

LESSON

2

“TURTLE’S FAVORITE TURTLE”

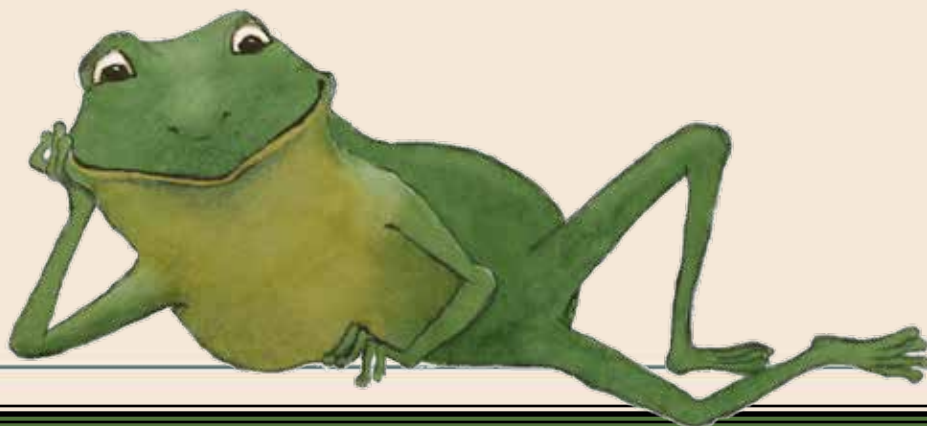
Children’s Ministry
Lessons for ages 5 to 10



Written by Lisa Updike

(Based on the award-winning book *Frog’s Rainy-Day Story and Other Fables*)

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Lesson 4

“Turtle’s Favorite Turtle”

Unit Bible Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 10:5

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ . . .

Today:

- Explain and memorize: “take every thought captive to obey Christ”
- Moral: “Those who puff themselves up in their own eyes are likely to have an unpleasant surprise.”
- First Catechism questions 1-4 and 14
- Bible Lesson: Daniel 4, King Nebuchadnezzar is proud, and God humbles him.

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Preparation:

- Make a copy of the “At-a-Glance” if you will be using it or have other teachers helping you.
- Make copies of the skit and decide who will perform it.
- Decide if you will use the video of the fable or will read it yourself from the book, *Frog’s Rainy-Day Story and Other Fables* (Make sure you have a copy of the book!)
- Decide on a craft option and gather the materials needed.
- Decide if you will serve snack and gather what you will need.
- Make a copy of the Taking It Home page for each child.

Hello! (Gathering time 10 minutes):

Teachers or small group leaders welcome children, provide them with their nametags, and introduce them to one another.

“Getting Closer Questions”

- What are some of your gifts and talents?
- How can you use them to bring glory to God?
- Have you ever been tempted to show off? When? What did you do?
- What is the difference between using your talents and showing off?



Getting Started (10-15 minutes):

- Use CDs, DVDs, or a song leader to sing 2-3 songs of your choice with motions. Then seat children for the lesson and discussion.
- Review the Unit's Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 10:5

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ . . .

Teacher: Last week we talked about the idea of “*lofty opinions being raised against the knowledge of God . . .*”

When people think they can just toss away what the Bible says, when they deny that there is a God because they have their own ideas about what is true, they are making arguments and raising lofty opinions against the knowledge of God.

But, boys and girls, we do the same thing every time we sin or every time we believe the “wisdom of the world” instead of the “wisdom of the Word.”

When we sin, we demonstrate that we think *our* way is above God's. When we doubt that His Word is true, instead of *destroying* arguments, we are *making* arguments against the knowledge of God. So, we need to “take every thought captive.”

I bet you are wondering, “What does that even mean?”

It means we don't have to let our thoughts rule us. Instead, we rule over them! When a thought comes into our mind that is sinful or against what we've learned from the Bible, we confess that thought to God and replace it with a thought that is good and true.

Let's watch this skit to understand more.

Mini-Skit (3-4 minutes):

(This can be done by two classroom teachers or aides or with the teacher and one volunteer. **Thought** has a sign around neck that says “THOUGHTS.”)

Person (*to the boys and girls*): Sometimes I'm just minding my own business, not really thinking about much at all, when a thought comes in. Sometimes I don't even realize it's come in. . .

Thought (*sneaking around and coming up behind*): Hey, It's a beautiful day!

Person (*without looking at the thought at all, continuing to gaze out at the boys and girls*): Hey, isn't it a beautiful day?

