

# Justice Wins the Day

May 3, 2020—Lesson 10

**Background Scripture:** Zephaniah 3 • **Lesson Scripture:** Zephaniah 3:1-2, 5, 12-13

**Key Verse:** The LORD . . . is righteous; he does no wrong. Morning by morning he dispenses his justice, and every new day he does not fail. (*Zephaniah 3:5*)

**Faith Block:** Fairness wins!

**Lesson Objective:** The children will begin to understand the importance of being fair and peaceful.

**Materials Needed:** *Picture Lesson Cards*, Bible, a rug, crayons, coloring pencils, markers, line-art coloring pages related to today's lesson, blocks, books, other toddler toys, (**optional:** Pax the Penguin; Younger Children's Resource Kit [lesson 10 materials]).

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## A BEGINNING BLOCK

✂ Prior to class, review the phrase in the Opening Activity and review and familiarize yourself with the action rhyme in the "Stacks of Fun" section.

**Welcome:** Greet the parents as they bring their children into the room. Engage any children who arrive early—with blocks, books, and other toddler toys—in order to maintain their attention. Gather the children and help them settle down when you are ready to begin class.

**Opening Worship and Activity:** Tell the children that it is prayer time. Let them know that prayer time is when we talk to God. Tell the children to bow their heads and close their eyes, and then lead them in prayer. Have the children stand.

**Say:** Repeat after me: "I obey what God says in the Bible. I pray. Justice wins the day. Amen."

Help the children remember the saying. Then lead them to march around the room and recite the saying several times.

Prepare the class for the Bible story.

## B BIBLE STORY BLOCK

**The Bible Story:** Hold up the lesson 10 Picture Lesson Card for all the children to see. Point to the images and see if the children can name the artwork shown. Assist as needed.

**Say:** God loves us. He wants us to do what is right.

Read or tell the Bible story to the children and review it with them afterward.

### Justice Wins the Day

The people of Jerusalem had not been trusting in God. They were not obeying Him. They had not changed their bad ways. They had not been kind to God or to each other.

Every morning, God reminded the people about the good things He wanted them to do. But the people did not listen. God promised that one day, He would judge the people. They had been so bad for so long that they would be punished by God. But after they were punished, God promised to bring the people back to Him.

With God, fairness and justice always win!

## C STACKS OF FUN

**Word/Action Play:** Lead the children in a few rounds of the following action rhyme: "God still loves me when I do wrong (*put hands over heart*); / He washes me clean so that all my sin is gone (*make washing movements over body*); / When I get in trouble, I am sad (*make a sad face*); / When God forgives me, it makes me glad! (*smile*)"

☺ **Words from Pax the Penguin:** Present Pax to the class. (See the *Early Elementary* teacher book, *pages 35–36*, for suggestions on how to present Pax.) The script for Pax appears below.

**Pax:** Hello, girls and boys! In today's story, God judges the Israelites, but He still loves them. Does God still love us, even when we do wrong? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes, He does! Now, let's pray that God will give us the desire to obey Him. Repeat after me: "Thank You, God (*pause*), for helping us obey." Good job, boys and girls.

Let Pax wave good-bye and/or hug the children.

## D CLOSING BLOCK

Review the lesson with the children, using the Picture Lesson Card. Have the children repeat the Faith Block after you. Afterward, say the prayer on the Picture Lesson Card. Distribute the Picture Lesson Cards to parents/guardians when they arrive to pick up their children.

# Justice Wins the Day

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**Key Verse:** The LORD . . . is righteous; he does no wrong. Morning by morning he dispenses his justice, and every new day he does not fail. (*Zephaniah 3:5*)

**Faith Block:** I will do things that please God!

**Lesson Objective:** The children will hear about Zephaniah’s warning to Jerusalem.

**Materials Needed:** *Preschool* student books, Bibles, pencils, star-shaped stickers, classroom art supplies, markers, crayons or coloring pencils, decorative stickers, sturdy white card stock, jumbo craft sticks, scissors, craft glue or stapler, glitter glue, (**optional:** Pax the Penguin; Younger Children’s Resource Kit [lesson 10 materials]).

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## A BEGINNING BLOCK

✂️ Prior to class, make sure that any paths in the classroom are free of any major obstacles.

**Welcome:** Greet the children and parents with a warm and inviting smile. Tell the children how glad you are to see them.

**Opening Worship and Activity:** After the students are seated, open the session with prayer. Then collect the children’s offerings.

Lead the class in a game of “Zephaniah Went to Jerusalem”: Have the children sit in a circle and choose one child to be “Zephaniah”—who will go outside the circle in search of an object. As this happens, everyone says this chant: “Zephaniah went to Jerusalem (*recite three times*); / What do you think he found?” “Zephaniah” should then choose an item from the room and bring it back to the circle. Everyone should then say, “Zephaniah found a \_\_\_\_\_ (*recite three times*); / In Jerusalem!” You may let several willing volunteers be “Zephaniah” and repeat the process.

Prepare the children for the Bible story.

## B BIBLE STORY BLOCK

**The Bible Story: Say:** Let’s listen carefully to the story to find out how Zephaniah warned Jerusalem.

Read the Bible story to the children and review it with them afterward.

