

GOD NEVER CHANGES

The Great I AM - Large Group

God is awesome
He has a big plan for me
God wants to be my closest friend

THE ESSENTIALS: GOD THE FATHER

Main point: God never changes. He is always the same.

FOR LEADER ONLY

God is the same as He was in the Bible times, and He'll be the same forever and ever. The Bible is full of stories illustrating this. Moses saw all the circumstances around him change. Once He remembered that his God was the God of his ancestors and there was nothing too difficult for Him, he was able to be used by God to lead His people. He brought them out from under the rule of the Egyptians and led them to a land better than they could have asked for or imagined. In the same way, children need to know that the God they read about in the Bible is the same God they sing to and ask for help today. They need to know that they can turn to God at any time and that our God, who never changes, can help them through hard times. Then they will be confident to trust God. They will turn to him when they need help. Others will see the peace in their lives and get a glimpse of the awesome, unchanging God we serve.

PREPARATION

You will need a storyteller, a helper (could be a puppet), & worship leader.

GETTING STARTED

Helper comes out either dressed too hot or too cold depending on the current weather. The helper is either shivering, sweating uncontrollably, or just wearing a mismatch of clothing for any weather condition.

STORYTELLER

Hey, _____ (*fill in the name of the helper*), what are you doing? Why are you wearing a rain poncho and a heavy jacket?

*The helper gets more and more worried and fearful. By the end, he must be **nearly** hysterical with worry and fear.*

HELPER

It's the weather, _____ (*fill in the name of the storyteller*). You never know when it's going to change. It could get freezing cold at any second, and what if I don't have enough clothes on to keep me warm? I don't want to end up a human ice cream cone! Or... Or what if it starts to pour down rain and there's a leak in the roof and all the rain water dumps right on my head? What then, _____? I can't swim! What will happen to me? WHAT THEN!?!

STORYTELLER

Look, _____, it's not even raining and I've never even heard of a human ice cream cone. I'm sure that you are going to be all right. I really wouldn't worry about it. Why don't you go in the back and get changed out of all of that stuff? We are going to stay here and hear an awesome story.

HELPER

Change! Are you kidding me? Do you know how often the weather changes? It changes all the time. One moment it's hot, then it's cold, then it's hot, then cold COLD HOT HOT COLD RAIN! How can I ever know what's going to happen?!? Ahhhhhhhh! All of this can tear a man (puppet) apart!

Helper falls at the feet of the storyteller in tears, hysterical.

STORYTELLER

Wow, it looks like _____ has some trust issues. Don't worry, _____, the weather does change all the time. In fact, a lot of things change all the time. But we don't have to worry because there is someone that never changes, someone that stays the same all the time, and we can always trust in him.

HELPER

Really? There's someone I can trust in all the time? Someone who doesn't change like the weather?

STORYTELLER

Yep, there is someone we can trust all the time, because he doesn't change, ever, never, ever! Speaking of changing, go change out of those jackets. You must be burning up! I've got an awesome story to share while we wait for you.

Helper, embarrassed, leaves to change.

Well, guess what kids - I think we can help _____ out. I've got just the thing. We are going to be talking about someone that we can always trust with everything. In fact, this person is so trustworthy that we can trust him with our whole life. Who am I talking about? I'm talking about God!

We are going to learn that we can trust God because He never changes.

MEMORY VERSE

Our memory verse for this week is **For I am the Lord, I do not change. Malachi 3:6.**

We encourage you to incorporate competition somehow into learning the memory verse. Have a guys versus girls competition or a younger versus older kids competition, etc. See the example below.

Okay, let's practice it all together: **For I am the Lord, I do not change. Malachi 3:6.**

We're going to have a contest to see who can say the memory verse the loudest. I want them to hear you in the sanctuary! Let me hear the boys say it as loud as you can! **For I am the Lord, I do not change. Malachi 3:6.**

Wow, good job. Now, girls, do you think you can beat them? I want to hear what you've got. Okay girls, all together: **For I am the Lord, I do not change. Malachi 3:6.**

Great job! I think that the _____ (*fill in boys or girls*) won this week. Now we are going find out that God never changes. He stays the same all the time, even when everything around us is changing. We never have to worry about Him changing.