Thought: Great day to . . . ride a bike! Yeah, that's it! Great day to ride a bike.

Person: Sure is a great day to ride a bike! That would really be nice. I could peddle on down the street and meet up with some of my friends.

Thought (*giggling*): Hee-hee . . . and never mind that Mom said to do all my homework



first . . . (*louder as if trying to hide the wrong thought*) Because it's a beautiful day!

Person: I've got some homework to do. Mom said to do that first. . . But, hey! It's such a beautiful day! I'm going to get my bike!

Thought *stands up tall and brushing hands off as if to say, "My work here is done" and places hands on hips.*

Person: Wait! Mom said to do my homework first. Yes! It is a beautiful day, but that doesn't mean I don't need to obey!

Thought (*starting to look very alarmed*): Beautiful day! Bike! Bike! Bike!

Person (*turning toward and facing Thought head on*): Hey! Yes! It is a beautiful day! And I will enjoy it, but God says to honor my father and mother. You, Thought, don't get to rule over me! I'm taking you captive! Now listen to me. I will obey God!

Thought (*nodding head in agreement and "knocking" self on head*): Right. Mom said to do the homework first! Of course! (*in a loud stage whisper to Person*) Do your homework!

Person *nods and gets to work while Thought watches.*

(*Either transition back into teacher mode or say goodbye to skit volunteers.*)

Teacher: What our skit shows is that part of being able to take our thoughts captive is being aware of our thoughts. We don't just accept whatever comes our way, but we must pay attention to what is going on in our mind!

Now, let's get this next part of our Bible verse memorized!

Repeat after me:

2 Corinthians 10:5 (2 Corinthians 10:5)

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion (We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion)

raised against the knowledge of God (raised against the knowledge of God)

Great, now all together: (We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God . . .)

And take every thought captive (and take every thought captive)

And take every thought captive (and take every thought captive)

Okay, let's do all that we've learned together!

2 Corinthians 10:5

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive



Introduction to Fable Lesson (1-2 minutes):

Remember, a fable is a story that typically uses animals as characters and helps us to understand a lesson or a moral.

Who remembers what happened last week? (*Listen for answers.*) Right! Pig wanted to help the animals with their boredom by putting on a play, but none of the animals would agree to a set of rules. They all wanted things their own way, and so they ended up staying bored!

The moral of the story was, “Rules are sometimes hard to obey, but they keep us from going astray.”

And that reminds us of Catechism Question 14: Where do you learn how to love and obey God? The answer is: In the Bible alone.

I’ll ask that question, and you answer me: Question 14: Where do you learn how to love and obey God? (In the Bible alone). Where do you learn how to love and obey God? (In the Bible alone)

Great job!

So, let’s see how you do with these questions:

Q1. Who made you? (God)

Q2. What else did God make? (God made all things.)

Q3. Why did God make you and all things? (For His own glory)

Q4. How can you glorify God? (By loving Him and doing what He commands)

(Repeat as needed with children.)

Well done! Today we are going to hear another fable, but first, I wonder how many of you have ever heard someone boasting and showing off? Maybe you’ve even been the one boasting!

God has certainly made each one of us in a wonderful way. We do have gifts and we are amazing, but it is *GOD* who is doing the work in us. On our own, we can do nothing. Hard work and big dreams are of no benefit unless it is in the framework of God’s calling on our lives.

Let’s see what happens to Turtle when he thinks a bit too much about himself and his “power to achieve.”

Fable Story (4 minutes):

(You may use the video or read “Turtle’s Favorite Turtle” from the book, *Frog’s Rainy-Day Story and Other Fables*.)

Fable Follow-Up (5-6 minutes):

Remember the wisdom of the world often tells us things that are in opposition to God’s Word. Listen to these two examples:



“All power is within you; you can do anything and everything.” (Swami Vivekananda, Indian spiritual leader)

“You are the universe; you aren’t in the universe.” (Eckhart Tolle, German-born author)

Turtle was telling himself similar things, trying to make himself feel good about himself whether those thoughts were true or not. Now, it’s not wrong to encourage yourself, but where should you look for the words to encourage yourself? (The Bible) The Bible, that’s right. Just knowing how much God loves us can encourage us to keep going when things get hard.

