



purpose: *The purpose of this course is to teach third grade students that God makes promises to His children that He will keep! God is always faithful.*

Lesson 5: God Promises to Protect You!

Introduction for the Leader (not to be read to students):

As parents, we cannot always be where our children are. Perhaps when they were infants you spent most of your time with your children, but as they have entered and are advancing through elementary school, your place is no longer by their sides at all times. You have entrusted their care to other qualified adults. Unless your children are home-schooled, they probably spend most of their waking hours away from you.

Society at large no longer seems to be a safe place for children. All too often we hear of their mistreatment. The media brings shocking accounts of the abuse of children right into our own homes. It is tempting to be frightened and over-protective as a parent, and it is important to be so very careful about the people and places we approve of for our children. Nothing is worth risking their safety.

Since we can't always be with our children, it is such a relief to know that God is. We can cover our children with prayer, claiming God's promise to protect them with His angelic beings. We can ask Him to protect them from physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional harm. Many Christians have evidence of God's angelic protection upon their lives and the lives of those they love. The Bible describes angels as "ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation" (Hebrews 1:14). Angels are uniquely created beings, serving God by worshipping Him and by protecting His children. They are not born, they do not reproduce, nor are they the souls of deceased human beings. Angels are real, and angels are powerful. (For more information about angels, read *Angels: God's Secret Agents* by Dr. Billy Graham.)

God provides what is perhaps our most powerful protection through His Word, the Holy Bible. God's Word is filled with His commands. When we follow God's commands we are protected from sin that would wreak havoc upon our lives. Wise parents familiarize themselves with God's commands, and teach them to their children. Obedience to the Word of God is our most important way of protecting ourselves and our households. So much of what can damage these young lives can come through their own poor choices. By learning God's Word, as they are in the Fun with Faith Clubs ministry, your children are learning how to protect themselves by obeying God's Word. You have taken an important step in instructing your children by allowing them to participate in this Club!!

Today's lesson will focus on God's promise to protect His children, and highlights the following Scriptures: Proverbs 2:7b-8, 2 Thessalonians 3:3, 1 Corinthians 10:13. The featured Scriptures are **Proverbs 1:33** ➔ *...those who listen to me will live in safety. They will be safe, without fear of being hurt.* <and> **Psalms 91:11** ➔ *He has put his angels in charge of you. They will watch over you wherever you go.*

lesson plan:

1. Children arrive. Upon arrival, the children may need a few minutes of active time before you start your meeting. If you have access to a playground or a gym, allow them 5 or 10 minutes to let off some of their energy so you'll have their attention during your meeting! If you don't have access to a playground, try leading them in some calisthenics indoors, or a foot race outside. Then gather them together to begin your meeting.

2. Serve the snack. Have the children find a seat and pass out the snack. Perhaps you could let the child who furnished the snack pass it out .

3. Pray. Always begin your meeting with prayer. Ask the children to bow their heads and thank the Lord for the snack they are about to eat. Pray for your meeting time -- that the Lord would be with you, thanking Him for bringing each child there (mention each one of their names), and **that He would open their eyes, ears, and hearts to hear and understand the wonderful things He has promised us!**

4. Attendance Chart. Give each child a sticker to place on the Attendance Chart.

5. Song and Review. Once you've prayed, have the children stand and sing the song *Standing on the Promises of God*, from your audio tape. Review the lesson from your last meeting. Ask the children if they can remember the Scripture verse that was taught! Does anyone remember the Application Story?

Leader, begin with this:

"Sometimes the world seems like a scary place to live. There can be many things to be afraid of! Some television shows even feature crimes that have been committed, in order to help solve important cases. We even hear about very bad things happening to children. We hope they don't happen to us!"

Are you sometimes afraid of things you don't understand, or of things you imagine? Most of us don't like being in the dark, especially if we hear frightening or unexplained noises. Most of us don't like to be alone. We often prefer the company of others. Many of us have bad dreams if we've seen something that disturbed us on TV, or if we've watched a scary movie. There are many things to fear!

Part of your parents' job is to provide a safe place for you to live, and to protect you if necessary. But your parents can't be everywhere you are! They cannot be with you all the time. You can take great comfort in the fact that there is Someone who always knows where you are, always knows what is happening, and Who loves you even more than your very own parents. Who could this be? The Lord God, your Heavenly Father, knows everything and He loves you immensely. He knows that His children need protection in the world, and He promises to protect you. God does not want you to be afraid. He wants you to trust Him.

