Lesson 8: Jesus is My Advocate (Helper)

Overview:

Key Focus: God and Jesus are for me, not against me. Jesus understands me.

Bible Story: Jesus Defends Us

Scriptures: Romans 2:2, 1 Peter 5:8, 1 Timothy 2:5, John 20:24–28, Revelation 1:18, Romans 10:9–10, Colossians 2:14

Memory Verse: 1 John 2:1 (NKJV) My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate (Helper) with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Prep:

Materials Needed:

- Beach ball or balloon

Classroom Prep:

- Make 4 signs: Judge, Christians, Accuser, and Advocate

Engage:

What does it mean to have someone on your side? (Possible answers: someone is rooting for you to do well, someone is not fighting against you, someone is helping you) **Name a situation where you want someone on your side at school.** (Possible answers: If a bully comes to you at recess, you want someone to protect you; when the teacher says you took someone's pencil, you want someone to say they saw someone else do it.) **Name a situation where you want someone on your side at home.** Allow time for a few responses. **Today's Bible lesson we will find ourselves in court and we definitely will want someone on our side.**

Memory Verse Activity:
Display and explain the verse. Have the children gather in a group in an open space, but not touching each other (leave about an arm's length between people). Toss the beach ball or balloon up and children keep the ball up in the air while everyone says the memory verse. On the last word of the verse, the last child touching the ball says the Bible reference. Continue playing and saying the verse several times.

Memory Verse: 1 John 2:1 (NKJV) My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate (Helper) with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.
*Depending on your group, you may want the children to memorize only the last half of the verse.

Bible Story:

Raise your hand if you have watched a TV show or movie with a courtroom scene. Today we are going to have a courtroom scene for our Bible lesson. Set a chair and put the sign "Judge" on the chair. **What does a judge do?** (A judge listens to the evidence and decides if the person is innocent or guilty.) **Who would like to be a real judge someday?** Allow children to explain why they would like to be a judge. **How does someone get to be a judge?** (They study law and get selected to be a judge.) **There is one judge who never studied law and gets to be the judge of everyone in the world. The answer to that riddle is found in Romans 2:2.** Read Romans 2:2. **Who is the judge?** (God) **We now know who is the Judge for our Bible lesson courtroom scene.**

Set a chair and put the sign "Christians" on the chair. **Our courtroom scene today is going to have a trial where someone is bringing an accusation against Christians. What is a Christian?** (A Christian believes that Jesus Christ died for their sins and says that Jesus is his or her Savior.)

Let's see who else we have in our courtroom today. Set a chair and put the sign "Accuser" on the chair. **The accuser is the person who points out how the law was broken. A courtroom name for the accuser is a prosecutor who brings the charges against a person. In our Bible lesson courtroom, the accuser is against the believers in Jesus. Who do you think is the accuser?** (the devil, Satan) Read 1 Peter 5:8. **An adversary is an enemy who wants to devour or kill his enemies. Satan hates Christians and is accusing Christians of sin. What is sin?** (Sin is disobeying God.) **In the Old Testament, God gave 10 commandments to show people they were sinners. Satan knows that every person sins. He is actually telling the truth when he accuses us of our sins. God is a righteous and holy judge who hates sin. We can each**

picture ourselves sitting in the seat being accused of sin. We are guilty and we know it. God said the punishment for sin is death.

But wait, there is another seat in our courtroom. Let's find out who sits in that seat. Set a chair and put the sign "Advocate" on the chair. **An advocate is a lawyer who knows the law and is on your side to help you win your court case. Since we know that the accuser definitely has shown we are guilty and the judgment against us is death, we want a really good lawyer or advocate on our side. Who is the Christian's advocate?** (Jesus Christ)

Jesus makes the perfect advocate or helper because He understands us. We learned that Jesus is the Son of God and the Son of Man. Read 1 Timothy 2:5. **This verse says that Jesus is also our Mediator, or someone who goes between God and man, because Jesus is the Son of God and the Son of Man. Jesus also knows what it is like to have Satan tempt Him to sin. We learned that three times Satan tried to get Jesus to do what he said, but Jesus resisted Satan and quoted scriptures that told the truth about God. Jesus lived on the earth and never sinned. Because He was sinless, He was the only one who could pay the price of sin—death. Jesus paid the price for our sins when He shed His blood on the cross.**