Let’s look at two Bible verses that are Wisdom of the Word:

Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall. – Proverbs 16:18 (NLT)

So, humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time He will lift you up in honor. Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you. – 1 Peter 5:6-7 (NLT)

You see, those lines Turtle kept repeating were telling him that he was in control, that he could make things happen if he just believed hard enough. He became prideful thinking that he could control things. Did he have control? (No!) Who is in control? (God) That’s right God is. So, the apostle Peter wrote that we are to humble ourselves under the mighty power of God, that is, trust God because He’s in control, and then what is the very good news at the end of that verse? “He cares about you.” The God of the universe who created you and all things cares about you, so you can trust Him with your cares and worries instead of trying to control everything yourself.

Let’s review.

1. **What kind of unpleasant surprise is Turtle in for?** (He is going to go over the edge of the falls.)
Why didn’t he hear the warning from Grasshopper? (He was too busy thinking and talking about himself.)
2. **Why do you think Turtle boasts so much?** (Either he thinks too much of himself, or he is so insecure he is trying to make himself to be better than he is.)
3. **What is the difference between knowing you are special in God’s eyes and puffing yourself up in your own eyes?** (One gives glory to God, the other gives glory to ourselves.)
4. **Turtle thinks that if he just says positive things about himself, good things will happen. Is that the way to improve? Why or why not?** (Positive thinking can help us from the other extreme of thinking too little of ourselves, but it is hard work, and learning God’s way is what really helps us improve.)
5. **Turtle also says, “I can be whatever I want.” What’s wrong with that statement?** (We simply are not always able to be whatever we want to be; being whatever we want to be is not a good goal because we need to seek God and be what He calls us to be.)

Well, I suppose we can sit in judgment of Turtle, but it’s far better for us to examine our own hearts! The truth is we often do the same thing. We might dream about a future of being famous or wealthy, instead of doing the things we need to do that are right in front of us, now! Or sometimes we think of ourselves more highly than we ought to. And that’s tricky, because in our culture we are often told to dream big; we can be whatever we imagine! We are told to follow our own hearts and to not let any-



thing hold us back. The problem with that is our eyes are then focused on ourselves instead of on God!

Bible Lesson from Daniel 4 (5-10 minutes):

(This lesson is written as a dialogue. You may do the two voices yourself or recruit a helper to play Nebuchadnezzar. The king may even come in costume.)

TEACHER: Today's lesson comes from the Old Testament book of Daniel, chapter 4. It is very unique because it records the actual words of King Nebuchadnezzar himself. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the King shares his story with all who will listen.

It begins: King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth.

KING: Peace be multiplied to you! It has seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done for me. How great are His signs, how mighty His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and His dominion endures from generation to generation.

TEACHER: Sounds pretty good, so far, doesn't it? But wait until you hear what the King had to endure to understand how great the Lord, the One True God, is!

KING: I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and prospering in my palace. I saw a dream that made me afraid. As I lay in bed, the fancies and the visions of my head alarmed me. So, I made a decree that all the wise men of Babylon should be brought before me, that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream. Then the magicians, the enchanters, and the astrologers came in, and I told them the dream, but they could not make known to me its interpretation. At last Daniel (whom I had renamed Belteshazzar), came in before me, and I told him the dream, saying, "O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you and that no mystery is too difficult for you, tell me the visions of my dream that I saw and their interpretation.

"The visions of my head as I lay in bed were these: I saw, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was great. The tree grew and became strong, and its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth. Its leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, and the birds of the heavens lived in its branches, and all flesh was fed from it.

"I saw in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and behold, a watcher, a holy one, came down from heaven. He proclaimed aloud and said thus: 'Chop down the tree and lop off its branches, strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the beasts flee from under it and the birds from its branches. But leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, amid the tender grass of the field. Let him be wet with the dew of heaven. Let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth. Let his mind be changed from a man's, and let a beast's mind be given to him; and let seven periods of time pass over him. The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word



of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom He will and sets over it the lowliest of men.’

“This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, saw. And you, O Belteshazzar, tell me the interpretation, because all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation, but you are able, for the spirit of the holy gods is in you.”

Then Daniel, whom I had re-named Belteshazzar, was dismayed for a while, and his thoughts alarmed him. I answered and said, “Belteshazzar, let not the dream or the interpretation alarm you.”

TEACHER: In other words, no matter how bad the news is, just tell me. I want to know!

KING: So, Belteshazzar answered and said, “My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies!”

TEACHER: Which means, “I wish this dream was about your enemies instead of you, because it is not good news at all!”

KING: Belteshazzar continued: “The tree you saw, which grew and became strong, so that its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth, whose leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in which was food for all, under which beasts of the field found shade, and in whose branches the birds of the heavens lived—it represents you, O king, who have grown and become strong. Your greatness has grown and reaches to heaven, and your dominion to the ends of the earth.

