Page E (What If They Had Worried?) and a pen or pencil as they arrive.
2. Have the students work on their own to complete the worksheet. Have them think about the Biblical characters on the sheet and give two possible results in the characters' situations if they had not chosen to trust God.
3. When the class has completed the worksheets, allow some of the students to share their ideas. They should be able to think of many possible results of not trusting God.



STARTING UP

WELCOME AND SINGING

Call the students together in a circle. Welcome everyone by name, being sure to recognize anyone who is visiting. Let them know how glad you are to see them and how much you looked forward to being with them. Sing a few great songs.

OPENING PRAYER AND REVIEW

- Open with one of the students praying for each student to be eager to learn.
- Have one student recite the memory verse for this lesson: Matthew 6:33.
- Have a student briefly review the previous lesson about worry (Core Lesson).

GREAT NEWS SHARING

Allow several minutes for the students to share great news about their lives. This could be about a family member who became a disciple, someone healed from an illness, someone studying the Bible, great grades, etc. Remind the students to be brief so as many as possible can share.





SCRIPTURE STUDY

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:

- extra Bibles

Have the students open to Matthew 6:25-34. Call on volunteers to read the passage.

Review by asking a few questions about the passage.

Read the parallel passage in Luke 12:22-34 aloud to the students.

Compare the two passages. Discuss:

- *God is very clear in letting us know that he cares about us. This must be a problem for many people if Jesus found the need to keep emphasizing its importance. What are the examples he gives us in this passage that are different from the passage in Matthew? (ravens, lilies)*
- *What are the things you worry most about? (Give the students some time to answer.)*
- *Seeking first the kingdom is a hard idea to understand. How do you seek first his kingdom? (read the Bible / come to church / get involved in preteen activities / participate in fellowship / basically, decide in your heart that you want to do and be whatever is right and pleasing to God)*

- *How do you seek his righteousness? (find out what he wants you to do / ask advice / be open about struggles)*

NOTE: These things may not be obvious to your students. They are thinking about so much in their lives that they need guidance on how to seek God and righteousness. Offer examples from your own life, sharing what it was like when you were first learning to put these passages into practice.

- *What are some practical ways you can start today to live this passage out?*
- *In Luke 12:32, Jesus told us not to be afraid. Why would you be afraid to seek God first and stop worrying? (afraid things might not work out the way you want them to)*
- *What did Jesus say in this passage that gives us confidence that God will always take care of us and our needs?*
- *What is the treasure Jesus talked about in verse 34? (whatever is the most valuable to us)*
- *What should our treasure be? (relationship with God)*

Think about that—if our treasure is our relationship with God, then our heart will always be close to him and we will never need to worry.





ACTIVITY

SEEKING FIRST HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS

The students will read two stories that depict two possible temptations for preteens. They will consider what it would mean practically to "seek first God's righteousness" in these situations.

MATERIALS USED

Reproducible Pages:

- Page F, 1 copy for half of the students
- Page G, 1 copy for half of the students

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Give half of the class copies of Reproducible Page F (Seeking First His Righteousness #1) and the other half copies of Reproducible Page G (Seeking First His Righteousness #2). These are to be distributed randomly.

2. Ask the students to read the story silently and write their individual responses to the four questions at the end of the story.
3. When the students finish, read aloud Page F (#1).
4. Ask those who had that story to share their responses to the questions, taking one question at a time. Discuss the responses, and see if the other students have anything to add.
5. Read aloud Page G (#2).
6. Ask those who had that story to share their responses to the questions, taking one question at a time. Discuss the responses, and see if the other students have anything to add.
7. Make sure the students are making a practical application of "seeking first God's righteousness." NOTE: Don't be reticent to discuss the topic brought up in story #2. Temptations with the opposite sex are coming at younger and younger ages.



SCRIPTURE MEMORY

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
Matthew 6:33

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Ask for volunteers to say one thing that they or other preteens might worry about.
2. Have the rest of the class respond by saying the memory verse aloud.
3. Examples:
Student: "I might fail the test today."
Class: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
Student: "I might get in trouble if I tell the truth."
Class: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

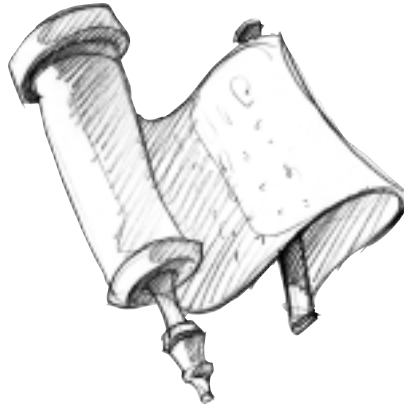
WEEKLY CHALLENGE AND SNACK TIME

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat while you remind them of the challenge for the week.

