

# God is in Control!

## Elementary Devotional and Activity

By: Brittany DiGiammarino (October 2024)

**Intended Audience: Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade.**

**Teacher Notes:** This lesson is intended to be read as a script, but feel free to deviate from it as the Holy Spirit leads you. Discussion questions are included. This lesson is intended for a 30–45-minute class.

### Materials Needed:

- Cardboard
- White Cardstock
- Scissors
- Glue
- Crayons
- Pennies
- \*Optional: Globe

### Before Class: Preparation for Penny Spinners

1. Use a cup, small bowl, or anything circular to trace circles on your cardboard and cardstock. Cut out the circles.
2. Use a precision knife or scissors to cut a very small slit in the center of the cardboard and cardstock. This is where the penny will be placed. Make sure the slit is not as big as the penny. If the slit is cut too large, the penny will not stay in.

### Activity: Penny Spinners

1. Have children color designs on their white cardstock.
2. Glue the cardstock onto the cardboard.
3. Insert the penny into the slit.
4. Spin your penny spinners!

### Lesson: The Earth Spins, We Spin, but God is in Control

Did you know? The Earth is always revolving in a circle around the Sun. It moves in a pattern called a fixed orbit. It also spins on an axis. The Earth's axis is an imaginary line that runs right down the middle of the earth. When the Earth spins on its axis, it causes day and night! It takes about 24 hours (one day) to make one rotation (or spin) around the axis.

Have you ever spun around in circles and gotten really dizzy? Me too!

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Well even though the Earth is spinning right now, we don't feel it! Why not? Because since we live on the Earth, we're spinning right along with it at the same speed, so we don't feel it spinning because we're just used to it!

Do you like to feel dizzy?

What if you felt dizzy all the time? I wouldn't want to feel dizzy all the time. Sometimes, when we have a lot of stuff going on in our lives, like things to do that are hard, or sad things, or scary things, and things we can't control, we may feel sort of dizzy or overwhelmed.

But there's some good news! Even when we feel like things are spinning out of control, God is still in control, and God is with us through all the good and bad times we have.

Let's read a verse from the New Testament: Romans 1:20 says, *"There are things about God that people cannot see—his eternal power and all the things that make him God. But since the beginning of the world those things have been easy to understand. They are made clear by what God has made. So people have no excuse for the bad things they do."* (ICB)

This verse is saying that God has a power that lasts forever, and that God is divine, which means that God knows everything. We learn these things about God, but we can't really 'see' them, they're not things we can touch or feel. We can't touch or feel the Earth's axis, but we still know about it. We have learned about the earth by taking pictures with satellites, and scientists have discovered a lot about how the earth moves. The Bible tells us that we can understand more about God's power by learning about the things we can see and feel! Learning about God's power can help us get through hard things.

Let's look at a verse from the Old Testament: Joshua 1:9 says, *"Remember that I commanded you to be strong and brave. So don't be afraid. The Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go."* (ICB)

What are some words that you noticed in that verse? What stood out to you?

This verse is a promise from God. God says God will be with us wherever we go. How does that make you feel?

The next time you feel like things are spinning out of your control, remember that God created the earth to spin, and we spin along with it. We are under God's care and part of God's creation, which means that no matter what hard things we must do or face in life, God is always there with us. God has power that lasts forever, and God is divine and knows everything! God knows our hearts, and knows when we're happy, sad, or afraid. We can grow closer to God by learning about God's creation and trusting that God will be with us through good times and bad times.

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### Closing Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for creating the Earth that rotates on its axis. Thank you for teaching us about your love and power through the study of your Creation. Help us to remember that you are always with us, and because you are with us, we can be brave. In Christ's name we pray, AMEN.

**Exit Ticket:** Ask the children to share one thing that they liked/learned about today's lesson.