***Littles***

***Level 1 Lesson 40***

***Abundant Reward-Miracles***

## Frank and Hank Get a Bonus

(Their hard work and faithfulness pay off!)

**Target:** Obedience and faithfulness to God will produce abundant rewards and miracles.

**Text:** John 21:3-11

**Preface:** There are many examples given in the Bible where obedience and faithfulness are rewarded with miracles and blessings. In Genesis chapters 6 & 7, Noah obeys God’s command and builds an ark. Noah and his family are all saved from the flood that destroyed the entire earth. In Genesis chapter 11, Abraham obeyed when God told him to leave his family and go to a land that God would show him. God promises Abraham that He will make a great nation of Abraham’s seed. The end of Genesis 24:1 says,” and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things.” God kept His mighty hand with Joseph even while in prison. Joseph was faithful to God, and we do not find anywhere in the bible where Joseph is found complaining because of all he was going through while in Egypt. But we do find that God had his hand upon Joseph and Joseph advanced in all that he did. In 2 Kings 4:1-7, the widow’s oil was multiplied because of her obedience to the man of God. In 2 Kings 5:1-14 Naaman was healed of his leprosy because of his obedience to the man of God. Daniel is a splendid example of faithfulness. Even when taken captive to Babylon, Daniel stayed faithful to God in prayer, fasting and living right, even down to what he ate. There are many beautiful stories within the book of Daniel where God blesses Daniel with advancement within the kingdom, and of course, shutting the mouths of the lions when Daniel is thrown into the den because of praying to God. One of my favorite scriptures in the Bible is the end of Hebrews 11:6 “He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.” God rewards our faithfulness and obedience. When we are diligently seeking Him, we are praying and reading the Word and obeying His commandments. Acts 2:38 is a perfect example of obeying and receiving a miracle. When we obey with repentance and baptism, we receive the awesome miracle of receiving the Holy Ghost.

**Activities and Materials:**

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| **Story** | **Offering** | **I spy God’s Blessings** | **Snack** | **Fish Craft** | **Fishing for the Word** |
| Boat | Handheld fishing net. | Plastic jars or containers with lids. | Goldfish crackers and blue Kool-Aid. | Paper Plates | Wading pool or blue construction paper on floor to look like water. |
| 2 Nets |  | Rice  Objects: monopoly houses  Barbie shoes and clothes.  Food such as beans and dry macaroni noodles.  Small play cars.  Play money coins. |  | Blue and orange washable paint  Goggly or jiggly eyes. | Magnets- One attached to the end of the fishing line.  One attached to each of the memory verse fish. |
| Goldfish crackers |  | Glue  Precut memory verses |  |  | Pre-cut fish with memory verse wrote on them. |

**Welcome:** As the children enter have them punch in on their timecard or move their truck on the mileage chart for attendance. Welcome guests and acknowledge birthdays. Hank holds play money in his hand and is making comments such as “Wow, I can’t believe it.” “This is great.”

Hank: **“I can’t believe this. WOW!”**

Teacher: **Hi Hank. What is it that you can’t believe?**

Hank: **This!** Hank holds up the money.

Teacher: **That looks like a lot of money, Hank. Where did you get it?**

Hank: **One of the customers gave Frank and me a bonus.**

Teacher: **A bonus? That’s great. Can you explain to the children what a bonus is?**

Hank: **Yeah sure. A bonus is a reward or something extra you get for doing a good job.**

Teacher: **That’s right, Hank.**

Hank: **This customer said that Frank and I did everything they asked us to do, and we did it on** **time. So they gave us a bonus, a reward.**

Teacher: **That was really nice of them. What are you going to do with your bonus Hank?**

Hank: **Well, first I will pay my tithes and offering, because God comes first. Then I think I will give some to the missionaries we learned about last week. The rest I think I’ll save.**

Teacher: **Sounds like a good idea.**

Hank: **Wow! We did what they asked us to do and look they gave us a reward, a bonus for our hard work! This is great!**

Hank exits.

Teacher: **Hanks bonus reminds me of God. Do you know how? When we pray, read our Bibles, and obey God, He rewards us. How does God reward us?** Let the children give examples such as he gives us food, clothes, a house. Don’t forget to include miracles such as healing when we are sick, and needs being met.

