

middle school



Lesson 12 / May 29, 2022

Miracle on the Hudson

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1 

Lesson 12
Focus:
God is in control.

Lesson 12
Bible Basis:
Genesis 49:29—
50:21

Lesson 12
Memory Verse:
And we know that in all things God works for
the good of those who love him, who have
been called according to his purpose.
—Romans 8:28

As students watch a video about a flight that crash-landed in Houston, they will discuss how potentially disastrous events can have positive outcomes.

Materials:

Internet access

On October 24, 2021, a plane full of baseball fans took off from Houston Executive Airport in Houston, Texas. As it was heading down the runway, the plane hit a fence, stopped working, and caught on fire!

The pilot decided that his passengers' only hope for survival was to crash-land—what pilots call “ditching”—in the Hudson River. Here's what happened next.

Show your students the following video [2:54; stop at 1:50]:

How a plane crashed with more than 20 people on board and everyone survived
<https://www.cnn.com/2021/10/24/us/texas-plane-crash-survival/index.html>

When you hear about a plane crash on the news, you often find out that some of the people aboard—more frequently all of them—died. But in this case, *all 21 passengers survived!*

➤ **Before you saw the video, how did you expect the story to end?** (Some of your students may have been hoping for a happy ending. However, many of them will probably acknowledge that they expected a tragic conclusion.)

➤ **What would you say are the key reasons this story ended as a miracle rather than a tragedy?** (Answers will vary. Accept reasonable answers, but help students to see that the pilot took quick control of the situation, the flight crew took quick control over the passengers, and the people sitting in the exit rows took quick control over getting the doors unlatched and the slide rafts into position.)

Most of us aren't facing a plane crash today, but there are always things that seem out of our control.

➤ **What kind of things that you face make you feel out of control?** (Answers will vary; be sure you're prepared to share your own experience if needed to get the conversation going.)

➤ **How do you handle experiences that are out of your control? How do you respond?** (Answers will vary.)

Today, we're going to talk about a really bad situation completely out of Joseph's control and how God used that to bring about a miracle.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Miracle on the Hudson

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 12**Focus:**

God is in control.

Lesson 12**Bible Basis:**

Genesis 49:29—
50:21

Lesson 12**Memory Verse:**

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
—Romans 8:28

Materials:

- Letter worksheet printouts (1 per student; [template here](#)) **Jeanne, THE PDF FOR THIS WILL BE IN THE FILE ON BOX**
- Pens/pencils
- Optional: screenshared version of the letter worksheet to explain each section to students

Before class, printout a copy of the [letter worksheet template](#) for each student. If your class is meeting online, email the template for families to print ahead of time. Invite students to bring printouts and pens/pencils with them to class.

A plane crash-landing is not a good thing. But something good can come out of it: in the case of the flight we discussed earlier, all the passengers walked away from an accident that could have killed them all!

Joseph's brothers selling him into slavery was not a good thing either. But something good came out of it—God gave Joseph a place in Pharaoh's palace, then used Joseph to save thousands of lives!

Because God is in control, the same thing can happen in our lives. When bad things happen, God can bring good things out of them!

Hand each student a letter worksheet and a pen/pencil (or invite students to have those items ready at home). **Because God is in control, He's able to take a negative event and turn it into something positive. In fact, today's memory verse promises that if we're followers of Jesus, that's exactly what He'll do!**

But that's a hard truth to remember when we're hurting. Today, let's write ourselves a short letter. It will serve as a reminder that we've seen God bring good things out of bad things in the past. It will *also* help remind us that God can do the same thing in the future!

Draw your students' attention to the letter worksheet (whether a physical copy or screenshared version). Point out where they should complete the worksheet by filling in personal information.

First, think about a time when something bad happened to you. Write about that in the first blank area in the letter. Now, remember how God brought good stuff out of the bad stuff, and write that in the second blank area of your letter.

Finally, think about something you're worried about now—something that might result in a negative outcome. Write that thought in the third designated area of your letter.

God is in control! That's how He can use even horrible events to do something good. That's a hard thing to remember sometimes. This week read over your letter each morning as a reminder. After you read, ask God to help you trust Him to bring good out of your worries.

If time allows, ask:

➤ **We all just wrote down a situation in our letters where we need to trust God to bring about something good. Would anyone like to share what you wrote in the third blank?** (Talk about what you wrote down first, then invite [do not force] any willing volunteers to join in. Pray for each student who shares, asking God to help his/her trust that He will bring good out of his/her bad situation.)

Not everything in life turns out the way we're hoping. The passengers on the flight we talked about earlier certainly weren't hoping to crash. Joseph wasn't hoping to be sold into slavery. But God can bring good things out of events that seem to be disasters. This week, trust that He'll do that in your life! Encourage your students to write similar letters this week when unexpected incidents arise that require them to trust that God is in control.

Close in prayer.

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