

SITUATION FLIP

WHAT YOU NEED: "Situation Flip" Activity Page (start with 8, add another set per additional child), spatula, buzzer/timer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Lead the kids in a wacky, pancake-flip-style version of "Whack-a-Mole.
- Set the "Situation Flip" cards in a loose cluster, some smile-side up and others situation-side up.
- Guide kids to line up about 5 feet from the cards. Explain that the goal of the game is to turn every card smile-side up.
- Give the first child in line the spatula. At your signal the child runs and flips over as many cards as possible until you sound the buzzer. (Sound the buzzer every 5-10 seconds to keep kids hopping!)
- The child then runs back to the group and hands the spatula to the next child. Two kids can simply switch off.
(If you only have one child, give them a set amount of time to flip all the cards to the smile side. If he doesn't succeed try again till they get it. If they turn them all over the first round, shorten the time to see how fast they can do it.)
- During play, randomly turn cards situation-side up, adding a competitive "Whack-a-Mole" element to the game 😊
- Play continues until every child has a turn and every card is smile-side up.
- One at a time, hold up each situation picture (4). Guide kids to identify the problem and think of possible ways God could turn that problem into something good.
 - ✗ **Moving:** meet new friends, tell new neighbors about Jesus
 - ✗ **Someone is sick:** you can show them God's love by doing something kind, you could help them
 - ✗ **Scared in a storm:** you pray and God helps you feel better
 - ✗ **Hurt:** other people show you kindness and friendship, God heals you

WHAT YOU SAY:

Today we learned that **the story of Jesus changes how I see my problems**. Everyone has problems sometimes. People can hurt our feelings, people can get sick, and things can happen to us that seem confusing or even sad.

But because God loves us SO MUCH, He brings good things from even the most difficult problems. God showed us how much He loves us when He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and take the punishment for our sins. And when I know how much Jesus loves me, **the story of Jesus changes how I see my problems**.

BLOW, BLOW, BLOW YOUR BOAT (*Memory verse activity*)

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, "Rebus Cards" Activity Pages (NIRV), cotton balls or pompoms (8) & straws; 1 for each child

WHAT YOU DO:

- Have kids to look up the verse. Help if needed.
- Read the verse aloud, encouraging kids to say it with you.
- Briefly review the "Rebus Cards" as you set them on the floor in order at one end of your area.
- Guide kids to line up 5 feet or so away from the cards. Give each child a cotton ball "boat" and a straw.
- At your signal, the first child uses his straw to blow his "boat" to the first "Rebus Card." When he successfully "lands" the boat on the card, he says the words on the card and then runs back to tag the next child in line.
- That child then blows her "boat" to the second card, says the words on the first AND the second cards, and runs back to tag the third child in line.
- Continue until every child has a turn. If you have two kids simply let them take turns. If you only have one child, try mixing up the verse cards and let them blow their 'boat' to the first card in the verse, then to the next card in the verse and so on until the verse is in order.

WHAT YOU SAY:

God loves you so much that He sent His Son to save you, don't you think He loves you enough to help you through your problems? Of course, He does! So, when you're having problems, remember: **The story of Jesus changes how I see my problems**, because the story of Jesus is the story of God's great big amazing love for you!"

FLOATING WORDS (*Memory verse activity*)

WHAT YOU NEED: 7-10 wide craft sticks, permanent marker per child, 9x13 pans filled with 1 inch of water, Bibles, towels

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each child a Bible.
- Have them look up Ephesians 2:8 and everyone say it together.
- Give each child 7-10 wide craft sticks and ask them to write portions of the verse on the sticks. They must use all of the craft sticks and fit all of the verse on them.
 - Set a shallow pan of water onto a towel for each child and have them drop the craft sticks face up into the water. (You might want to stir each pan to make sure the order is mixed up.)
 - Give each an additional craft stick to use as a “paddle” and then challenge teams to work together to arrange their
 - pan of sticks in verse order. They must rearrange the words of the verse using only their “paddles.”
 - The first team to have the words of Ephesians 2:8 in order is the winner.
- **WHAT YOU SAY:**
 - “I wonder if the ship Paul was on in our Bible story bounced around in the water as much as your craft sticks did! I bet the men on that boat got a little seasick and scared. One of the reasons Paul didn’t give up when he faced problems was that he trusted God. Paul wanted to make sure that other people learned how to trust God, too. He wasn’t going to let his problems get in the way of telling people everywhere the good news of Ephesians 2:8. No matter where he was—in prison, on a sinking ship, in someone’s home, or anywhere—Paul helped people know about Jesus. Paul actually wrote the words of our memory verse, so we know that he believed them and shared those words with others.
 - “Let’s say Ephesians 2:8 together and imagine that Paul is speaking to a crowd of people. (*Invite the kids to say the verse several different ways as they imitate Paul. For example, whispering to someone in a dark prison cell at night, shouting over the storm while on a ship, or standing boldly before a group of people.*) When we believe Ephesians 2:8 and put our faith in God, it not only changes our hearts but also **[Bottom Line] the story of Jesus changes how I see my problems.**

GOOD DAY, BAD DAY

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask kids to tell you some of the things they do each day, such as eat breakfast, get dressed, play, and so on.
- Explain that you will name an event (see the list below), such as “eat lunch,” and then you’ll ask the kids to act out that
- action for 10 seconds.
- Next, share something that might happen during that activity that would suddenly change everything, such as finding out
- that your sister is sick, which means you can’t go to Grandma’s on the weekend.
- Invite the kids to show their reaction to this “Good Day, Bad Day” scenario, but limit their actions to a specific body part.
- For example, “Show your reaction using only your face (feet, hands, one leg, eyes, etc.).”
- Discuss ways God can help us during those hard times. For example, a parent or friend encourages or comforts them,
- someone who has faced a similar problem comes to help, or people pray for them.
- Encourage kids to come up with additional “Good Day, Bad Day” scenarios.

- 1) You are eating breakfast..... You find out your sister is sick, so you can't go to Grandma's.
- 2) You are swimming with friends.....You run to the other side of the pool, trip over someone's towel and fall. You get hurt, so you have to go to the doctor.
- 3) You are in bed..... You hear a weird sound and get scared.
- 4)Your aunt is taking you to dinner at your favorite pizza place.....You get a flat tire on the way and don't get to go.
- 5) You're having a picnic in your friend's backyard..... It starts to rain, so you get soaked and can't have a picnic.
- 6) Your team wins by 10 points!..... Your dad calls and says he won't be home before you go to bed, so you can't tell him about your terrific day
- 7) You are eating a snack..... You drop and break one of your mom's favorite dishes.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Some days are easy, but some days are hard. God helps us through it all. That's one of the most important reasons we can trust Him. We never know when a day will be perfect or when it will turn into a 'shipwreck.' But we do know that God is with us in it all. When we remember that **the story of Jesus changes how I see my problems**, we will see our bad days as opportunities to trust Him and to learn how to pray for His help. When we feel sad, upset, or afraid, we can look back on the way God helped us in other situations. We can also look at the way He helped people like Paul and others. Then we're better able to face our own bad days. Plus, it helps us understand how others feel when they face similar situations."