A lawyer proves that his client is innocent by showing evidence. It is just like if you went to the store with your parents, and as you were leaving, a security guard stopped you and said you were stealing the items in your bag. What would your parents need to do to prove that you are innocent? (Your parents would show the receipt that proves they paid for the items.) **Jesus can prove that He paid for our sins by showing evidence of the scars on His hands and feet where He was nailed to the cross. Jesus showed the scars to one of His disciples to prove it was real**. Read John 20:24–28. **Which disciple saw Jesus' evidence?** (Thomas) **The Bible also mentions a second piece of evidence.** Read Revelation 1:18. **When Jesus died and rose again 3 days later, He was victorious over death and sin. To prove it, Jesus was given the keys to death and hell as evidence. The price of sin was death and Jesus had the keys to death like a receipt showing that He paid the price of sin.**

The courtroom had the accuser bring evidence against us, but Jesus has evidence to show he paid the price of our sins. What must we do so that Jesus' evidence sets us free? (We have to believe that Jesus died for our sins and accept that He is the only way to be saved from the penalty of our sins.) **Jesus does not automatically show the evidence to every person to get them set free. Let's find out who gets to use Jesus' evidence.** Read Romans 10:9–10. **Only the people who confess with their mouths that He is Lord and Savior will be allowed to use Jesus as evidence. When you pray and ask Jesus to forgive your sins, you confess or say that you want Him to be your Savior. Nod your head if you have prayed and asked Jesus to be your Savior.** Let children respond. **What might Jesus say as He defends you and shows the evidence?** (Possible answers: This person asked me to be their Savior last month; this person was sorry for their sins and asked me to take away their sins.) **Listen to this verse that describes how Jesus gave evidence to set us free.** Read Colossians 2:14. **Jesus erased all the accusations against us and nailed them to the cross that He had died on.** Draw a cross on the board and on the cross write "Jesus paid for sin." **When Satan says, "I saw you cheat on the**

test." Jesus gets up and says, "I paid for cheating." Erase "sin" and write "cheating." **When Satan says, "I heard you lie." Jesus says, "I paid for that lie."** Add "lies" to the cross. Lead a cheer for Jesus paying for our sins on the cross.

God is a just Judge, which means He is fair. The evidence shows that sin has been paid for so there is no punishment to be given. Satan loses and Christians win because Jesus is our Advocate. Anytime you feel like Satan is trying to tell you that God doesn't love you or that He is mad at you about your sin. Remember your Advocate, Jesus, tells you that you are loved; God is on your side; and God is not mad at you or going to punish you. You can remind yourself that Jesus is on your side; Jesus understands you; and Jesus is in you, working through you, and fighting for you. What will you say this week if Satan tries to say that God is mad about your sins? (Possible answers: Satan, you're a liar; Jesus already paid for my sins and is on my side.)

Bible Story Questions:

- **Who is the accuser and what does he accuse you of**? (Satan accuses you of your sins.)
- **Why is Jesus the best Advocate (Friend) for you?** (Jesus was both God and man so He understands what you are going through. Jesus knows what it is like to have Satan tempt you to sin.)
- **What two pieces of evidence show that Jesus paid the price for sins?** (Jesus' evidence is His nail-scarred hands and feet and the keys to death and hell.)
- **What gets someone set free from the punishment of sin?** (The person has to accept that Jesus paid the price of sin and believe in Him as their Savior.)
- **After someone accepts Jesus paying for their sins, is that person still guilty when Satan accuses them of sin?** (No.) **Why or why not?** (Possible answers: Jesus has evidence that He paid, so we can't be accused anymore; Jesus takes each sin and nails it on the cross.)