BIBLE LESSON

Storyteller: Note that the following Bible lesson has been organized into four main points (**IN BOLD CAPS**) to help you present it in a memorable manner. The lesson concludes with the **APPLICATION** to help make it applicable for the kids in their daily lives.

WORDS FROM A BUSH

STORYTELLER

Today we are going to hear a story from the Bible about a man who had the same problem as _____. His name was Moses, and Moses was just a little bit worried. Moses knew that God had an awesome plan for his life, but sometimes Moses was too afraid to follow it. So, God had to give him a little push.

In a melancholy, boring voice, with emphasis in the 40 years, as a super long time.

Picture this: Moses was in a hot, dusty desert watching sheep just like he had done every day for the last 40 years of his life. He watched the sheep wander to and fro and smiled at them, lost in thought.

And then suddenly, out of nowhere, a bush just burst into flames! Whoa! It was clearly hot outside, but Moses didn't think it was hot enough to make a bush explode into flames. As he went to check it out something weird happened. The closer that he got, the better he could see that even though the bush was on fire, it was not actually

burning. What!? Now this was almost too weird for Moses to take in and he didn't know how to respond.

Carefully, Moses took one more step towards the burning bush and suddenly a voice shouted out of the flames, "Moses, take off your sandals. You are on holy ground."

Whoa! Let's pause here. That voice that Moses heard from the bush, that was God talking to Moses! Can you imagine?!? How awesome is that! God used a bush to talk to Moses. God can do anything - even what we think is impossible - like talking to us through a bush!

Let me hear you say who is awesome!

ALL
God is awesome!

STORYTELLER
That's right - God is awesome!

GIVEN INSTRUCTION

STORYTELLER

Now the story gets better. God used the bush to give a message to Moses. You see, God had a big plan and a huge change for Moses. The people of Israel were God's chosen people, and He loved them very much. But life had gotten very hard for God's people living with the Egyptians. The Egyptians used the Israelites as slaves and made them work hard without paying them. They were unfair and mean to God's chosen people.

So God told Moses to lead his children away from the Egyptians. God wanted Moses to take them to a new, awesome place. Why did God want them to move? God wanted Moses to lead them to a new land where He could be near His people. And He wanted Moses to lead them there. Just as God loved His people back then, God loves you very much and more than anything He wants a relationship with you.

Say this with me: God loves me very much!

ALL
God loves me very much!

STORYTELLER
Awesome! You guys are great.

Now here's the fun part: God had this huge plan for the children of Israel. But, God wanted *Moses* to lead them out of slavery and into the new good land. Wow, Moses

was about to go from a sheep herder to a leader not of hundreds, not of thousands, but of *millions* of people!!!

GOD'S NEW NAME

STORYTELLER

"Whoa, whoa, whoa," said Moses. "I can't do this, I can't be a leader of millions of people. No way. Not me, God. Find someone else. That's just too much! What if I mess everything up and fail?" The big plan God had for Moses seemed so big and so hard, and Moses didn't think he could handle it.

Moses thought, "What will the people say when I tell them God's plan? What if they laugh? What if they say no?" Moses did not think that the Egyptian king would possibly let millions of people just leave. The children of Israel were their slaves, and the Egyptians liked having them around. There was no way in Moses' mind that they would like the idea of letting them go.

This was a lot of change for Moses. He was a little scared. But, this is where God acts in an awesome way.

God said, "Moses, tell the people that I AM sent you." I AM? How strange. At first that didn't seem to make sense at all. What was God saying?

Helper returns, no longer wearing the rain jacket and other coats.

You see, God didn't say I was or I will be. No! God called Himself I AM! He gave Himself the name I AM. God was telling Moses that He never changes, but instead He always stays the same. Things around us will always change, but God stays the same no matter what. He is awesome, powerful and good all the time. God was telling Moses, "Don't worry about anything. You can always depend on Me. Trust Me; I AM powerful! I AM able to do all things! I AM there for you all the time! I AM going to help you! You can always trust Me. I never change! I AM."

HELPER

So even though the weather can change and it could start snowing, God can help me?

STORYTELLER

That's right. God named Himself I AM to tell you that He is with you right now and forever. You can trust Him.