How can God protect you from bad dreams and from bad people? How can He protect you from bad events and frightening circumstances? There are two ways! God has a whole army of angels at His command, and He uses them in ordinary and extraordinary ways to protect those people who love Him and serve Him. He has also given us the Bible which is full of His commands. By obeying His commands we are protected from bad consequences that result from our own sins. God protects us with His Word, and God protects us with His angels. God also protects us when we pray and ask for that protection.

Our lesson today is called:

God Promises to Protect You!

Today we will start with the Edible Illustration, and then move on to the Scripture Box."

6. Edible Illustration.

This edible illustration will demonstrate God's invisible protection. God's protection is real, but often can't be seen. We can't always see what consequences would result if we choose to sin, and we can rarely see the protection of God's angels. Yet sometimes what is most valuable is unseen.

You will demonstrate this truth by making fruit salad two ways: one with a fruit preservative and one without that protection.

Suggested ingredients:

- two medium-sized mixing bowls
- large kitchen spoon
- apples
- bananas
- pears
- shredded coconut
- lemon juice or a fruit preservative such as "Fruit Fresh"
- knife for cutting fruit (please be wise in letting the children cut this fruit -- perhaps they should just mix it together once it is cut.)
- paper cups and spoons for samples to eat

Please begin with this:

"Some of the most important things about God can't be seen with our eyes. We can't see God's faithfulness, and we can't see His love. We can't see His Son Jesus Christ, and we can't see God protecting us. But we know that these things are very real, even though we can't see them with our eyes.

The illustration today will show us how God's protection is real, even if we can't always see it with our eyes. It will also show how different things might be without His protection.

Procedure:

Place your two mixing bowls side by side. Put a small amount of lemon juice or “Fruit Fresh” in one of the bowls. Make these comments:

“Right now we can see that one bowl is empty and one bowl has some fruit protector in it. As we add the cut fruit and mix it together, we won’t be able to see the fruit protector. But after a while, we will be able to see the effect of the fruit being protected when we compare it with the unprotected fruit in the other bowl.”

Cut up an ample amount of fresh fruit, placing half of it in one bowl and half in the other. The kids will probably only sample the fruit from the protected bowl, so have enough for all to have some. As you cut the fruit you might ask them about different ways they think God has protected them in the past.

After the fruit has been cut and mixed, you must allow some time to pass before the unprotected fruit will begin to turn brown. Check it just before you read the Application Story!

7. Scripture Box.

One by one, ask the children to come forward to draw a slip of paper out of your Scripture Box. If their paper is blank, they return to their seat, and you call up the next child. If their slip of paper has a Scripture written on it, they should read it aloud and you will discuss it, using the discussion questions in this lesson. If the child draws out the Whistle Scripture, blow your whistle after they’ve read it, stop everything and teach them the Scripture song, following with the discussion questions. If other Scripture has not been read when the Whistle Scripture is drawn out, ***be sure to continue this process until all of the Scripture is read.***

Two Scriptures are combined this time to make up the Whistle Scripture. After you have taught the children the song, discuss each Scripture separately.

Proverbs 2:7b-8 (ICB) ➔ Like a shield he protects those who are innocent. He guards those who are fair to others. He protects those who are loyal to him.

Questions:

- ***Who does God promise to protect? (Those who are innocent)***
- ***Who does God consider to be innocent? (Those who have asked Jesus Christ to forgive them of their sins. Leader: review previous lessons)***
- ***Who else does this verse say God protects? (Those who are loyal to him)***
- ***How do we show we are loyal to the Lord? (By worshipping Him, by obeying Him, by serving Him, etc.)***

2 Thessalonians 3:3 (NIV) ➔ But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

Questions:

- ***What does it mean to say ‘the Lord is faithful?’ (He will do what He says)***
- ***What does this verse say he will do for you? (Strengthen and protect you from the evil one)***
- ***Who is the ‘evil one?’ (Satan, the devil)***

➤ **Our opening comments told you two ways the Lord can strengthen you and protect you. What are they? (By obeying His commands, and by His angels)**

1 Corinthians 10:13 (ICB) ➔ The only temptations you have are the temptations that all people have. But you can trust God. He will not let you be tempted more than you can stand. But when you are tempted, God will also give you a way to escape that temptation. Then you will be able to stand it.

