

How God Works in My Life

Here's a good discussion starter on the topic of Providence. Look at Psalm 121 following the discussion.

Give everyone a sheet of paper to divide into three columns with the following headings: Primarily My Responsibility; Primarily God's Responsibility; Too Close to Call. Read the following list (or a similar list), pausing between each statement so the kids can place it in one of the columns. Let the kids compare answers and discuss their reasons for classifying the statements as they did.

1. Making the decision whether I marry or remain single.
2. Protecting me from drunken drivers.
3. My doing well when I perform a solo.
4. My decision to become a Christian.
5. Keeping me from illness.
6. Keeping me encouraged about the Christian life.
7. Choosing my vocation.
8. My understanding Scripture.
9. My understanding geometry.
10. Keeping me from doubt.
11. My financial condition.
12. My health.

Following this exercise, discuss how God may perform those functions that we feel he is responsible for.

God Is Like...

If someone asked you to describe God in terms they could relate to, what would you say? Traditionally, God has been called "the man upstairs," "a heavenly father," "a mighty judge," "a mother hen," and so on. Begin this exercise by

asking your students to recall phrases they've heard about what God is like.

The next step is to come up with some up-to-date descriptions of God, either individually or in small groups. Hand out pens and paper and instruct

the kids to think of as many "God is like's" as they can in 10 minutes. Prime their pumps with examples like, "God is like Coke...he's the real thing" or "God is like Allstate...you're in good hands with him" or even "God is like a good student...he spreads his work over six days instead of pulling an all-nighter."

After 10 minutes, give each group a

turn to read their comparisons while the other groups check for duplication on their own list. If two or more groups have the same comparisons, they must be scratched off all lists. The group with the most original comparisons left is the winner. Close by discussing the various images of God, and come to a consensus on the best four or five.