### Justice Wins the Day

God was not happy with the people of Jerusalem. They did not treat each other right. They did not listen to God. The prophet Zephaniah told them that they were doomed! This means that they were facing the end! God was fed up with their poor behavior!

Zephaniah told Jerusalem that God did not plan on leaving. But He would punish those who kept doing wrong. God knew who the troublemakers were!

But God also knew who loved Him. He planned to protect those who did no wrong. They would be safe and secure in His love.

**Bible Story Application:** Refer to the lesson 10 Bible Story Application (*page 67*) and teach the children the read-aloud poem “Obey God!”

😊 **Words from Pax the Penguin:** If you purchased Pax the Penguin, use the script printed in the *Early Elementary* teacher book for lesson 10 (*page 56*). See suggestions on how to present Pax on *pages 35–36* of this teacher book.

## C STACKS OF FUN

**Warning Signs Help Us:** Talk about each sign and why it is important. Then discuss the shapes and instruct the children to color the blank shape the same color as the matching sign. Assist as needed. After they finish, ask them to name other signs they see every day.

**Being Fair and Peaceful:** Have the children color the Bible story picture. As they color, review the Bible story with them.

📄 **Make a “STOP and Listen to God!” Sign:** Refer to the reproducible activity (*page 71*) and, using sturdy white card stock, make a copy of the page for each student in your class. Distribute the template and some decorating items to the children. Allow them time to color and decorate the sign. Once they are done with the decorating, cut out the template and attach a jumbo craft stick to the back of it, using either a stapler or craft glue.

## D CLOSING BLOCK

Have the children repeat the Faith Block after you. Then close the class session with prayer.

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**Background Scripture:** Zephaniah 3 • **Lesson Scripture:** Zephaniah 3:1-2, 5, 12-13

**Key Verse:** The LORD . . . is righteous; he does no wrong. Morning by morning he dispenses his justice, and every new day he does not fail. (*Zephaniah 3:5*)

**Faith Block:** Fairness wins!

**Lesson Objectives:** The children will commit to acting with fairness and honesty with peers.

**Materials Needed:** *Early Elementary* student books, several Bibles (NIV translation), pencils, coloring pencils, crayons, happy-face stickers, masking or transparent tape, attendance chart, markers, reward stickers, puzzles or coloring books, a praise and worship music CD and CD player, (**optional:** Pax the Penguin; Younger Children’s Resource Kit [lesson 10 materials]).

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## A BEGINNING BLOCK

✂ If you purchased Pax the Penguin, decide whether you or someone else will be the puppeteer. It is important that the children not see Pax placed on or taken off the puppeteer’s hand; this must be done discreetly and out of the children’s view.

*Lord, help me to so be kind, / So be kind, so be kind;  
/ Lord, help me to so be kind— / And trust God  
every day.*

After you have gone through several rounds of the song, prepare the children for the Bible story.

## Welcome

Welcome the students and their parents or guardians. Take attendance, placing a sticker beside the name of each child (that is present) on the attendance chart. Engage early arrivers with activities (such as puzzles, coloring pages, or books) until you are ready to begin class.

## Opening Worship and Activity

Lead the children in prayer. Then collect the children’s offerings.

**Say:** Did everyone make wise choices last week? Be honest and raise your hand. (*Pause for action.*) I see that some of you did and some of you did not. Thank you for your honesty. Telling the truth and treating others with fairness and kindness are important for those who love God. Let’s march in place and sing a song together to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb.” (*Lead the children in marching and singing to the lyrics below.*)

*Lord, help me to obey God, / Obey God, Obey God; /  
Lord, help me to obey God— / And trust Him every  
day.*

*Lord, help me to tell the truth, / Tell the truth, tell  
the truth; / Lord, help me to tell the truth— / And  
trust God every day.*

## B BIBLE STORY BLOCK

### The Bible Story

**Say:** In today’s Bible story, Zephaniah has a warning for the people of Jerusalem. But he has good news for them too. Listen to find out the bad and good news.

Read the Bible story to the children and review it with them afterward.

### Justice Wins the Day

Watch out, people of Jerusalem! You disobeyed God. You did not trust God. And you chose not to be close to God. But God, who is always right, was in the city. God does nothing wrong. God gives *justice* (fairness) every day.

The proud people of Jerusalem refused to live right. And they were not ashamed of this. God would remove the proud people from the city.

God would leave the humble people in the city. They were the ones who trusted God. These honest people would do no wrong. They would not speak lies. They would live peaceful lives. They would not be afraid.

**Ask:** What was the warning Zephaniah gave the disobedient people? (*They would be removed from the city.*) What was the blessing that the humble people would receive? (*They would remain in the city and live at peace.*)

## Bible Story Application

Refer to the lesson 10 Bible Story Application (page 67) and teach the children the read-aloud poem “Obey God!”

## ☺ Words from Pax the Penguin

If you purchased Pax the Penguin, make preparations to present him to the class. Create a distraction so that you or your assistant can discreetly bring out Pax. The script for Pax appears below.

