



LESSON 1

**GOD WINS  
OVER KINGS AND ARMIES**

**SCRIPTURE:**

Isaiah 46:9b; 1 Chronicles 29:11; Exodus 4:13; Joshua 10:1-11; Judges 7; Daniel 4:28-35; Daniel 2:20-21)

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*Isaiah 46:9b--I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.*

**KEY THEMES:**

- God wins at everything He does, all the time; God is greater than anyone
- The kings and armies of the world cannot resist God
- God is greater than all the kings of the world

**VISUALS/MATERIALS:**

Bible

two wastebaskets

ten "balls" made from wadded sheets of paper and masking tape

signs: WINNER, GOD, NO ONE LIKE GOD, and GOD IS GREATER THAN ALL  
(Resource Packet: 1A-D)

masking tape or tacks (to display signs on the wall or board)

pictures: Egyptian and the Hebrews, Pharaoh and Moses (Resource Packet: 1E-F)

nametags: FIVE KINGS, PEOPLE OF GOD-Hebrews or Israelites, GOD,  
MIDIANITES, NEBUCHADNEZZAR (Resource Packet: 1G-L)

materials for chosen activities

**PREPARATION:**

Study the Scripture passages carefully and prayerfully. Ask God to make them real in your own heart. Be open to what God may be teaching you in this lesson. Study the lesson well. Pray for the children in your class.

Make nametags for the children or do this as an activity. (See the ACTIVITY section.)

Wad up ten sheets of paper to make balls. Make a line on the floor with the masking tape. Consider the age group you will be teaching and set the two wastebaskets the appropriate distance from the line to insure that the children will get the “ball” in the basket some of the time.

Place the WINNER sign over the GOD sign and tape it along the top so that the WINNER sign can be flipped up to reveal GOD.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Call two children to the front. Explain to the children that they are to throw their five “balls” in the basket. The winner will be the child with the most balls in the basket. Try this enough times to establish that neither child wins all of the time. Make the point that no person wins all the time. For example:

Choose two children of equal ability.

This illustration should be done quickly so that there is time to develop the lesson.

*Did you win every time? Did you (referring to the other child) win every time? Do you think that anyone in this room could win every single time they ever played this game against anyone? Is there any person in the world who wins at everything he does?*

## **LESSON:**

Tell the children that although there is no person in the world who wins at everything he does, there is Someone who wins at everything He does, all the time. Show the WINNER sign and call a child to the front to flip up the sign and reveal who it is who wins all the time, at everything He does. *God wins at everything He does, all the time. No one else can do this. Only God. There is no one like God. He made everything and He is in charge of everything.*

*Should you believe this just because I said it is true? No, lots of people will tell you something different. If this is true, it should be in the book about God, the Bible.*

Have a sword drill with the following verse if the children you are teaching are familiar with the Bible. If they are unfamiliar with the Bible, you may have to help them find the verse or give a child your Bible with the verse marked. Ask a child to read the verse to the class.

See sword drill directions on page xvii of the Introduction.

*Isaiah 46:9b--I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.*

Attach the NO ONE LIKE GOD sign to the board or wall. Then look up the following verse:

*1 Chronicles 29:11—Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.*

You might need to explain that LORD is another name for God, and define any unfamiliar words.

Attach the GOD IS GREATER THAN ALL sign to the board or wall.

Explain to the children that there is a story in the Bible that shows us God's greatness. Show the picture of the Egyptian and the Hebrews. (Point to the Hebrews.) *These people were the Hebrews. They were slaves. They had to work hard every day and were treated very harshly.*

(Point to the Egyptian.) *This man is an Egyptian. They ruled over the Hebrew slaves. Do you think you would have liked to be one of the Egyptians or one of the Hebrews?*

Explain that the Egyptian king was called Pharaoh and that he was a very powerful man. He was used to getting his own way and was in charge of all of Egypt. (Show the picture of Moses and Pharaoh.) He had a big, strong army of fighting men. The Israelites did not have a strong, powerful king or an army, and they were mistreated slaves. They could not escape from Egyptian rule. Tell the children that it might look like the Egyptians and their Pharaoh king were the side to be on, but things don't always look the way they really are.

Tell the children that although the Egyptians had a strong king, the Hebrews had something even better. They had God on their side. The God who made all things and controls all things, who is greater than all, was their God. The Hebrews cried to their God for deliverance from the Egyptians and God heard their cry.

Tell the highlights of the story of the plagues and the Exodus (Exodus 4-13) making the following points:

- God told a man named Moses to go to Egypt and tell Pharaoh to let the Hebrews go. God said that the Hebrews were His people and He would rescue them from the Egyptians.
- Moses went to Pharaoh and gave him God's message—"Let my people go."
- Pharaoh did not listen to God or do what God said. He thought he could go against God and win.
- God loves to show His greatness. Pharaoh's refusal to listen to God and let His people go was God's plan to show Pharaoh and the Egyptians that He is God and He is great.
- God sent troubles on Pharaoh and the Egyptians to show them how great He is. First, he turned the river into blood. But Pharaoh would not let God's people go.
- Then God made the frogs come up from the river so that there were frogs everywhere. But Pharaoh would not let God's people go.
- Then God told Moses to strike the dust of the ground and the dust became gnats—little flying bugs. But Pharaoh still did not listen to God.