“Then you saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, ‘Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, in the tender grass of the field, and let him be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven periods of time pass over him.’

“This part of the dream is a decree of the Most High, the True God. He sent you this message. You, the king, shall be driven from among men, and you will live like an animal with the beasts of the field. You will eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven. Seven years will pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom He will.

“But, God allowed the stump of the roots of the tree, to remain, so that when you repent and admit that it is only the One True God who is great and that Heaven alone rules, your kingdom shall grow again.”

TEACHER: Daniel urged the king to take his advice. “Break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and turn from your sin by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity.”

Well, do you think that King Nebuchadnezzar listened to Daniel? Did he humble himself and repent?



Let's find out. As we continue reading, we find that one year later King Nebuchadnezzar was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, and gazing about his mighty kingdom when he said,

KING: Great is Babylon, which *I have built by my mighty power* as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty!

TEACHER: While the words were still in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven, "O King Nebuchadnezzar, I say to you, 'The kingdom has departed from you, and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven years will pass until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom He will.'"

Immediately it happened! Nebuchadnezzar was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven! His hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws.

KING: But, at the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored Him who lives forever,

*for His dominion is an everlasting dominion,
and His kingdom endures from generation to generation;
all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,
and He does according to His will among the host of heaven
and among the inhabitants of the earth;
and none can stay His hand
or say to Him, 'What have you done?'*

At the same time my reason returned to me, my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all *His works are right and His ways are just; and those who walk in pride He is able to humble.*

TEACHER: At one time or another, we all become prideful. We think we know what is best. Pretty much every time we disobey, it is related to pride because we act as if we know better than God, even if just for a moment. When we sin, we decide to rule over ourselves instead of letting God rule over us.

But there is a time to boast. Yes! Really! In Galatians 6:14 the apostle Paul wrote, "But far be it from me to boast...EXCEPT IN THE CROSS of our LORD JESUS CHRIST!"

Boys and girls, we can boast about the greatness of God—that the cross of Jesus rescues us, prideful sinners that we are, when we believe in Him. Our sin is imputed to Him and His righteousness is imputed to us!



Lesson Discussion (10-15 minutes. This may be done at tables while students busy their hands with the craft, in small groups, or still part of large group.):

1. **Both Turtle's and King Nebuchadnezzar's eyes were on their own glory and accomplishments. Where should their eyes have been?**
2. **What do you call it when someone takes credit for all the good things they can do?** (Pride)
3. **Remember all the way back to the letters from the first week. How were they similar to Turtle and Nebuchadnezzar?**
4. **How can we be rescued from pride?** (Repent, recognize that we were made for the glory of God, trust in the work of Jesus on the cross and boast in His work!)

Craft Options (15-20 minutes):

Option 1: "Glory Glasses"

Materials:

- One plastic or paper mask per child. Plastic masks are more durable, but card stock paper masks allow for decorating with markers and crayons.
- Several gem stickers, feathers, and markers or crayons for each child

During Class:

- Let each child choose a mask.
- Allow the children to decorate, as they desire.
- Remind the students that that we need to keep our eyes on the Lord and not ourselves because HE ALONE is worthy of glory!

Option 2: "Eyes on God" Mirrors

Materials:

- Mirror boards – 1 per child
- Labels
- Small stickers for decoration

Before Class:

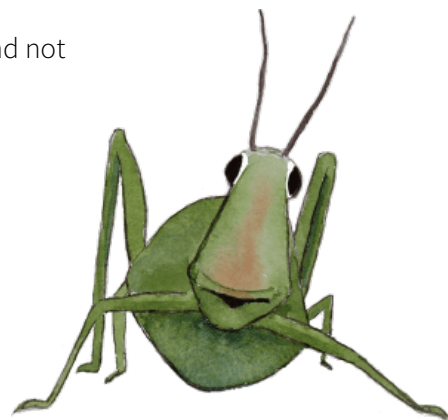
- Create a label, 2 ½" x 1", for each child that says, "Reflect on the greatness of God."

During Class:

- Give each child a mirror board and a label.
- Children should place the label on one edge of the mirror and frame the entire mirror with the stickers
- Optional: provide a magnet to stick the mirror to a metal surface such as a refrigerator.

SIDE BAR: IMPUTATION

Imputation. If needed, review the word *imputed*. "The righteousness of Jesus is counted as if it is our own, and our sin was counted as if it was His."



- Remind the children that we should reflect on God rather than gaze at ourselves in the mirror admiring ourselves.

