



God Takes Our Worries

ELEMENTARY LESSON

1. Connecting: Watch an object lesson about releasing worry.
2. Teaching: Learn what to do with worry (Matthew 6:25–27, 34; Philippians 4:6–7).
3. Responding: Act out releasing worries (1 Peter 5:7).

SUPPLIES

Bible

Clear plastic or glass bowl filled with water

Small block of foam

4-5 stones to weigh down foam in water

Permanent marker

Student Pages

Pencils

Paper

Before starting this lesson, fill a bowl with water. Draw a smiling face on the foam. Place the foam in the bowl and place several stones on it so that it stays at the bottom. Place the bowl in a prominent place where everyone can see it.

Leader/Parent Devotion

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

Psalm 91:1

Worrying doesn't change anything. It distracts us and keeps us awake at night. It can even cause physical illness. Worrying serves no positive purpose, so why do we worry? We worry because we do not fully recognize who God is and that He loves us. We worry because we want to have control of our lives but know that we don't. When we fully believe that God will take care of us, then worry flees.

Rest this week in the shadow of the Almighty. When you feel worry creeping in, read the following true statements out loud and ask God to help you believe each one:



God is good.

God is in control.

God is trustworthy.

God is faithful.

God loves me.

God cares for me.

Family Connection: After teaching this lesson, ask your children about the 4 steps to overcoming worry that they learned. Then if worry tries to creep back in, you can go through the steps together.

LESSON TIME

1. Connecting: Watch an object lesson about releasing worry.

Ask children to gather around the bowl with the object in it. (If you are livestreaming, bring the camera in close!)

Today we are going to learn about how God cares about our worries.

- First let me ask you: how many of you have heard about the coronavirus?
- How many of you feel worried about it?

See the foam weighed down in the water? That is what it can feel like when you are weighed down with worries. Listen as I tell you about a girl who was weighed down by worries, just like that foam is weighed down with stones. Her name is Maria.

Let's see if she manages to get all those worries off her back. When Maria worries, she gets a stomachache and bites her nails and has trouble sleeping. She has heard that people in large groups will get sick with the coronavirus. Her father works really long hours at a crowded building with hundreds of workers. Maria is worried that her father will get sick.

Maria is also worried because she's heard that some schools have closed for a while because someone there has coronavirus. She loves school and doesn't want to have to stay home all the time.

Here are some other ideas Maria heard from other kids about the virus that make her very worried:

- You have to eat lots of garlic to get rid of the virus.
- You can catch the virus from playing on a playground.
- You have to wear a mask and gloves all the time.

Raise your hand if any of you have heard things like this about the virus.

Well, Maria heard some true news and some false news about the virus. And all that she heard had caused her lots of worry which was weighing her down like this piece of foam.



Let's talk about how Maria can get rid of all the worry weighing her down.

First, Maria told her mom that she was worried. Her mom gave her a big hug.

Remove 1 stone from the foam.

Maria told her mom she was scared that her dad would get sick because he worked with a lot of other people. Her mom told her about all the things that the workplace was doing to help their employees stay healthy.

Remove the next stone.

When Maria's mom told her that she didn't have to always stay inside, or always wear a mask and gloves, or that playing on the playground didn't mean she would definitely get sick, Maria felt better. Finally, Maria's mom prayed with her and asked God to help Maria face her worries.

Remove 1 stone when each worry is solved.

Wow! Look what happened! The foam has risen to the top of the water. Just like this, Maria rose above her worries. It looked almost impossible at first. Now things are looking much brighter, and Maria is smiling.

- Do you really think we can overcome our worries, no matter how hard they are?

I think so. I have had many worries that looked like they would not go away. Not all of our problems go away, but God will help us in the middle of them, just like He helped Maria.

- Do you have a worry that you are facing right now?

Pause for children to respond.

To worry about something means to keep thinking negative thoughts and to be anxious or overly concerned about something. All of us worry sometimes. Today we will learn that God wants to help us when we worry.

2. Teaching: Learn what to do with worry (Matthew 6:25–27, 34; Philippians 4:6–7).

Let's read from the Bible to hear what Jesus said about worry.

Read Matthew 6:25–27, 34 from your Bible. It is also printed here:

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink;
or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food,
and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air;
they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father
feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?
Therefore do not worry about tomorrow,
for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.
Matthew 6:25–27, 34

God cares about even the smallest parts of His creation, such as the birds. He cares even more about you! You don't need to worry because God is good, and you can trust Him with your problems.