The challenge this week is for the students to help a friend not to worry as they train themselves not to worry. The students formed pairs to help each other not to worry. Ask the partners how they are doing. Ask them to come prepared to share about how it went at the next class (Core Lesson).

CONCLUSION

End the class with a prayer.



WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Practice being worry-free! You and your partner should each choose one thing not to worry about this week and then challenge and encourage each other throughout the week.



GOD AND ME

Directions: Write true or false in front of each statement.

- _____ 1. God gave you the gift of life.
- _____ 2. We are merely individuals who have no idea who created us.
- _____ 3. God is concerned about every one of us.
- _____ 4. You would never have come into this world if God had not willed it.
- _____ 5. God has a plan and a purpose for your life.
- _____ 6. God never leaves unfinished any work that he has begun.
- _____ 7. Your life in this world was an accident.
- _____ 8. God is the ruler of the universe.
- _____ 9. God knows us each by name.
- _____ 10. Many people seem to spend their whole lives thinking, talking, reading or searching for things, like what to eat or what to wear, etc.
- _____ 11. The world today is trying its best to get us to live life only on the physical level and to not think about God, the giver of everything.
- _____ 12. God cares more about the birds of the air and the lilies of the field than he does about us.
- _____ 13. You can add a whole hour to your life if you worry really, really good.
- _____ 14. Nothing can happen to you that God does not know about.
- _____ 15. God knows all about you.
- _____ 16. God knows all of your needs.
- _____ 17. God knows every pang in your heart, every hurt.
- _____ 18. You are left to yourself sometimes when God forgets.
- _____ 19. God knows everything about you—every circumstance, every need, every sorrow.
- _____ 20. Worrying about the future is a good use of energy and time.
- _____ 21. We should rely on God in general, but not in specific situations.
- _____ 22. If you are not afraid of something, then you are really in for it.

Choose three of the "true" statements from above and write down how you know them to be true:

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ONE THING IN COMMON

What do all these things in this list have in common?

grass	a tree planted by the water	shoes	fire
an infant	a glass of water	sparrows	this piece of paper
Godzilla	a rose	corn	Barney
an eagle	a robin	lilies of the field	the wind
a tulip	a lion	a rock	
a turtle	the Rocky Mountains	lemonade	
your pencil	another turtle	a hawk	

What do all these things in this list have in common?

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RESEARCH TASK FORCE

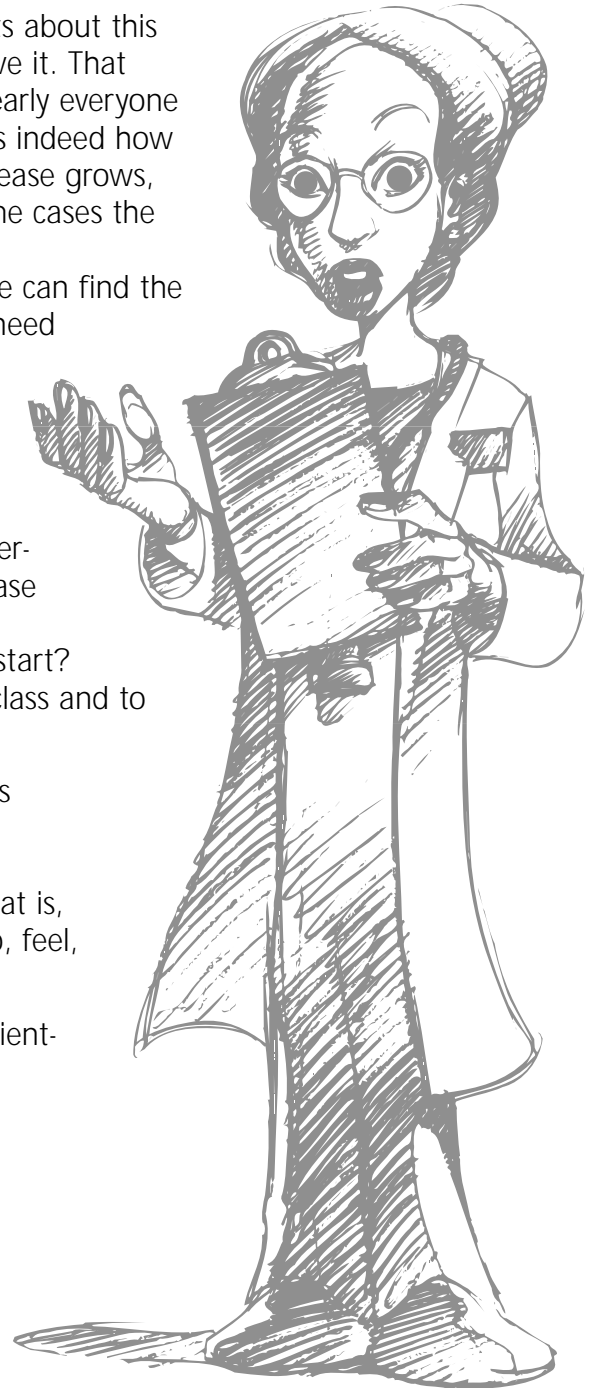
Recently, scientists discovered a very interesting phenomenon. There is a common ailment that is literally tearing people up all over the world. The early symptoms are very subtle or, at least, they start out unnoticed. Not even the persons with the disease think that they are afflicted. One of the most interesting facts about this disease is that there is hardly anyone who does not have it. That could indeed be the reason why it is hard to notice. Nearly everyone suffers from it, so everyone thinks that it is normal. It is indeed how we as humans are. Research has shown that as the disease grows, the symptoms vary depending on the individual. In some cases the symptoms are irreversible and cause much damage.