Snack (optional):

This may be passed out as kids arrive, eaten during welcome, or eaten during discussion and activity time at the end.

- Fruit (to remind of the fruitful tree)
- Bagel crowns (bagels spread with cream cheese and blueberries placed as gems) to remind us that God is the ultimate King.

Dismissal (5 minutes):

- Stretch Activities
- Prayer
- Take Home: Coloring sheets and/or study guide



"Turtle's Favorite Turtle"



Faithful Fables At-A-Glance (LESSON 4)

Hello!

- ☐ Welcome Students
- ☐ Check Name Tags
- ☐ Take Attendance
- ☐ "Getting Closer"

Know! **What's going on today?**

- As students arrive, do the things in the "Hello!" box.
- Lead by example! Encourage student participation in singing songs and memory work time.
- Lesson time! Help students pay attention and engage in the lesson.
- "Grow!" Discussion and application of the lesson.
- Activity time! Set up the activity supplies. Help students complete the activity so they can "Show!" others what they learned.
- "Go!" Follow the instructions below to make sure we send the students off well.

Show! **Activities that show what you know!**

- Use today's craft activity to review the lesson with the children.
- Have them tell you how they will use this craft to explain the lesson to their parents and friends!

Getting Closer

(Discussion Starters)

- What are some of your gifts and talents?
- How can you use them to bring glory to God?
- Have you ever been tempted to show off? When? What did you do?
- What is the difference between using your talents and showing off?

Grow! **Application discussion questions for small groups**

- What is wrong with these phrases?
"Follow your own heart."
"You can be anything you want to be!"
- How did God judge Nebuchadnezzar? How was that judgment also merciful?
- What does it mean to boast in the cross?
- How can we make sure our eyes are focused on Jesus and not ourselves?

GO!

Before dismissing children to parents, make sure they put away all materials, clean up their area and gather all their belongings including their "Taking It Home" papers.



"Turtle's Favorite Turtle"



Questions! For the Car

- How did you participate in class today?
- What was "Turtle's Favorite Turtle" about?
- What happened to King Nebuchadnezzar in today's Bible lesson?
- What do you think the main point of today's lesson was?

Questions! For Later

- Why is it important to be aware of our thoughts?
- So many people say we can become whatever we dream. What is wrong with that statement?
- What is the difference between being "puffed up" and knowing that you are good at something?

TAKING IT HOME (LESSON 4)

Lesson from Today's Fable

Those who puff themselves up in their own eyes are likely to have an unpleasant surprise.

Wisdom of the WORLD

What's wrong with these thoughts?

All power is within you; you can do anything and everything.

— SWAMI VIVEKANANDA, INDIAN SPIRITUAL LEADER

You are the universe; you aren't in the universe.

— ECKHART TOLLE, GERMAN-BORN AUTHOR

Bible Lesson TODAY

Daniel 4 is the story of proud King Nebuchadnezzar, told to us in his own words. God saw his pride and sent a prophetic dream to the king as a warning. Daniel, whom the king had re-named Belteshazzar, was the only one able to interpret the dream. God would remove the great Kingdom of Babylon from the king and cause the king to go for seven years bereft of his mind and living as an animal. This came to pass. The proud king was laid low. When his right mind returned, he humbled himself before God, proclaiming that God alone is worthy to receive glory!

Bible Memory

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ

— 2 Corinthians 10:5

Wisdom of the WORD

How are these thoughts different from what the world says?

Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall.

— PROVERBS 16:18 (NLT)

So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time He will lift you up in honor. Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you. — 1 PETER 5:6-7 (NLT)



"Turtle's Favorite Turtle"



JUST FOR FUN (LESSON 4 WORD SEARCH)

T G T K G R A S S H O P P E R
 R N L E A T G R A S S D S E S
 E B E O F F D M H E A V E N B
 E E M B R R E P E N T B V R I
 C L B L U Y P S K D U O O M B
 L T A P I C O I I Z R A I M L
 A E B R T E H F N U T S C P E
 W S Y I C Y W A G A L T E A S
 S H L D H K I R D O E G V L S
 R A O E O I S O A N D V R A O
 E Z N F P N D Y N F E Z L C N
 A Z P A D G O A I G E Z D E C
 S A X B O D M L E O Z W Z E D
 O R S L W O L E L X D R E A M
 N J V E N M H B E A S T V P R