Questions:

- **What kind of wrong choices tempt you?**
- **How would making that wrong choice break God's commands?**
- **How does this verse say that God will help you when you are tempted? (By not letting you be tempted by more than you can stand)**
- **What will God give you when you are tempted? (A way to escape that temptation)**
- **How does this protect us?**

*****📞📞📞*** (whistle Scriptures) **Proverbs 1:33 (ICB) ➔ "... those who listen to me will live in safety. They will be safe, without fear of being hurt.****

Questions:

- **Who does God promise will live in safety? (Those who listen to Him)**
- **How do we listen to God? (By reading His Word. By doing what the Bible says we show that we are listening to God.)**
- **What does God promise to those who listen to Him? (They will be safe and without fear of being hurt.)**

*****📞📞📞*** (whistle Scriptures) **Psalm 91:11 (ICB) ➔ He has put his angels in charge of you. They will watch over you wherever you go.****

Questions:

- **Who has God put in charge of you? (His angels)**
- **What is their duty? (To watch over you wherever you go)**

Teaching on angels:

"In many places the Bible says that God protects us with angels. Some of the stories you may remember about angels might be Daniel in the Lions' Den and Shedrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the Fiery Furnace. You might remember how the angel Gabriel visited Mary to tell her that Jesus would be born and the multitude of angels that later appeared to announce the birth of Jesus to the shepherds. Angels are real, and angels are powerful!

But what exactly are angels? In order to answer that question, we need to look in the Bible. God's Word tells us that God created angels as special beings, totally different from humans. Angels are "ministering spirits" who worship God and serve God's children. They are not the spirits of humans who have died. They are totally different from us and very powerful.

There is a certain mystery about angels. At times God allows people to see them, and at other times they perform their service invisibly. Angels can appear as ordinary human beings, and one might

never suspect they'd met a heavenly being (Genesis 18:2-19:22)! Angels are powerful, and they do God's work to protect you. You have no reason to be afraid of angels! God's heavenly angels are working on your behalf.

Some people have misunderstood angels and believe that we should worship them. Not so. The Bible teaches that we should worship the Lord God alone. (Revelation 19:10, Revelation 22:8-9) We should be thankful for this special heavenly protection."

8. Promise Book.

Hand out the Promise Books and have them turn to the appropriate page. Ask them to illustrate one way God protects them. This might include their obedience to His Word, or angelic protection. Help them remember the words to the Whistle Scripture if they are having trouble. ***Be sure they answer the application questions!***

Edible Illustration, continued

The unprotected fruit should have turned brown from exposure to the air. The protected fruit should remain fresh. As you observe the differences, please make these concluding comments:

"God's invisible protection is a valuable gift. Through our obedience to His Word and by using His angels, God protects us from choices and events that would tarnish our lives and harm us. Like this protected fruit, we can lead clean and untarnished lives by being obedient to God's commands."

Let the children eat of the protected fruit as they listen to the Application story.

9. Application story.

Winter Woes

Winter gripped the city and an icy wind swept through, bringing temperatures far below zero. Snow piled up, yet the children couldn't go out and play, even though school had been canceled. For three days the Miller children had been cooped up inside with nothing to do. No school, no outdoor play, no friends over, and now their Mom said "no" to television. She had watched her children watch hours of TV, and disapproved of their inactivity. They must find something else to do!

Although school had been canceled because of the frigid temperatures, the roads were actually fairly clear. After numerous complaints from the children about having "nothing to do," Mrs. Miller knew she must come up with a plan. These kids needed some direction before they drove each other crazy!

"Adam, Kate, Ethan -- you guys come in here for a minute. I think I have an idea for a fun afternoon," she announced.

The three children came into the kitchen, still in their pajamas at 11:00 a.m.! They hadn't had any reason to get dressed, which further confirmed to Mrs. Miller they needed a change of scenery.

“I was thinking about doing something a little different this afternoon,” she began. “You’ve spent three days in front of the TV and your brains are turning to mush! Why don’t we bundle up, get in the car, and drive over to the YMCA for indoor swimming. Our membership allows us to go twice a week as a family, and I can’t think of any time we need this more than today!”

“Yes!” the kids shouted in unison. Any activity would have been welcome, but an afternoon of indoor swimming seemed especially appealing today. Their young bodies were craving activity, and any change of pace would be welcome.

“Let’s have an early lunch, then get our swimsuits and go,” their Mom suggested. “They have great lifeguards at the pool, and I can go to an aerobics class while you guys are swimming. This will be great for all of us! We’ve spent far too much time inside doing nothing.”

The Miller children enthusiastically agreed, and went off to their bedrooms to collect their swimming gear. They knew from other visits to the YMCA that it was best to pack a small bag for their swim stuff, and change from their regular clothes in the locker room. That way they could bundle up for the outdoor cold, yet strip down to their suits for swimming.

Mom’s suggestion brought new life into their home. Finally they had something to look forward to! Immediately their sibling bickering stopped and they began lighthearted conversation. The kids were excited.