We need more research to be conducted so that we can find the cure. Our time is short—we need your help today. We need you, in this room, to form a few small task forces to answer some very vital questions so that we can understand this disease better. You see, all of our research to date has indicated that the disease starts around the ages of ten to twelve. That is why we have presented this problem to you. You are probably wondering if the disease has a name. We have called this disease “Worry.”

Will you help us? Can you help us? When can you start? We need three task force groups to be formed in this class and to follow the instructions below:

- Task Group One: List the ten top things that preteens worry about.
- Task Group Two: List reasons why people worry.
- Task Group Three: List the symptoms of worrying; that is, what do persons who worry act like, think about, do, feel, etc. when they worry?

You must act quickly. Please organize your groups efficiently. We need this information as soon as possible.



SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."



MATTHEW 6:33

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Practice being worry-free! You and your partner should each choose one thing not to worry about this week and then challenge and encourage each other throughout the week.



WHAT IF THEY HAD WORRIED?

DIRECTIONS: For each of the Biblical figures below, write down two things that might have happened if they had worried and not trusted God.

David, when he fought Goliath—

Joshua at Jericho—

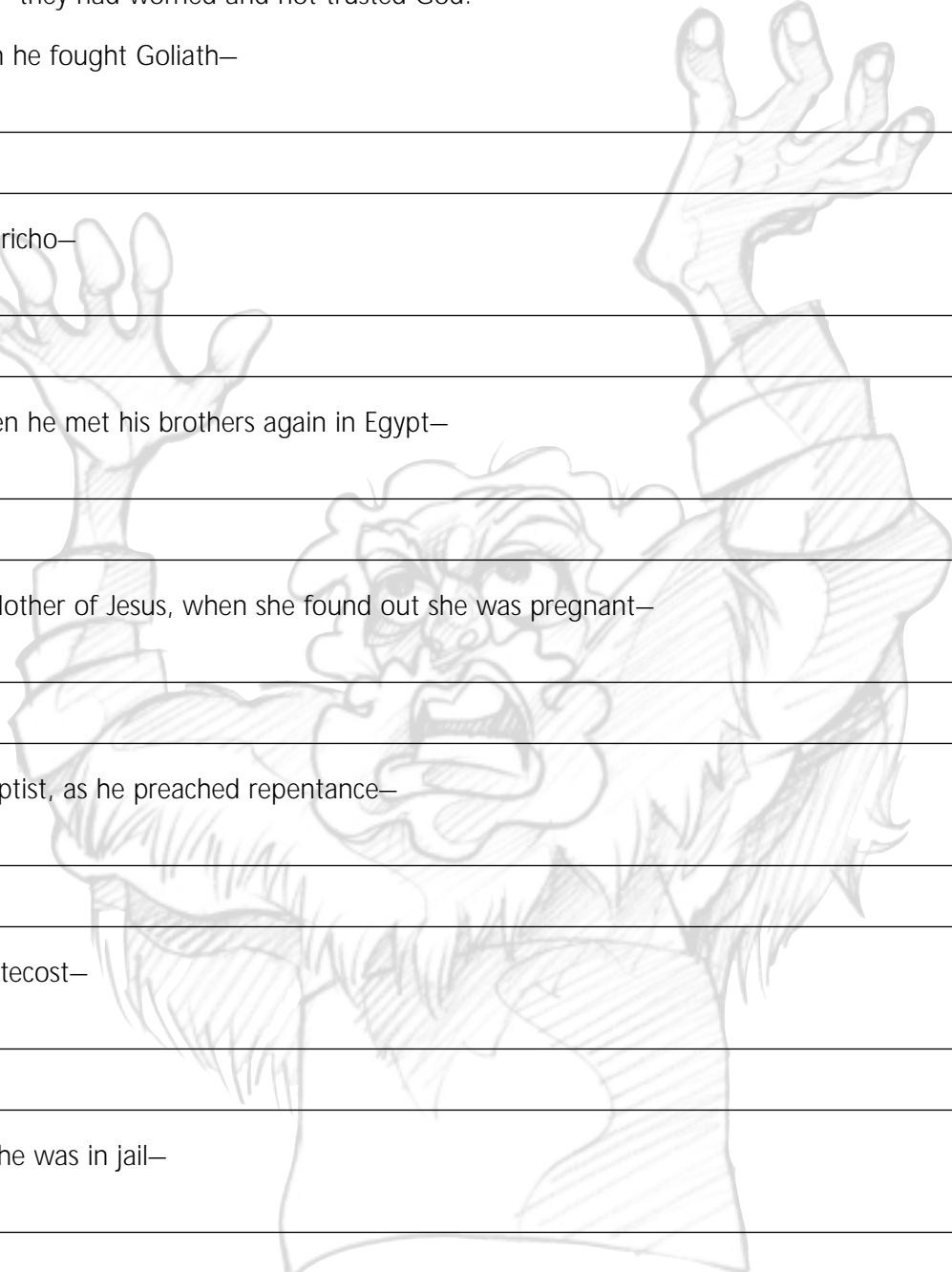
Joseph, when he met his brothers again in Egypt—