**Pax:** Hello, everyone.

**Teacher (and Children):** Hello, Pax.

**Pax:** What are you all talking about today, boys and girls? *(Pause for responses from the children, which should indicate things discussed in the Bible story; gently correct any inaccurate responses.)*

**Pax:** So, the people that were untruthful and disobeyed God were removed from the city. And the honest people who trusted and obeyed God stayed in the city in peace. That’s fair! A boy at my summer camp told a fib on me. He said that I stole someone’s money. I told our counselor that I did not. I prayed that the counselor would discover the truth. And I did not say anything to the boy who fibbed on me. Every time I saw him, I would pray for him. After three days, the boy told the counselor the truth—that he had stolen the money. That is justice! Have you ever had someone say something that wasn’t true about you? *(Pause for responses.)* I’m glad that justice wins the day! Let’s try our very best to never lie about or be unkind to others. See you next week!

## C STACKS OF FUN The Flag of Justice

Allow time for the children to complete the activity, including coloring the letters of the word *justice*.

Afterwards, lead the class to recite the message together aloud. Then discuss some choices that they must make every day to make sure that justice wins the day.

## Being Fair and Peaceful

Have the children color the Bible story picture. As they color, review the Bible story with them.

## D CLOSING BLOCK

**Say:** In today’s Bible story, we heard the prophet Zephaniah’s warning and message from God. What was the warning? *(Pause for responses, which should indicate that God would remove the people from the city because of their disobedience and dishonesty.)* But God is faithful to show justice every day. What was the good news in today’s Bible story? *(Pause for responses, which should indicate that the honest people that obeyed God would remain in the city and live in peace.)* God wants us to live in peace even today. So do not fib on others or treat others unkindly. This week, make sure that you are treating others with kindness and fairness.

Read the Key Verse to the children and ask them to repeat it. Have the children repeat the Faith Block after you; then prepare the students for the closing prayer.

**Pray:** Dear God, thank You for Your love, mercy, and justice. Help us to be fair and kind to others. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

As you wait for parents or caregivers to come for your students, here are some suggestions for things to do to keep the children occupied while they wait: (1) Have the children review their lesson leaflets, completing any unfinished activities. Make sure each child’s name is written somewhere on his/her leaflet. (2) Allow the children to help clean up the classroom before leaving class. (3) Allow for quiet play time if you have a room with an activity area. (4) Offer crayons and coloring sheets or paper for the children to draw on or allow them to work on puzzles together.

## NOTES

# Reproducible Bible Story Applications

April 26, 2020

Lesson 9 : May 10, 2020

Lesson 11

## A READ-ALOUD POEM

### A Wise Choice

Two women faced King Solomon  
with one baby to give;  
They both had a child, but one did not live.  
Each woman said that the live baby  
belonged to her;  
The wise king said, "Cut the baby in half;  
half to her and half to her."  
The real mother said, "Do not hurt the baby;  
don't cut it in two."  
King Solomon ruled, "Because of what you said,  
the baby belongs to you."

May 3, 2020

Lesson 10

## A READ-ALOUD POEM

### Obey God!

The people did not do what was right—  
they did not obey.  
When they heard God's voice,  
they went the other way.  
No one would listen or do what was good;  
Zephaniah told them that God hoped they would.  
God would not leave them; He was right there!  
God shows love and justice; He is always fair.  
God will remove the proud, the humble people  
there would be;  
They will do what is right and no wrong  
that God would see.

## A SING-ALONG

### Blessings for Jerusalem

*(Sing to the tune of "Michael, Row the Boat Ashore.")*

The man said, "God still loves you."  
Hallelujah!  
Jerusalem is God's place.  
Hallelujah!  
Streets will be filled with people.  
Hallelujah!  
Nothing is impossible.  
Hallelujah!  
God will give the people peace.  
Hallelujah!  
Just remember to do good.  
Hallelujah!



# Reproducible Bible Story Applications

May 17, 2020

Lesson 12 : May 31, 2020

Lesson 14

## A READ-ALOUD POEM

### The Judgment of God

Jeremiah said, “Listen, I have a message to say:  
Make a choice—choose right and serve God today.  
Know that God will judge,  
so do what is right:  
Help others and do not sin,  
or you will feel God’s might.  
God will punish those who choose to sin;  
Those who do not follow God will not win.”

May 24, 2020

Lesson 13

## A READ-ALOUD POEM

### Follow God’s Commands

God gave Jeremiah a message to say:  
“Live by my commands each day—please obey.”  
God will be with us and help us along the way;  
We must follow God—  
He wants to care for us each day.

## A SING-ALONG

### God’s Love

*(Sing to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”)*

God loved Israel like a son,  
Like a son, like a son;  
God loved Israel like a son—  
Do good and obey God.

Israel called Him “God Most High,”  
“God Most High,” “God Most High”;  
Israel called Him “God Most High”—  
Do what is right always.

Make a choice to follow Him,  
Follow Him, follow Him;  
Make a choice to follow Him—  
Do right and live for God.

LESSON 10 PRESCHOOL

Make a “STOP and Listen to God!” Sign