After their lunch of warm and hearty soup, they bundled up with their heaviest winter gear -- coats, scarves, mittens, boots, and hats. They were wise to dress so. The actual temperature was 2°, yet the wind chill factor made it feel like 37° below zero. No one could last long in this frigid weather.

The drive to the YMCA was chilly, but after a few minutes the car began to warm up. The facility was about twenty minutes away, and when they pulled into the parking lot Mrs. Miller was grateful that the lot had been plowed, providing numerous places to park. Not too many people were here today!

Mrs. Miller parked as close to the door as she could get and put the car in *PARK*. She turned off the key and the car stopped. But as she pulled the car key out, she realized that something was wrong. She could not get the key out of the ignition. She pulled and pulled, and nothing happened. The key was stuck.

“That’s funny,” she said as the kids were opening their car doors. “Wait a minute, you guys, I think we may have a problem.” They closed their car doors and their Mom turned the car on again. It started right away. She then turned the key off, but still could not remove it from the ignition. She jiggled the steering wheel back and forth, hoping it would loosen something and allow the key to be removed. No luck. The key would not budge.

“What’s wrong, Mom?” Adam asked. “Can we go in now?”

“I’m afraid we’re not going to be able to go in at all,” she replied. “I can’t get the key out of the ignition. It’s stuck.”

“Well,” offered Adam, “as long as the car’s turned off can’t we go in anyway?”

“Honey, I can’t leave our car out here with the keys in the ignition! Someone might steal it! And we can’t lock the car, because then we couldn’t get back in! This is so frustrating!” Mom barked. “I can’t believe this!”

She turned the car on and off, on and off, and still the key would not budge. It was clear that they weren’t going to solve this problem.

“What are we going to do?” Ethan asked from the back seat.

“I’m so sorry,” she replied, “but I think we’re going to have to go back home. It doesn’t matter if the car sits in our garage like this, but we sure can’t leave it here and go inside. ARRGGGGGHH!” she said in frustration.

“You mean we can’t go swimming?” Kaitlyn whined. “Why can’t you just drop us off and come back later?”

“I can’t do that,” her Mom snapped back. “You’re not old enough. You have to be 14 to be here without your parents. Believe me, the last thing I want to do is go back home. I’m beginning to feel like it’s a prison!” Clearly Mom was just as frustrated as the kids. “Oh well,” she said, “what must be done must be done.”

She turned the key to the *ON* position, put the car in reverse and began to drive home. Everyone was terribly disappointed. No one had much to say on the ride home.

As they pulled back into their garage, it was clear that something was not quite right at home. When the garage door opened they were greeted with a piercing shriek of the smoke detector. Mrs. Miller hurriedly parked the car and dashed inside.

As she entered the kitchen from the garage, smoke billowed around her. She shouted at the kids to stay in the garage and sprinted toward the stove, which seemed to be the source of the smoke. On the burner she found the soup pot from lunch, boiled totally dry, yet still being heated on *HIGH*. She quickly turned the burner off, grabbed a potholder and carried the blackened pot to the sink. The children were frightened, and asked if they could come inside yet.

“I think it’s okay now,” their Mom said. “Leave the garage door open for a few minutes to clear out this smoke. It may get pretty cold in here, but we’ve got to get this smoke cleared out.”

Adam stepped in first and his Mom came over to hug him. “I can’t believe I didn’t turn that burner off,” she said. “That’s just not like me!” She affectionately hugged all her children, relieved that the crisis was past. They shivered in their kitchen as the sub-zero air poured in from the garage.

“Adam,” his mother said, “why don’t you turn on the vent over the stove. That will clear out some of this smoke. Then maybe we can close the door.”

Adam obediently went to the stove and turned on the vent. As he did, he spied something that caused him to gasp. “Mom,” he said quietly, “look.”

Mrs. Miller came to his side, not sure what it was that Adam saw. “Look at what?” she asked.

“The keys. Your car keys -- they’re sitting on the counter next to the stove.”

“I must have dropped them there when I picked up the soup pot,” she responded.

“But Mom,” Adam said, “when we were in the parking lot at the ‘Y,’ your keys were stuck. How come they came out at home?”

Mrs. Miller was silent for a moment, her mind processing this unusual event. Adam was right. At the YMCA she could not get them out of the ignition, despite her repeated attempts. At home, they came out without effort.

“I think, dear ones,” she said as she looked at her children, “that we have just experienced God’s protection in a miraculous way. If we had gone swimming and spent the afternoon at the YMCA, then we may have lost our home. I was so frustrated and angry when I couldn’t get the keys out, but now I am purely grateful to God for sending us back home. I think we arrived just in time to avoid a disaster.”

“Do you mean,” Kate asked, “that God jammed the keys in the ignition?”

