



When Bad Things Happen



THE MISSION AIM

To know that God helps when bad things happen.



KEY VERSE

Psalm 9:9: "The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble."



Pre-Mission Activity



Supplies Needed

- Five Jellybeans for each student (can substitute for any token)
- Sheets of paper numbered one to four
- Tape for placing paper on walls

Directions

Step 1: Before class begins, attach the pieces of paper to the four corners of the room. If not four corners, simply pick four locations throughout the room.

Step 2: Give each student five jellybeans and inform them that they are farmers and this is their crop.

Step 3: Close your eyes and tell the students to choose a corner to stand in with their jellybeans.

Step 4: Now, count down from 10 and then shout out a number of a corner.

Step 5: Any students standing in that corner must give up a jellybean to you. Inform students a flood has washed away one of their fields.

Step 6: Continue this activity until all but one student have lost all their jellybeans.

SAY: How did it feel to have all your food taken by floods? (*Bad, frustrating, etc.*) Was there anything you could do to ensure that you would keep all your food? (*Not really, it was chance.*) No matter how hard we plan and prepare our lives, sometimes bad things happen. While we can't control it, we don't have to worry. Today's lesson will help us to understand why.



Mission Uplink 1



Have ready YouTube playlist: "Season 1 – Kingdom Living Today Episode 1: When Bad Things Happen"

Play "Kingdom Living Today (S1) Episode 1 (1/4)". Episode begins with the *Ready to Serve* theme song, followed automatically by the MISSION # 1 VIDEO. Pause the video when the MISSION # 1 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 1.

If using PPT for video, have KLT-Episode_1-When_Bad_Things_Happen.pptx ready and play slide one. Pause on the MISSION # 1 CARD so you and your recruits can complete Mission # 1.



Mission #1



Supplies Needed

- Newspapers or access to online children's news sources (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/> or <https://teachingkidsnews.com/>)
- Large sheet or blanket
- Four chairs
- Paper to crumple into balls
- Markers



Mission Assignment

SAY: Let's have a drumroll for our first mission...(reading mission card from satellite uplink) "Recruits, your mission is to research current events happening in the world around you. Put yourselves in the shoes of those impacted by disaster and help the Recon Team understand the feelings Sayid might be having. God bless recruits!"

SAY: As you just heard, the Recon Team have been providing emergency relief for a local community that has been hit by a flood. Unexpected and tragic events happen throughout the world, even close to home. Let's work to discover some examples of similar events that have recently occurred around us.

DO: Have your recruits work in pairs or small groups to research current "bad events" in the news (fires, floods, wars, strikes, job loss...). If you do not have access to tools such as newspapers or the internet, you may need to have some events already chosen for discussion with the recruits.

SAY: I have given each group some paper and markers. Find and write down any current disasters that you either already know of or discover during your research. Please write each event on a separate piece of paper. For example, I might write "Sayid's home destroyed by flood". You have 10 minutes, recruits!



Please be aware of the individual needs of your recruits. Make sure the news sources being used are age-appropriate and watch for recruits who may be more sensitive to the subjects being discussed.



DO: As recruits are working, encourage them to share what they have discovered with those around them.

SAY: Great work, recruits! Now, the Recon Team wants to better understand how Sayid might be feeling, since his home was destroyed in the flood. Thinking about that and the events you have just gathered Intel on, brainstorm words that you might use to express how someone might feel when during these events. Write each word on a separate piece of paper. You have two minutes, recruits!

DO: Have students brainstorm descriptive words about how individuals may feel during tragic events (angry, sad, scared, hopeless, frustrated, lost, hurt, etc.). Go around the room and help students to expand their list by encouraging them to put themselves in others' shoes.

SAY: Nice job, team! I saw a lot of hard work going on in each group. Now, I need you to take all those papers and crumple them into tiny balls. Once you have done this, bring them to the middle of the room and we will start a pile.

DO: Have students crumple all the paper into balls and make a pile in the middle of the room.

SAY: Wow! That is certainly a large pile of bad things! It is clear that disasters can happen all around us, and it is easy to become discouraged by them. However, the Bible has a clear message about why we as Christians do not have to worry when disaster strikes!

DO: Look up Psalm 9:9 and have a recruit read it aloud.

SAY: What does *refuge* mean? (*A place of safety*)

SAY: God tells us that he will be our refuge...our place of safety. When I think of this, I imagine God as a giant blanket. Let me show you what I mean.

DO: Show students the blanket and have them create a fort by draping it over some chairs.

SAY: I need two volunteers to be my "disasters" and the rest of you to be "God's people".

DO: Have the "disasters" stand next to the paper balls and "God's people" huddle under the blanket. Then, tell the "disasters" to start throwing the balls of paper at the outside of the fort.

SAY: Outside of the blanket, disasters were everywhere! But, what happened to God's people? (*They were protected by the blanket; they didn't get directly hit, etc.*)

SAY: This is why the blanket reminds me of God. When bad things happen to us as Christians, we can trust God to surround us and provide the protection and help we need to make it through! Now, this doesn't mean that bad things won't happen to us. Bad things happen every day. However, God is close by, just like the blanket, taking some of the impact from the disasters that are "thrown our way". Excellent work, recruits! I think we have gathered enough knowledge on current disasters and the emotions that may come with them in order to report back to the Recon Team.





Mission Uplink 2



YouTube: Play "Kingdom Living Today (S1) Episode 1 (2/4)". Pause the video when the MISSION # 2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when MISSION #2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.



Mission #2



Supplies Needed

- Bibles
- Whiteboard or chart paper
- Markers



Mission Assignment

SAY: I think our next mission will be helpful for each of us. Can I have a drumroll, please? (reading mission card from satellite uplink) "Recruits, it's important to make sure the information we use to make decisions is accurate. Please use your Bibles to determine what God says about disasters. What role does God take during these times?"