Bible Story Activities:

Games:

- In a large open area, select three volunteers to be the judge, the accuser, and the advocate. The judge faces the wall and counts to fifty. While counting the accuser tags children who must freeze when tagged. The advocate runs around unfreezing children. When the judge reaches fifty, all children sit down except the frozen ones. Count the number of tagged children. Choose a new judge, accuser, and advocate and play again to see if fewer people are tagged at the end. Liken this to the goal for everyone to be saved from their sins.

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  Reinforce the idea that Jesus understands the children and is on their side. Set two chairs side-by-side. Sit in one and have a child sit in the other. Lock your arm with the child's arm and together say, "Jesus is on my side. Jesus understands me." Then have another child sit beside you. Continue until everyone has had a turn. Then have two children sit in the chairs and repeat the pattern.

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids:
  Have the children volunteer to reenact the courtroom scene described in the Bible lesson. Select a judge, accuser, accused, and advocate. Allow them to paraphrase but to remain true to God's Word.

Worksheet:
Help the children fill in the missing words to Romans 8:1. Remind them to copy the letters in the same order they appear in the puzzle. After completing the verse, have the children check their answers by looking up Romans 8:1 in their Bibles. On the back of their papers, have them draw a picture of how they imagine the courtroom scene in heaven might look.

Affirmation/Declaration:
Jesus understands me.
God and Jesus are for me, not against me.
Jesus is on my side fighting for me.

Make Connections:

Biblical Worldview Connection:
The world understands lawyers, judges, and the legal system. Many people view God as an angry judge eager to punish people. When Christians know what the Bible says about God's true nature, they understand that God loves people and isn't angry about sin anymore because Jesus paid sin's debt. Encourage the children to share with others that God and Jesus are not angry with us, but are for us.

Missions Connections:
Jesus died for the sins of everyone, everywhere in the world. Help the children imagine what the world would be like if every person heard the good news about Jesus dying for their sins and being their advocate. Lead a prayer time for your church's missionaries to find creative ways to tell people about Jesus and His forgiveness of their sins. Remind the children that their mission field is everywhere their feet take them. Pray for them to have opportunities to tell people about their Savior and Advocate, Jesus.

Family Connection:
Use a whiteboard or paper with an erasable pen to draw a large outline of a cross. As a family, talk about sins the family members could be accused of by Satan. Write each sin on the board or paper and then talk about Jesus, the Advocate, who erases the accusations because He paid the price for sin. As each person erases their sin, have them thank God for paying the price and forgiving their sins. If needed, pray with your child to receive forgiveness. If your child has prayed before for salvation, remind your child that Jesus has already forgiven them and they can thank Jesus.
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Prayer Points:
Remind the children that each person has to accept Jesus' payment of sin and call Jesus their Savior in order to have their sins forgiven. Allow time for children to pray with you or a helper for salvation.

Invite volunteers to pray a prayer of thanksgiving for Jesus being their advocate and tell Him how they feel about Him. Remind children that they can pray out loud or in their heads anytime and anywhere. Encourage them to continually thank Jesus for who He is and how He helps them.

Name _____

Lesson 7: Jesus Is the Good Shepherd

Who were shepherds in the Bible? Use names from the Word Box to match the puzzle lines. Names that do not fit in the puzzle are not shepherds.

Shepherds of the Bible Word Box:

Joseph, Paul, Abraham, David, Luke, Abel, Rachel, Amos, Mesha, Moses, Ezra

_ _ _S

_ _ _ H _

_ _ E _

_ _ _ _ P _'s brothers

_ _ _ _ H _ _

_ _ _ E _

R_ _ _ _ _

D _ _ _ _

BONUS: *On the back of this page, draw pictures for Psalm 23:1-2, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. [2] He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters."*

ANSWERS

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~~Joseph~~, Paul, ~~Abraham~~, ~~David~~, Luke, ~~Abel~~, ~~Rachel~~, ~~Amos~~, ~~Mesha~~, ~~Moses~~, Ezra

AMOS

MESHA

ABEL

JOSEPH's brothers

ABRAHAM

MOSES

RACHEL

DAVID

BONUS: *On the back of this page, draw pictures for Psalm 23:1-2, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters."*

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