HELPER

Wait...so does that mean God is with me even when it's really dark at night in my room and I see a scary shadow.

STORYTELLER

Yes, God is I AM and He is with you.

HELPER

What about when I get picked on for the clothes that I wear?

STORYTELLER

God is with you!

HELPER

What about when my Mom and Dad are fighting and yelling at each other?

STORYTELLER

GOD IS WITH YOU!

HELPER

Even when school is really hard and my brain feels like it will explode?

STORYTELLER

Kids, I don't think that _____ is hearing me, so I need your help. On the count of three I want you to yell as loud as you can: GOD IS WITH YOU! Ready? 1, 2, 3!

ALL

God is with you!

Kids yell and the helper falls backward as if knocked over by the sound.

HELPER

Oh, I get it! No matter what happens in my life, God is with me! He is the great I AM!

STORYTELLER

That's right _____. God is with you and He never changes.

The helper sits down on the stage and listens.

WRAP UP

STORYTELLER

This was a lot of change for Moses. He seemed perfectly happy to just sit and watch sheep for the rest of His life, but God had a bigger plan for him and for the children of Israel.

Moses faced all this change, yet trusted God to help him and was able to lead the people of Israel out of slavery from the Egyptians. He relied on a God that never changes to get him through all the changes in his life. God used Moses because he trusted Him.

God had a big plan for Moses and God has a big plan for you. Part of God's plan is that you trust Him, because God can help you. You can trust in Him because He does not change.

MAKE IT PERSONAL (Optional)

Share a story from your own life when you were dealing with a lot of change. Talk about how you felt during the time. What did you do? What do you wish you did? How could God help? How did God help? Don't be afraid to share your failings, but always bring it back to God.

APPLICATION

Our God never changes. He always stays the same. Life is full of changes, but we can always depend on God because He never changes. This week, let's ask God to help us with a recent change in our life. He can give us strength and wisdom to say and do the right things. He can send people our way to comfort us, He can bring us new friends, and heal hurt hearts. God is a big God, and He is an awesome and powerful God. He can help us through all the changes that we face in life.

DECLARATION

The declaration is an opportunity for everyone to declare how the material that they learned today affects what they believe. Before class, prepare the declaration on a poster board so that you can all say it together.

Let's say our declaration all together:

God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. I trust in God, and He helps me.

PRAYER

Father God, you are such a great God. I thank You that You will never stop being God. Thank you that you had a big plan for Moses and you have a big plan for each of us. You are awesome, oh God, and you are powerful. Thank you that we know You can help us with all the changes in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray.

SALVATION PRAYER

You may use this prayer or substitute in the prayer that your church uses, but do be sure to be consistent in praying the same prayer every week. There are many benefits to this including that children will learn the prayer and be able to lead their friends to Christ in confidence.

Without anyone moving, everyone keep your heads bowed and eyes closed, I want you to listen to me. There may be some of you who heard today about God and thought to

yourself, I don't know God. I want to know God more. If that describes you and you've never asked Jesus to be Lord of your life, we're going to pray a prayer in just a moment and I want you to pray with us. Let's pray.

Dear God, I know I need a Savior and I know I can't save myself. Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God. I believe You died on the cross for my sins and God raised You from the dead. Right now, I say that you are my Lord and my Savior, as the one who forgives me and restores me. Thank you, Jesus my past is forgiven. I have a relationship with you. I am a new creation in Christ because I've said yes to You.

If you just prayed that prayer for the first time, that was the best decision you'll ever make. If you just prayed that prayer for the first time, I want you to raise your hand. We're going to have you a card and we want you to fill it out with your name, your parents' names, and your information so that we can pray for you.

WORSHIP

Moses learned that God never changes. God even gave Himself the name I AM. Our God was God before, is God now, and forever will be God. And his love for you never changes. He loves you the same from when you were not yet born to now and forever. Everyone stand up and we're going to praise the name of our great, unchanging God.

WRAP UP

LEADER

We have had a fantastic time learning about God these past few weeks. We've learned that God never changes. We've learned that we can trust God. We've learned that God created everything. God has such big plans for us. What kind of plans does God have for us?

ALL

Big plans!

LEADER

You got it. As you go through your week this week, remember that God always stays the same. See you next week!