

Lesson 7: God Is with Us

- **Foundation Verse:** Isaiah 43:5a
- **Main Idea:** When you are afraid, remember that God is with you.

Foundation Verse

- *“Fear not, for I am with you;” (Isaiah 43:5a, ESV)*
- *“Do not be afraid, for I am with you;” (Isaiah 43:5a, NIV)*

Curriculum Resources

- Fears and God Tags (7A-7B, see Preparation)
- Hand (7C)
- Big/Strong 1-3 (7D-7F, see Preparation)
- **Red Sea (1K)**
- **Isaiah 43:5a (7G, ESV or NIV)**
- Coloring Page for Isaiah 43:5a (AR-7, ESV or NIV, for each student)
- Parent Page for Lesson 7 (for each student)

Other Supplies

- Bible (ESV or NIV)
- Whiteboard and markers (see Preparation)
- Tape
- Car keys
- 2 pairs of sunglasses (see Preparation)
- For Coloring Page Activity (for each student)
 - Options: Markers or crayons

Preparation

- Study the Scripture passage/s 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 students in your class.
- Tape the **Big/Strong 1-3** visuals together vertically so that they spell BIG vertically. Fold the three pages so that the words and picture are not showing. When a student holds up the visual, it should unfold to show the words and picture.
- **Fears and God Glasses**—Cut out the Fears and God Tags and tape each tag to one of the two pairs of sunglasses. Optional: Remove the lenses as you did for the sunglasses used in Lesson 4 so that they look less like sunglasses.

- Write out Isaiah 43:5a on the whiteboard before class. Even though most of your students will not be able to read the verse, you will be able to use it as a visual as you define words.

Introduction

Whiteboard and markers

(Be prepared to write the students' answers on the **whiteboard**.)

What are some things that people are afraid of? (Answers will vary. Make a list on the **whiteboard**.)

Look how long our list is! There are so many things that we could be afraid of. (Mention a few of them.)

Probably no one is afraid of all these things. But everyone has fears...girls, boys, moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas, football players, doctors, pastors...everyone has fears.

Large Group Lesson

Some fears are big fears, and some fears are little fears. Do you remember when God freed His people from slavery in Egypt? God sent Moses to tell the Pharaoh king to let God's people go. Pharaoh didn't want to obey God. But God used many plagues or troubles to show Pharaoh that God is more powerful than Pharaoh. Pharaoh finally let the people go.

? *Who came after the Hebrew people?* [Pharaoh and his army of fighting men] *The mighty Egyptian army was behind God's people.*

? *What was in front of the Hebrew people?* [the Red Sea]

God's people had nowhere to go! Was this a big fear or a little fear?

The Hebrew people were terrified. The Egyptians were coming after them. They were trapped! Moses knew the people were afraid. Listen to what Moses said to the people:

...“Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. ¹⁴The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.” (Exodus 14:13-14, ESV)

...“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. ¹⁴The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.” (Exodus 14:13-14, NIV)

? *What did Moses tell the people about being afraid?* [don't be afraid] *Why not?* [God would fight for them.]

? *Then what happened?* [God opened the sea, and the Hebrews walked across on dry land.]

(Show the **Red Sea** visual.)



Did God get mad at the Hebrews? Did He make fun of them and call them scaredy cats or babies? God understands that we have fears. Hundreds of times in the Bible, He tells us not to be afraid. Our verse for today is just one of many verses in the Bible where God tells us not to be afraid.



(Show the **Isaiah 43:5a** visual and read the verse.)¹

“Fear not, for I am with you;” (Isaiah 43:5a, ESV)

“Do not be afraid, for I am with you;” (Isaiah 43:5a, NIV)

? *God doesn’t just tell us not to be afraid in this verse. What promise does He make? [He will be with us.]*

God promises to be with His people. Was God with the Hebrews at the Red Sea? (If your students are familiar with Bible stories, you can mention a few more, such as the following: Was God with Daniel in the lion’s den? Was God with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace? Was God with Jonah in the belly of the big fish? Was God with Peter when he started to sink in the water?)

Illustration

Car keys, Hand visual, and Big/Strong visual

(Call a student to the front of the class. Hold out your **car keys** to him.)

How would you feel if I asked you to go out to the parking lot and get the box in my car? (Wait for response.) Would you feel differently if I said, “I will go with you?” How would you feel then? Why would you feel that way?

Having someone with us when we are afraid of something helps us to be less afraid. We know we are not alone. We know the other person can help us. We feel braver when someone is with us.

When we are afraid, we can remember that we are not alone. God is with us. God has said that He will never leave His children.² He will always be with us no matter where we are.

Let’s see what is so great about God being with us.

(Call two students to the front. Give one the **Hand** visual and the other the **Big/Strong** visual with the instruction to keep the visual folded until the appropriate time.)

When God says, “I am with you,” He is not just standing by and watching what is going on.

(Ask the student to show the **Hand** visual.)

God helps His people. He opened the sea for the Hebrews. (If your class is familiar with other Bible stories, you can mention them as well, such as the following: He helped Daniel and closed the mouths of the lions. He kept Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from being burned in the furnace. He kept Peter from drowning in the water.) God loves to help His people and He is always ready to help them.

Another reason why it is so great that God is with His people is this...

¹ For pre-readers, you may need to read the verse several times in order for them to grasp the meaning.