NEBUCHADNEZZAR

CHOP DOWN

TURTLE

REASON

BEAST

WISDOM

FRUIT

BELTESHAZZAR

BABYLON

HEAVEN

LESSON

ROYAL

CLAWS

DREAM

GLORY OF GOD

EAT GRASS

REPENT

PRIDE

BOAST

VOICE

TREE

GRASSHOPPER

KINGDOM

DANIEL

PALACE

BIBLE

FABLE

KING

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JUST FOR FUN

(LESSON 4 WORD SEARCH ANSWER KEY)



NEBUCHADNEZZAR

BELTESHAZZAR

GLORY OF GOD

GRASSHOPPER

CHOP DOWN

BABYLON

EAT GRASS

KINGDOM

TURTLE

HEAVEN

REPENT

DANIEL

REASON

LESSON

PRIDE

PALACE

BEAST

ROYAL

BOAST

BIBLE

WISDOM

CLAWS

VOICE

FABLE

FRUIT

DREAM

TREE

KING

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WEEK 4
BIBLE MEMORY

We destroy arguments and every lofty
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and take every thought captive to obey Christ...

2 Corinthians 10:5

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We destroy arguments and every lofty
opinion raised against the knowledge of God,
and take every thought captive to obey Christ...

2 Corinthians 10:5

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SOMETHING TO
THINK ABOUT...

Take every thought captive:

Our thoughts do not rule us; we rule them!

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Lesson 4

Materials List

Every Lesson

- Curriculum Guide
- Bible
- *Frog's Rainy-Day Story and Other Fables* book or audio visual file
- Choice of music
- Prepared Bible Memory Cards for current week's lesson (1 per student)
- At-a-Glance (for each small group leader if using in a large group context)
- Taking It Home papers for current week's lesson (1 per student)
- Coloring sheets for each week as desired

Lesson 4

- **Skit Props:** Sign to wear around neck that says "THOUGHTS"
- **Bible Story:** Optional. Costume, simple or complex, to suggest King Nebuchadnezzar
- **Craft Option 1, "Glory Glasses":**
 - Plastic or paper eye mask—1 per child
 - Gem stickers—several per child
 - Markers or crayons—several per child
- **Craft Options 2, "Eyes on God" mirror:**
 - Mirror board—1 per student
 - Sticky label (2 ½" x 1") that says "Reflect on the greatness of God"—1 per student
 - Small sticker or gem stickers—several per student to create "frame" around edge of mirror board
 - Optional: stick on magnet—1 per student
- **Snack Option1:** Fruit
 - Prepared fruit—1 serving per child
- **Snack Option 2:** Bagel Crowns
 - Bagels—1/2 per student
 - Cream cheese—approximately 1 Tbsp. per student
 - Blueberries—approximately 12 per student



Lesson 4

Mini Skit

(This can be done by two classroom teachers or aides or with the teacher and one volunteer.)

Thought has a sign around neck that says “THOUGHTS.”)

Person (to the boys and girls): Sometimes I’m just minding my own business, not really thinking about much at all, when a thought comes in. Sometimes I don’t even realize it’s come in. . . .

Thought (sneaking around and coming up behind): Hey, It’s a beautiful day!

Person (without looking at the thought at all, continuing to gaze out at the boys and girls): Hey, isn’t it a beautiful day?

Thought: Great day to . . . ride a bike! Yeah, that’s it! Great day to ride a bike.

Person: Sure is a great day to ride a bike! That would really be nice. I could peddle on down the street and meet up with some of my friends.

Thought (giggling): Hee-hee . . . and never mind that Mom said to do all my homework first . . . **(louder as if trying to hide the wrong thought)** Because it’s a beautiful day!

Person: I’ve got some homework to do. Mom said to do that first. . . But, hey! It’s such a beautiful day! I’m going to get my bike!

Thought stands up tall and brushing hands off as if to say, “My work here is done” and places hands on hips.

Person: Wait! Mom said to do my homework first. Yes! It is a beautiful day, but that doesn’t mean I don’t need to obey!

Thought (starting to look very alarmed): Beautiful day! Bike! Bike! Bike!

Person (turning toward and facing Thought head on):

Hey! Yes! It is a beautiful day! And I will enjoy it, but God says to honor my father and mother. You, Thought, don’t get to rule over me! I’m taking you captive! Now listen to me. I will obey God!

Thought (nodding head in agreement and “knocking” self on head):

Right. Mom said to do the homework first! Of course!

(in a loud stage whisper to Person) Do your homework!

Person nods and gets to work while Thought watches.

(Either transition back into teacher mode or say goodbye to skit volunteers.)