SAY: Alright, recruits! As you saw, Kate had a "peanut butter panic", because she did not take the time to make sure her Intel on the situation was accurate. If we and the Recon Team intend to help others when disaster strikes, it is important that we check our facts about what God says on the subject. That way, we are able to provide the comfort and knowledge that people, like Sayid, need in times of crisis.

SAY: We are going to use our Bibles to attack the question: "What does the Bible say about struggles and God?" Doing this will allow us to complete our assigned mission.

DO: Split the class into teams and have each student pick up their Bible.

SAY: I am going to call out a verse of scripture. Your team's job is to find the verse first and stand up. The first team to have someone stand up and correctly read the verse will have won a point.

DO: Call out the first scripture verse listed for this lesson. Have teams race to find the scripture verse; first team to have someone jump up with their Bible ready to "attack" the question and read the scripture aloud will earn a point.

Scripture Verses:	Proverbs 3:5-6	Isaiah 26:3	Romans 8:35 & 37	Psalm 9:9-10
	Psalm 46:1-3	Nahum 1:7	Isaiah 40:28-31	John 16:33
	Isaiah 43:1-3a	Isaiah 41:13	James 1:12	2 Corinthians 1:3-4



SAY: What does the verse tell us about trouble? (It will happen; God won't necessarily stop it.) What does it say about God? (He will be there; we should trust Him; He will protect us.)

DO: Jot the ideas down on the board or on chart paper. Repeat this activity with the next scripture verse. The team with the most points wins the battle against the question.

SAY: Astounding job, recruits! Your hard work helped us to attack the question and complete our mission for the Recon Team. It seems as though their Intel is correct. The Bible makes it clear that bad things will happen AND that God won't necessarily stop them. But, throughout it all God will be there and give us all that we need. Let's check back with the Team!



Mission Uplink 3



YouTube: Play "Kingdom Living Today (S1) Episode 1 (3/4)". Pause the video when the PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.



Prayer Huddle



Supplies Needed

- Search the internet or newspapers for pictures of natural disasters and put into a slide show or mount on construction paper

Directions

DO: This prayer huddle time will help children learn about intercessory prayer for those facing difficult times. Prepare a slide show, including images of people and difficult situations they may face, i.e. natural disasters, flooded homes, forest fires, earthquake destroyed towns, etc. Show slide show at normal speed first, and invite children to simply take all in. Then tell kids you'll repeat it again, stopping on certain images for a moment. When you pause on an image, kids can offer sentence prayers aloud or quietly for the person or situation they see on the slide. (Alternately mount pictures from the internet or newspapers onto construction paper and use in the same manner as a slide show.)



If time permits show your squad Justin Bieber's "Pray" music video. It can be found on [youtube.com/watch?v=o9tJW9MDs2M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9tJW9MDs2M). The video talks about the news we hear in the media and the hope we can give by praying for others.





Field Mission Project



YouTube: Play "Kingdom Living Today (S1) Episode 1 (4/4)". Pause the video when the FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.



Supplies Needed

OPTION 1:

- Box of band-aids
- Plastic baggies
- Individually wrapped antibacterial wipes
- Gauze
- Butterfly bandages
- Rubber or plastic gloves
- Red permanent markers

All of these resources can be found at dollar stores OR may be given out freely at local hospitals and doctor's offices.

OPTION 2:

- Poster paper
- Bin or cardboard box
- Markers

Mission Project

SAY: Sarai made an excellent point when she mentioned that we are to be "Jesus for others". When she says that we are to be "Jesus for others", Sarai means that we can use our skills, talents and resources to help others in need. While we cannot prevent disasters from happening, we can be there to provide support for those who are affected. Helping out shows those who are suffering that Jesus cares for them and will be there to help through us! Let's read our last mission together, (reading mission card from satellite uplink) "Recruits, discover some practical ways we can comfort others."

SAY: Let's think about people like Sayid, what ways can we provide support for people like him? (Someone to talk to, clothing/supplies, a shoulder to lean on, help fixing things, etc.)

SAY: By doing these things, though they may seem small, we show Jesus' love and protection for people who are struggling. We are his tools that he uses to "be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble." (Psalm 9:9)



DO: Choose one of the following:

OPTION 1: FIRST AID KITS

SAY: Even the small disasters, like a friend getting hurt on the playground, are opportunities for us to show others that God is watching out for them. Today, we are going to make mini first-aid kits for you to keep in your backpacks, so that you will be prepared to help in times of trouble.

DO: Have students draw a red cross on the front of their plastic baggy. (The symbol for first-aid) Students will then fill their bags with a couple band-aids, wipes, pieces of gauze, and a glove. Students can take their mini first-aid kits to school and will be prepared to help when “disaster” strikes!

Option 2: PEANUT BUTTER DRIVE

SAY: A disaster doesn't have to be a humongous event, like a forest fire or earthquake. To a family down the street whose father has lost his job, not having enough food to last the week may be their form of a disaster. Just like Kate, we are going to collect peanut butter to donate to the local food bank. That way, they can have the resources to help families in our community when an unexpected disaster happens in their lives.

SAY: Let's work as a team to create some information posters and collection bins to post around the building. That way our church family can help by donating peanut butter to our project over the next couple weeks!

DO: As a team, host your own peanut butter drive! Create posters to put up in your church requesting the members to help you collect peanut butter for a local food bank (or your church's family services). Decorate a box to leave for people to place the jars of peanut butter in.



If peanut allergies are a concern, you could instead have either a white rice or “Kraft Dinner” food drive.

NOTES

