

Depend on God

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1

**Lesson 4****Focus:**

We can depend on God in every situation.

Lesson 4**Bible Basis:**

Matthew 2:13-23

Lesson 4**Memory Verse:**

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?
—Romans 8:31

Students will watch a video clip about a swimmer who is rescued from drowning by her coach as they consider depending on someone in every situation.

Materials:

- Internet access

➤ **Have you ever been in a situation where you had to depend on someone else to help you? Tell us about it.** (Answers will vary. Students may talk about a scary situation where they had to depend on a parent, sibling, or friend; they may relate something someone else does for them on a regular basis like drive them to school. Have a variety of situations from your own life to give as examples to get discussion going and broaden it as needed.)

➤ **How does it feel to depend on another person?** (Students may talk about finding it hard to trust, feeling safe or confident, wishing they could do it alone, etc. Others may feel thankful they aren't responsible to accomplish something they can't do alone.)

When we depend on someone, we *trust* or *rely* on that person. Sometimes we must depend on another person to get through a dangerous or unsafe situation.

Share the following video [1:46]:

Coach Rescues World-Class Swimmer From Bottom of Pool

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQWTwvfapHo>

The coach responded immediately by jumping in to rescue Anita, carry her safely out of the water, and ensure she got the proper medical attention.

➤ **How did Anita depend on her coach, who swam out to rescue her?** (She had to depend on the coach for her very life since she was unable to save herself.)

Without the quick action of her coach, this situation could have been deadly for Anita. There was no way she could get back to the surface on her own because she had fainted; there were no lifeguards on duty; most onlookers seemed to freeze out of panic.

At times we must depend on other people to help us in a dangerous situation. But there is Someone whom we can depend on in *every* situation. Let's check it out.

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

Lesson 4 / December 25, 2022

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Materials:

- Paper
- Pen/pencils

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring paper and pens/pencils with them to class.

God provided a way for Joseph, Mary, and Jesus to escape from danger. We can depend on God in every situation, too. He is loving and powerful, and nothing is impossible for Him!

Ask a volunteer to read today's memory verse (Romans 8:31). **When we depend on our powerful God, nothing can stand against us. The first step of depending on God is to put your faith and trust in Jesus for salvation.** Remind your preteens that you would love to talk with them after class if they have questions or want to take this important step. Help in sharing the gospel with this age group can be found in your teacher's guide.

Let's think about a few situations in our own lives where we can depend on God.

Hand each child a sheet of paper and a pen/pencil (or invite students to have supplies ready at home). Have children draw a picture of a rope across the length of their papers. Option: glue actual twine across the page. Along the rope, they can write various things they can depend on God for. Examples might include: Salvation from my sin, help at school, wisdom with friends, family relationships, loneliness, or worry.

If you have time, you may want to brainstorm a list together of additional situations in which children can depend on God; write the answers on a whiteboard.

We can depend on God in every situation. The rope on the page reminds us of a rescue line. No matter how impossible or hopeless a situation may seem, God has the ability to rescue us when we depend on Him. Some of you may be feeling worried about something you are going through at home or at school. God knows all the details and is working behind the scenes for your good (Romans 8:28). All you have to do is trust Him.

Give students a few moments to write their answers along the rope. Encourage them to write the memory verse below the rope. **Hang this paper at home or someplace to remind you that you can trust God in all circumstances. He knows the best way through any challenges you may be experiencing, and He is always with you. As you depend on Him, He will help you and provide solutions you could never come up with on your own.**

Close in prayer.

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