- Pharaoh's stubborn heart was not a problem for God. Pharaoh was not greater than God. God is greater than all. No one can win against God. God would show Pharaoh and the Egyptians His greatness through His mighty acts.
- God then sent flies and Pharaoh said that he would let the people go. Moses prayed to God and every single fly disappeared. God is a great God—he sends flies and takes away flies. But even though Pharaoh saw what happened when Moses prayed, he still fought against God and changed his mind and said that the Hebrew people could not go.
- Next God sent sickness to the horses, donkeys, camels, cattle, sheep and goats of the Egyptians. The animals of the Hebrews—God's people—did not get sick. But Pharaoh still thought that he could win against God. Kings and armies cannot win against God.
- God sent more problems on the Egyptians to show them that He is great. He sent sores called boils on the Egyptians, grasshopper-like bugs called locusts to eat the plants growing in the fields, and three days of darkness. But Pharaoh still would not let God's people go.
- No king can win against God. God made Pharaoh let the Hebrews go. The firstborn Egyptian sons all died, including the son of Pharaoh. Then Pharaoh finally stopped fighting God because he knew he could never win against God.
- Pharaoh let the Hebrew people go but then sent his huge army to follow the Hebrews. The army chased the Hebrews to the Red Sea. The Hebrews were stuck—the sea was on one side and Pharaoh's army was on the other side. But God is greater than Pharaoh and everyone and everything else. The sea and the army were not problems for God.
- God pushed the water apart and made a path for His people to walk through the water. But when the Egyptian soldiers tried to cross the river on the path, God closed the water showing that He is greater than kings and armies. God is greater than all.
- All these things that happened—the troubles of Egypt and the opening and closing of the Red Sea—was God's way of showing His greatness.

Explain that Pharaoh was not the only king that tried to fight against God and win. Tell the children that the Bible tells about lots of times when kings tried to fight against God but they never won. God always wins everything.

Call three children to the front of the room. For each instance, put the appropriate nametags on the children and ask them to act out the story as you tell it.

- (Use FIVE KINGS, PEOPLE OF GOD, and GOD nametags.)  
Five kings and their armies went to fight against God and His people—the Hebrews, which are also called Israelites. They marched all night and then the army of God attacked them. The five kings and their armies became confused and turned and fled. As they fled, the Lord hurled hailstones at them and more died from the hailstones than from

the swords of the Israelites. The five kings could not fight against God and win. (Joshua 10:1-11)

- (Use the two MIDIANITES and PEOPLE OF GOD nametags.)  
The army of the king of the Midianites were the enemies of God and His people, the Israelites. The king of the Midianites had a very large army but he could not fight against God and win. Instead, when the people of God surrounded the Midianite army and blew their trumpets, the Midianites got so scared that they killed their own men. (Judges 7)
- (Use the NEBUCHADNEZZAR nametag.)  
Nebuchadnezzar was a powerful king and he built a great city called Babylon. One day, strutting along the roof of his palace, Nebuchadnezzar boasted that he had built Babylon by his own great power so that people would think that he was great. He forgot that it was God who made him king of Babylon and who is the greatest of all. God took everything away from Nebuchadnezzar—he lost his mind and lived like an animal, eating grass. God did this to show Nebuchadnezzar that God is the one who makes men kings and takes away the throne from kings. No king is greater than God. (Daniel 4:28-35)

*In all these stories, God is saying, "I will show these people who I am. I will show them that I am God and I am great. No one, not even a king can oppose me and win. I always win at everything I do."*

### **APPLICATION:**

*Who is the greatest man or woman you can think of? Does this person win at everything all the time? What kind of person would win at everything all the time? What does this tell you about God?*

Application can most effectively be done in a small group setting. The questions are just suggestions of possible directions to take the discussion. Pray for wisdom and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. Be sensitive to the answers and the needs of the children.

Turn to and discuss Daniel 2:20-21--

*Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.*

Be sure to pray for the children and encourage them to pray for each other.

*What does this verse tell you about God?*

*How do people oppose God? If no one, not even a king, can oppose God and win, why do people try to oppose God?*

*Do you ever try to oppose God? How? Why?*

## **ACTIVITIES:**

1. If you did not make nametags, have the children make their own nametags. (Resource Packet: 1M). Children can print their names on the seal and hang two ribbons from the seal. Children could also decorate the seal with glitter but instruct them not to cover up their names.
2. Children can work on the trophy case poster.\* (Resource Packet) (The poster should be folded on the dotted lines so that the doors open like a cabinet.) The children can draw a picture in the first long empty space illustrating the lesson theme. They should also paste the "God Always Wins!" trophy (Resource Packet: 1N) in the winner space.
3. Children can decorate the GOD IS GREATER THAN ALL worksheet. (Resource Packet: 1O).
4. Make a poster with the following verse on it: *The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.— Psalm 103:19*
5. Children can decorate the memory verse sheet. (Resource Packet: 1P)
6. Children can work on the memory verse code sheet. (Resource Packet: 1Q)
7. Make a mural of the plagues or draw them on the sidewalk using chalk.
8. Play some relay races. Be sure to emphasize that no one wins all the time. Some suggested relays: running backwards, running with an egg on a spoon, running holding a balloon between the knees, running with a book on the head, wheelbarrow race.
9. Let children take turns trying to get as many wadded papers into the basket (as in the Illustration section of the lesson). For each round, establish a winner. Be sure to show that no one wins all the time.
10. Play a memory verse game. (Appendix: A1)

## **SEND HOME:**

- Parent page.

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\*A trophy case poster should be ordered for each student.