**I Spy God’s Blessings:**  Take a large jar or clear container and fill it about ¾ with rice. Add monopoly type houses, Barbie shoes and clothes, food such as beans and dry macaroni noodles, small play cars and play money coins. Glue the lid closed. Explain that in this jar or container are some things that God blesses us with. Ask them to find some of those blessings. Shake or move the jar around after an item is found to uncover another item. If you can find small containers with lids, have the children make one the “I spy God’s blessings” jar to take home. You may even choose to attach a label “I Spy God’s Blessings.” Remember to super glue the lids closed so the children cannot open and swallow any of the items inside. **God gives us many blessings. Is there anything that is too big for God to do? Can God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?** Ask the question with different scenarios such as make you feel better when you are sick? Help you have a place to live? Provide food?

**Theme Song:** My God is So Big, So Strong and So Mighty

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| Stretch hands out for big.  Make a muscle for strong and mighty. | Verse 1: | **My God is so big,**  **so strong and so mighty**  **There’s nothing my God cannot do.**  **(clap/clap)** |
| Stretch hands out for big.  Make a muscle for strong and mighty. | Verse 1: | **My God is so big,**  **so strong and so mighty**  **There’s nothing my God cannot do.**  **(clap/clap)** |
| Mountains: Place hands together in a tee-pee mountain shape up high over head.  Valleys: Bring hands low.  Stars: Squeeze hand in fist then spread all fingers out like blinking stars. | Verse 3: | **The mountains are His**  **The valleys are His**  **The stars are His handwork too.** |
| Stretch hands out for big.  Make a muscle for strong and mighty. | Verse 1: | **My God is so big,**  **so strong and so mighty**  **There’s nothing my God cannot do.**  **(clap/clap)** |

**Story:** Set up the boat so that the children can only see one side of it while telling the story. **One day Simon Peter and some of the other disciples went out fishing.** Get into the boat. **They got into a boat and went out into the water. They all knew how to catch fish and were good fishermen. They fished all night.** Pull up the empty net on the side of the boat that faces the children. **No fish. They would cast their nets out again.**  Pull up the empty net again. **Still no fish.** Repeat this a few times. Act sad and upset even frustrated that there are no fish. You may even make comments like “I don’t get it; we’ve fished here before and caught lots of fish.” Or “We know how to fish, what are we doing wrong? Why aren’t we catching any fish?” **They did this all night until the morning. In the morning Jesus stood on the land close to where the disciples were fishing, and Jesus called to the disciples and asked if they had caught any fish.** Pull up the empty net again. **What do you think the disciples said?** Let children respond. **They answered “No.” Then Jesus said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the ship and you will find fish.”** Cast the empty net on the other side of the boat that faces away from the children. Drop it so they don’t notice you are picking up a different net. **So the disciples put their net on the other side of the boat like Jesus told them to and guess what happened.** Let the children respond. Pick up the net full of goldfish crackers and act like it is so full it is hard to pull up. As you pull it up make the goldfish crackers rain down on the children. **They caught a bunch of fish. The Bible says they caught 153 fish. That’s a lot! The disciples did what Jesus told them to do, and they received a big blessing. When we do what God tells us, we can receive His blessings too. Boy all this fish has made me hungry. Let’s have a snack.**

**Snack:** Serve the children goldfish crackers and blue Kool-Aid or any blue drink. Make sure to sweep up the goldfish crackers on the floor because the kids will be tempted to pick them up and eat them.

**Offering:** Take up the offering in the fishing net. You may need to line it with tulle or use a net with small holes or screen, so coins do not fall through.

**Memory Verse:** Psalm 115:12 “He will bless us.”

**Fishing for the Word:** Make fish out of construction paper and write the memory verse on each one. Glue a magnet to each fish. To make it fun the fish can be assorted colors. Put the fish in a small wading pool or put blue construction paper on the floor to look like water. Attach a magnet or piece of metal to the end of the fishing line on the fishing pool. Allow each child to fish for the word. When they have caught a fish, help them “unhook” it and have them say the memory verse aloud. Allow the children to take their fish home. It can be put on the refrigerator because it will have a magnet attached. This will be a great reminder of today’s lesson every time they see the memory verse fish on their refrigerator at home.

**Craft:**  Help the children put on painting smocks or old t-shirts to protect clothing. Give each child a plate and have them paint blue paint all over the plate. Make sure the blue paint is painted thinly so it may dry fast enough to add the orange paint over it. (You could paint the blue plate beforehand) Then have each child place a handprint in the middle of their blue plate. Then glue a goggly eye on the palm area close to the thumb. Allow the paint to dry enough to draw on a smiley mouth with black sharpie or felt pen.

**Prayer:** Lead the children in praying focusing on obeying His word and thanking Him for his many blessings.

**Dismissal:** Make sure students have their take home items, do a final review of memory verse.