“Well, I can’t be sure,” her mother replied, “if it was God Himself, or one of His angels. But I do think it’s very clear that God used that incident to protect our home.”

The children and their mother said a prayer of thanks in appreciation for God’s protection. Later that evening they relayed all the details to their Dad over dinner. Adam told about how upset he was over not getting to swim, but how thankful they were when they got home. Their father, too, was amazed at how God protected their home.

“That reminds me of another story about fire -- one that didn’t turn out so well.”

“What?” they all asked, curious to know.

“When I was about 10 years old a couple of my buddies discovered an old abandoned house about a mile behind our neighborhood. It looked like it may have been a fairly nice home at one time, but when the people left, they left behind everything. We found old mail, furniture, even the silverware was left in the drawers. It was a real mystery to us.

“We used to like to tear the place up, peeling wallpaper off the walls and generally making a mess. When I told my parents about it, they were quite concerned. They told me not to go back there again. They said that was not a safe place for boys our age to play.

“The problem was that I wanted to go back. It was mysterious and fun. But I also knew that God commanded me to obey my parents. So the next time the fellas went, even though I really wanted to go too, I made an excuse to stay behind.

“Apparently the guys found an old cigarette lighter and were playing with it when somehow some of the peeled wallpaper caught on fire. It didn’t take long for that whole place to ignite into flames. It was totally destroyed.”

“Did your friends get in trouble?” Kate asked, wide-eyed with curiosity.

“Not exactly,” Dad replied. “They got hurt -- burned badly, both of them. Somehow their clothes caught on fire and they were both severely burned.”

The children were quiet, thinking about the “fire” in their house today, and what could have happened had they not come home when they did.

“Mark,” Mrs. Miller asked her husband, “how did you feel when you found out about your friends?”

“Well, I was really upset. I realized that I could have easily been hurt, too, or even killed. I was mighty grateful that the Lord caused me to remember that I must obey my parents. For the first time I realized that *God’s commandments are for my protection*. God isn’t trying to make life hard or miserable for us. He knows what danger can come our way and gives us commandments to follow so we can avoid those consequences. Ever since then, I’ve tried to be especially careful to do what God’s Word says to do, even when I don’t feel like it.”

Such a solemn story caused the family to reflect upon how fortunate they were to be God’s children. They appreciated His protection in an altogether new way, and wanted to express their thankfulness. They gathered in the kitchen, praising God and thanking Him for His loving protection. They thanked Him for their home where they could be safe from the frigid winter weather, and thanked Him for what they originally had thought was an irritating problem. They thanked Him for the Bible and His commandments, and asked for His strength to be obedient. They knew they had truly experienced God’s love through His divine protection. Their invisible God had become very real to them that day.

Questions:

- ⇒ What were the Miller children looking forward to doing?
- ⇒ What happened to prevent them from doing it?
- ⇒ How did they feel about not going swimming?
- ⇒ What did they find when they arrived home?
- ⇒ How did that change their feelings about swimming?
- ⇒ What did they think was the cause of the ‘car key trouble’ at the YMCA?
- ⇒ How had God protected them?
- ⇒ How had God protected Mr. Miller when he was a boy?
- ⇒ Have you ever experienced God’s protection in a similar way?

10. Prayer Circle

Pass the cup of prayer sticks around the circle, encouraging those who want to pray to take a stick. Focus your prayer on God’s loving protection, thanking Him for being the same now and forever. Pray the Whistle Scriptures for this meeting:

Proverbs 1:33 ➔ *“... those who listen to me will live in safety. They will be safe, without fear of being hurt. <And> Psalm 91:11* ➔ *He has put his angels in charge of you. They will watch over you wherever you go.*

11. Promises Song

it!

End your meeting by singing *Standing on the Promises of God*. Perhaps you could think of some hand motions to go along with it!

12. Parent Letter/Dismiss

Give each child a signed Parent Letter as they leave the meeting.

Materials you will need for this lesson:

- Scripture Box, prepared with appropriate pieces of paper inside
- Whistle
- Tape player and “Promises” tape
- Pages for “Promise Books” -- 1 per child
- Colored pencils or markers or crayons for them to complete Promise Book
- Items for “Edible Illustration:”
 - two medium-sized mixing bowls
 - large kitchen spoon
 - apples
 - bananas
 - pears
 - shredded coconut
 - lemon juice or a fruit preservative such as “Fruit Fresh”
 - knife for cutting fruit (please be wise in letting the children cut this fruit -- perhaps they should just mix it together once it is cut.)
 - paper cups and spoons for samples to eat
- Prayer Sticks
- Signed Parent Letters