

Discussion points:

1. Man can make plans, but God controls what happens.

Read Psalm 33:10-11

Ask your children the following:

1. Does God follow the plans of the nations?
2. Does God need to make people's plans easy?
3. What happens to God's plans?
4. How long will God's plans be carried out?

People can plan things all the time. In fact, usually the more people get involved in the plan, the more sure people are that it will work. However, God is not required to go along with people's plans, no matter how many people or how important the people think they are. In fact, God often frustrates their plans to remind them that He is the only one who can truly make plans that can't be thwarted.

2. So, we shouldn't brag about our plans.

Read James 4:13-16

Ask children the following:

1. Is it wrong to make plans for the future?
2. What was wrong with the statement?
3. How much control do we really have over what happens?
4. How should we respond?

There is nothing wrong with making plans, as long as we realize those plans are really up to the Lord. None of us can even control if we are alive tomorrow or not. Therefore, we can't speak about things like we actually control the circumstances. We should humbly admit that we have plans, but it is really up to God whether it happens or not.

3. Even Paul's plans did not always work out.

Read Romans 1:13

Ask children the following:

1. Did Paul want to go to Rome?
2. Had he been there?
3. Why would he want the people to know he had tried?
4. What was keeping him from going?

Paul wanted to go to Rome so he could preach the gospel! That's a good thing and it would be easy to assume that is exactly what God would want to. However, each time Paul tried to plan and make his trip to Rome, his plans would get shut down. Why wouldn't God let Paul go? If God thought it was better for Paul to not get to do what he wants, do you think it may be best when God doesn't give us what we want?

4. Jesus sets us free from sin!

Read Romans 8:28-29

Ask children the following:

1. Who causes all things to work together for good?
2. Who does He do this for?
3. What is His goal for us?
4. How is God's will the best for us?

God will use all situations in a believer's life to work together for the good. This doesn't mean we always get what we want, or what would be easiest. But it does mean that God will never leave us to ourselves or crush our faith in a situation. He will actually bring us through it looking more like Jesus!

Table Talk

You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

-Deuteronomy 6:7

