

Bound to Be Blessed

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1

**Lesson 9****Focus:**

God can turn bad into good.

Lesson 9**Bible Basis:**

Acts 28:16-23;
Philippians 1:12-14

Lesson 9**Memory Verse:**

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” —Jeremiah 29:11

Students will begin to think about seemingly negative situations turning out positively as they explore how God can turn bad into good.

Materials:

- None

➤ **Can you think of a time when something bad happened, but later some good seemed to come out of the situation?** (Allow your students time to share; be prepared to share your own experience. Students may think of a time they had to move away from good friends but then found their BEST friend in their new school; maybe a bullying incident caused their school to rally together in a zero tolerance for bullying campaign, etc.)

There are many things in our lives that seem bad at the time, but eventually turn out to be good. Sometimes the bad things in our lives get more complicated. Let's think about doing poorly on a test as an example of a bad situation.

➤ **What are some of the obvious bad things that could happen as a result of a bad test score?** (A lower grade in the class, feeling behind, parents or teachers being disappointed, etc.)

➤ **Do you think anything good could happen as a result of these changes?** (Accept all reasonable answers.)

While many negative things could happen as a result of a bad test grade, there are some possible positive effects too. Perhaps doing poorly on a test would inspire you to use a better study plan for future tests. Or, maybe it would open the opportunity for you to attend your teacher's office hours to get your questions answered so you can better understand the subject as a whole. The greater planning skills or understanding of the subject could only help you in the long run.

God can work through challenging situations like a poor test grade and allow something good to happen too. In today's Bible story, Paul goes through some seriously negative stuff. Let's see how God can use it.

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

middle school



Lesson 9 / January 28, 2024

Bound to Be Blessed

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 9

Focus:

God can turn bad into good.

Lesson 9

Bible Basis:

Acts 28:16-23;
Philippians 1:12-14

Lesson 9

Memory Verse:

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” —Jeremiah 29:11

Materials:

- Pens/pencils (1 per student)
- Internet access
- Origami paper (1 6x6 or 7x7-inch sheet per student)

Before class, familiarize yourself with the following origami craft tutorial. You might want to make a sample to show your students. At the appropriate time, you can walk them through the steps by stopping and starting the video after each instruction [3:10]:

How to Make an Easy Origami Butterfly (in 3 MINUTES!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZdO2e8K29o>

If your class is meeting online, invite your students to bring supplies with them to class.

The bad things that were happening to Paul in our story today might have seemed like the end of his ministry at the time, but God used them for more good than anyone could have imagined.

Before a caterpillar becomes a butterfly, it must go into its chrysalis. It has to be stuck in its cocoon in order to become its beautiful new self, just like Paul had to be stuck in Rome to grow God’s church. Butterflies have to struggle to release themselves from their cocoons. If a person were to try to help it get free, the butterfly wouldn’t be strong enough to fly. The strength to fly comes from the struggle itself.

➤ **How are the struggles we face similar to a butterfly struggling to escape its cocoon?** (When we struggle, we are growing stronger. We wouldn’t be able to grow and handle all the challenges of life without the struggle.)

Have students privately consider what struggles they're going through right now. Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home). Ask your students to write one of the struggles they are facing on the inside of the origami paper. Have each student fold up their paper per instructions in the video found at the beginning of this step. Ask them to keep their butterfly somewhere visible so that they are reminded to pray about their struggle and ask God for the strength to overcome and patience to wait for growth.

End in prayer, asking God to use the struggles in our lives for His glory.

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