

God is Our Refuge

Focus

God can do what is impossible for us to do.

Today's Tip

The greatest self-esteem booster is to help children see themselves as God does.

Most children have given others the power to shape their self-esteem.

Supplies Needed:

- Cone-shaped patterns
- Noah's ark
- White paper
- Blue construction paper
- Pencils, Pens, Crayons, Scissors
- Scotch tape
- Markers - dark blue or black



Welcome and Singing

- Welcome guests & take attendance.
- Make announcements.
- Sing songs relating to story topic.
- Take prayer requests and pray.



Opening Activity

Who can tell what a place of refuge is? Allow time for answers. Hand out small objects such as, people, animals or marbles.

Students should practice making a refuge by laying his/her left hand on the table or floor with the four fingers creating a cave-like structure and the thumb creating an opening-like entrance. With the right hand, take the small object and place them inside of the refuge where they are safe. Pull in thumb to "close the door."

This is an example of needing a refuge. Janet and Johnny were walking through the woods when a storm came up. The wind blew and raindrops began to fall. They saw a large old hollow tree ahead where they could find refuge. They quickly ran inside where they would be safe from the wind and rain. You may make up other examples if you wish to help students get the idea of a refuge or place of safety.



Intro to the Story

God is our place of refuge. Noah's Ark was a refuge for all the animals and Noah and his family. While the ark was a place of refuge, it was **God** that provided it for them by telling Noah what to do. When trouble comes, we run to God to be kept safe. He wants us to tell Him our problems and concerns. He will give us courage when we are afraid. God hears our prayers and will answer them.

Our story today is about a missionary, James Hudson Taylor, who was on a big ship, heading to China, almost 150 years ago. God answered his and the other Christian's prayers to save the ship.



The Story/The Passage

The sailing ship was in trouble. There was no wind to fill the sails and take the ship in the right direction. The ship was drifting dangerously close to some sand reefs. A sand reef is a shallow place in the ocean where a ship would hit the sand and be torn apart. Nothing the captain and his sailors did to get the ship to turn worked. The captain turned to James who was a passenger and said, "We have done everything we can, and it's not working. Suddenly, James had an idea. "No", he said, "there is something we haven't done yet."

"What is that?" asked the captain.

"Well," said James, "there are four of us on the boat who are Christians. We must each go to our own room and ask God to send a breeze right away so our ship will turn away from the sand reef." The captain agreed with James, so the four men hurried to their rooms and knelt down and asked God to send a wind. After praying, James was sure God would send the breeze they needed.

James went to the sailor in charge of adjusting the sails and told him to set the sail so it would catch the wind and turn away from danger. The sailor thought this was foolish. "There is no wind," he said.

"But we have asked God to send a wind, and it is coming right away," said James.

"I would believe it if I could see it," said the sailor.

"Look, it's coming!" cried James.

"No, it's only a little puff of air," said the sailor.

"Put down the mainsail," urged James, for their boat was almost on the sand. Then, the sailor let it down quickly, for the wind really began to blow, just in time to save the ship! James and all the others thanked God.



Prayer

Thank God for being a place of refuge for us and for answering our prayers, too.



Memory Verse

In you, O Lord, do I take refuge. - Psalm 31:1



Lesson Activity

Students should do the activity on their worksheets. Ask them where the place of refuge is on the picture. After they identify it, have them color it yellow, to show God's presence and finish coloring the picture. As they color, talk about what the place of refuge is like. What does it feel like to be in the place of refuge? Calm, peaceful, God is there, etc.

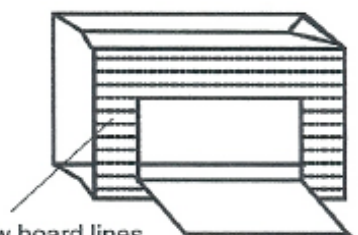
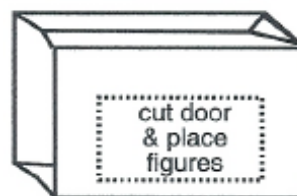
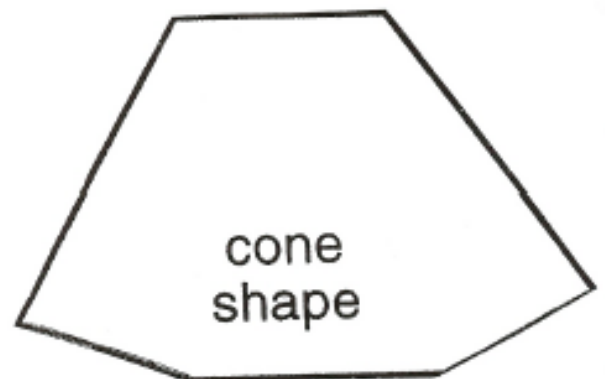
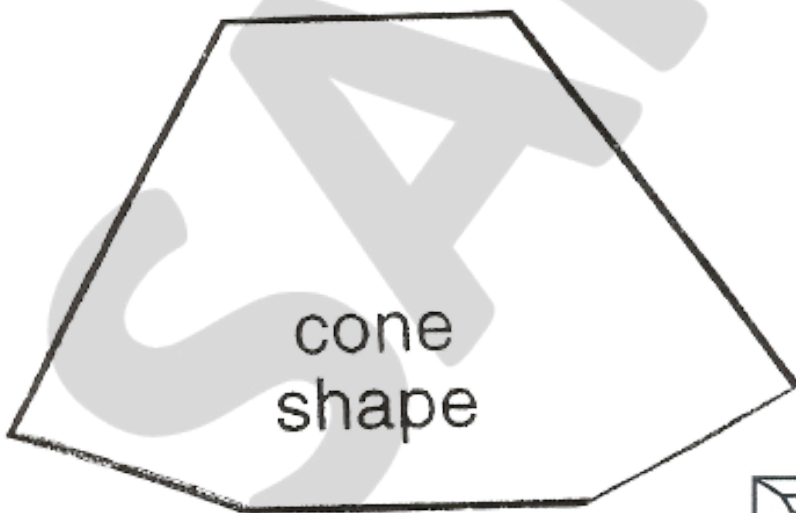


Craft - Noah's Ark

Before class, make a number of sets of the cone pattern for each student. Make an "ark" from a large paper bag and above the door write, "The Ark, God's Refuge."

Have students trace the two cone-shaped patterns on white paper. While they do that, emphasize that God is our refuge. Have them draw an animal or people "head" in the center of each pattern. Depending on the size of your class, you may want to assign each student a different kind of animal to draw. Remember there were 2 of each. Some students could be assigned to draw Noah and his wife and children. Have them color the animals and/or people and cut the cones out. Use the larger pattern for the people and larger animals, and the smaller pattern for the smaller animals. Tape each figure together, some may need help with this.

If you have time, use sheets of blue construction paper under the ark to represent water. Waves may be drawn on with marker, or cut into the paper.



draw board lines