When you worry, there are 4 steps you can take.

1. Recognize that you are worried. Recognize that you are feeling anxious about something. Worry and anxiety are sensations you can feel in your body as well as your mind. When you worry, you might feel lightheaded, have headaches, have stomachaches, or feel a fluttering sensation in your stomach. When you feel this way, it may be because you are worried about something.

- Have you ever experienced any of these?

Pause for children to respond.

2. Name what it is that is worrying you. Try to identify the specific problem or situation that is bothering you. If possible, tell a trusted friend, family member, or teacher about it. If that is not possible, say it to yourself.

3. Think positive thoughts. Worry usually happens when we are thinking negative thoughts. For example, you might worry about if someone you know might get sick with the virus. You may think negative thoughts about “what ifs.” “What if” thinking usually feeds our fears and worries instead of helping us feel better. Instead of thinking those negative thoughts, think positive thoughts.

4. Give your worry to God. Pray and ask God to take your worry. When we give our worries to God in prayer, He fills us with peace. Listen to this promise:

Read Philippians 4:6–7 aloud:

Don't worry about anything. Instead, tell God about everything.
Ask and pray. Give thanks to him. Then God's peace will watch over your hearts
and your minds because you belong to Christ Jesus.
God's peace can never be completely understood.
Philippians 4:6–7, NIV

Often, we worry because we don't remember that God is in control and that He loves us. We don't remember that we can trust Him with our problems. The more we entrust every part of our lives to God, the less we worry. We will practice giving our worries to God in a few minutes.

- Next time you are worried about something, what 4 steps can you take?

Allow children to share what they remember about the 4 steps. Remind them of the steps as needed: 1.

Recognize that you are worried. 2. Name the thing that is worrying you. 3. Think positive thoughts. 4. Give your worry to God.

Remember Maria was worried about the coronavirus. Some of what she had heard about it wasn't true. Let's learn the real facts about the virus.

- This virus has many of the same symptoms as the flu such as a fever and cough.
- This virus can spread when someone coughs or sneezes close to another person.
- If someone is going to get sick, he usually gets sick within 14 days after getting exposed to the virus.

Here are the best ways to protect yourself and others from the virus:



- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. You can sing “Jesus Loves Me” to time yourself.
- When you cough or sneeze, try to use a tissue and throw it away immediately. If you can’t use a tissue, cough into your elbow.
- Try not to touch your face in the “T” zone. Your eyes are the top of the T and the downward leg is your nose and mouth.
- Don’t get close to anyone who is sick.
- If you are sick, tell your parents or another adult and stay home and rest.

So, you can see from our earlier story that some of Maria’s worries weren’t even real! That’s how crazy our worries can get!

3. Responding: Act out releasing worries (1 Peter 5:7).

Every human being has problems and worries sometimes. Now we will release our worries to God. Think about a difficult problem you have—something you really worry about. You do not have to share what it is.

Now we will follow the advice in 1 Peter 5:7.

Cast all your anxiety on [God] because he cares for you.
1 Peter 5:7

We will do this by praying. I will say a sentence of the prayer and pause. During the pause, you can talk with God about your worries.

Lord Jesus, You know my problems and every worry in my heart. (Pause.)

There are some things that I worry about that make me feel like crying. (Pause.)

But You love me and can help me. I place my problems into Your hands and ask You to help me. (Pause.)

Thank You for giving me the joy of knowing that You care for me. I love You. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Remember the 4 steps we learned about releasing worry:

- 1. Recognize that you are worried.**
- 2. Name what is worrying you.**
- 3. Think positive thoughts.**
- 4. Give your worry to God.**

Now let’s act out casting our worries and problems on God. Everyone stand up and act out the things I say.

Your problem or worry is heavy. Pretend that you are carrying a worry that is very heavy. How would you walk? How would you look? Act out how you would feel.



Give the children 1 minute to act out carrying a heavy worry.

Now we will throw these worries onto God. Act out throwing that worry away from you. Lift that heavy worry and throw it far from you. Then walk around showing how you feel now that you are not carrying that heavy weight. What would you feel? How would you look now?

Give the children 1 minute to act out throwing their worries down.

Now let's all shout, "God wants to help me with my worries. He cares for me."

As you end the lesson, hand out the student pages to help kids remember the 4 steps to dealing with worry.

Pray a blessing over the children based on Proverbs 3:5:

Blessing: Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not lean on what you can see and understand. Give Him all your problems and worries. May He fill you with His peace!