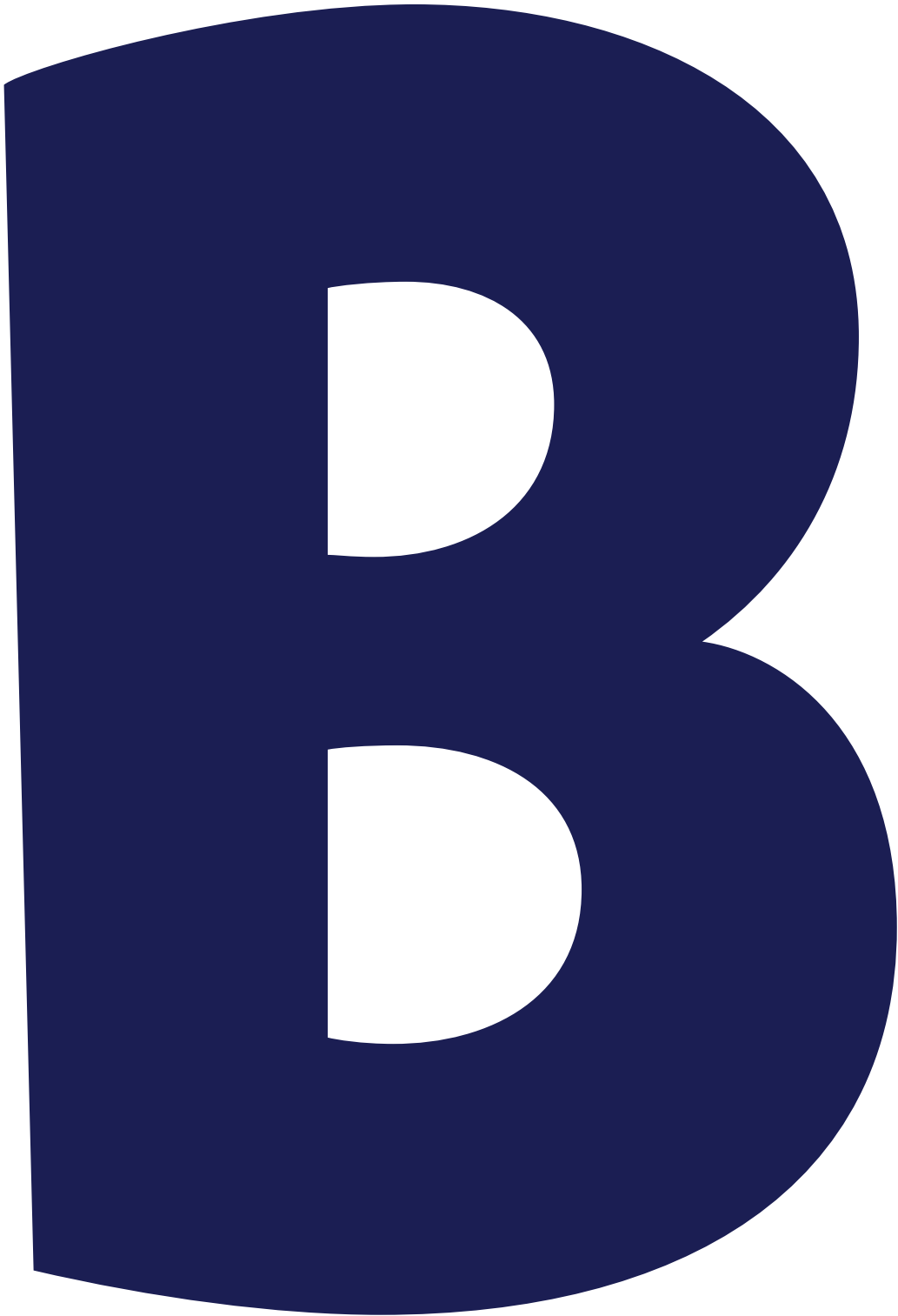
² Hebrews 13:5

Sample Lesson





Sample Lesson



Sample Lesson



G

& STRONG



Sample Lesson



“Fear not, for I am with you;” (Isaiah 43:5a, ESV)



“Do not be afraid, for I am with you;” (Isaiah 43:5a, NIV)



“Fear not, for I am with you;” (Isaiah 43:5a, ESV)



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Review

- God understands that we have fears. Hundreds of times in the Bible, He tells us not to be afraid. When we are afraid, we can either look at ourselves or we can look at God.
- *What do we need to remember when we are afraid?* [God promises to be with us.]
- *What does God mean when He says that He is with us? (Why is it so great that God is with us?)* [He is not just standing by and watching us; He will help us. God is big and strong, and He can do anything.]

Questions to Discuss

What kinds of things are you afraid of? (Try to elicit why these things are fearful to your child, such as being afraid of going to bed in the dark because there might be monsters under the bed.) *What do you know about God? Why is it good to remember that He is with you? What can you tell yourself when you are afraid? What can you pray when you are afraid?*

Activity

Think of an errand you need to do (e.g., pick up a prescription, mail a package at the post office, order at a drive-through window, pick out supplies at the hardware store, etc.). It should be something your child would be nervous or afraid to do alone. Have your child accomplish the errand but tell your child that you will be there to help him or her. Why was it comforting to have another person there? Why is God the best Helper?