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, when she found out she was pregnant—

John the Baptist, as he preached repentance—

Peter at Pentecost—

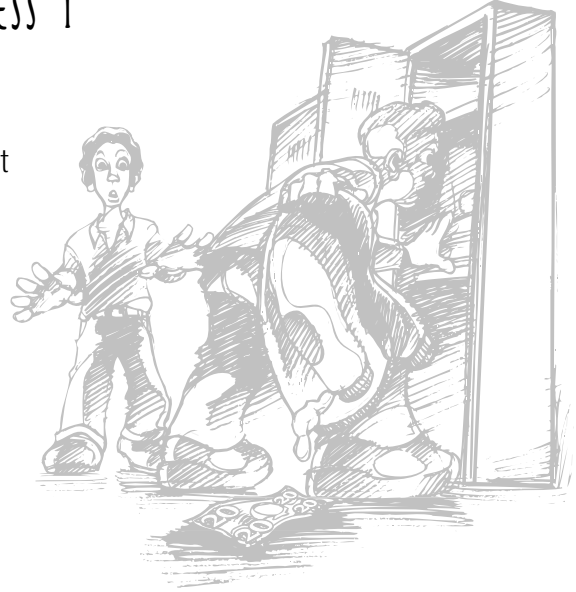
Saul, when he was in jail—



SEEKING FIRST HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS 1

Scott was walking down the hall at school. He was really upset with his mom because she wouldn't give him the money to buy the new CD that his favorite group had just released. He kept thinking about ways that he could get the money to buy it.

He glanced down as a boy pulled his jacket out of his locker. As he did so, a twenty-dollar bill fell out of the pocket onto the floor beside his foot. Scott realized that the boy didn't know he had dropped it. Scott also realized that he could easily scoop it up and keep on walking. No one would ever know...



1. What would it mean for Scott to seek first God's righteousness in this situation?

2. Why might he be tempted not to seek first God's righteousness?

3. What could be the results of NOT seeking first God's righteousness?

4. What would be the results of seeking first his righteousness?

SEEKING FIRST HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS 2

Sarah was a very pretty girl. She was only 11, but she looked as though she were 14 or 15. A boy named Jesse was a ninth grader who really liked Sarah. He wanted her to go on a date with him.

One day he said to Sarah, "Hey, I think you are really cute. Why don't you come over to my house today and watch TV with me? My mom will be home."

Sarah's parents had told her that they did not want her to go out with boys from school. In fact, they had said she could not have any real dates until she was at least 13. Sarah had assumed that when she did go out with boys, she would only go with those whose families were part of the church.

She thought Jesse was really cute, and he just lived a couple of blocks from her house. And, after all, he said his mom would be home. What would it hurt for her to go over there? Her mom was gone this afternoon, so she would never know...



1. What would it mean for Sarah to seek first God's righteousness in this situation?

2. Why might she be tempted not to seek first God's righteousness?

3. What could be the results of NOT seeking first God's righteousness?

4. What would be the results of seeking first his righteousness?
