

# When Things Go Wrong

## 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:**

- A Copy of *Mr. Grumpy's Outing* by John Burningham
- Small tub of water
- Various objects for Sink or Float game (paper clips, pencils, ping-pong balls, small toys, etc.)
- Globe or World Map

### **Activity 1: Sink or Float Game**

Do you know what the word 'buoyant' means? (allow children to guess)

Buoyant means that an object can float.

I have several things here and I thought we would do a science experiment. Let's guess if these things are buoyant or not buoyant.

Hold up the objects and allow the children time to guess whether they will sink or float.

Say: When something is buoyant, that means it floats!

Our Story today has a boat in it. Are boats buoyant? (Ans. Yes!)

Our story takes place in England: Ask a student if they would like to find that on the globe or world map.

England is on the island of Great Britain. Islands are surrounded by water!

### **Activity 2: Read Mr. Grumpy's Outing**

#### **Devotional**

Mr. Grumpy planned to take his boat out, but things didn't turn out like he had planned. Have you ever tried to do something that didn't go like you planned?

Sometimes in life things go wrong. Maybe you really wanted to go hang out with your friends, but you got sick and had to stay home. Maybe you tried hard on some homework, but still got a bad grade.

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The Bible says we can trust God with all our plans, even if they don't turn out the way we think they should: Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in God with all your heart, and God will make your paths straight."

Mr. Grumpy told his friends to be careful in the boat, but eventually they made mistakes and the boat sank. Did Mr. Grumpy get mad at them and tell them to go home? No, instead he invited them to come with him another day. Mr. Grumpy forgave them for making a mistake.

The Bible also tells us to forgive others. Ephesians 4:32 says, "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you".

When Mr. Grumpy's friends made a mistake and sank his boat, he forgave them. When his plans went wrong, he made new plans and spent a lovely afternoon with his friends.

Sometimes, mistakes happen and sometimes, our plans go wrong. But God is still in control! The Bible says that God makes our paths straight. That means that God can show us the right thing to do. The Bible also says to forgive others, because God has forgiven us for the mistakes we have made.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Dear God, thank you for showing us the right way to go. When our plans go wrong, help us to trust in you. Thank you for forgiving us when we mess up, please help us to forgive others when they mess up. We love you. Amen.

**Exit Ticket:** As children are leaving, ask them questions from the devotional such as:

1. What does buoyant mean? (It is when an object can float)
2. Where did Mr. Grumpy's Outing take place? (England)
3. What should we do when things go wrong? (Pray, ask God, read Bible, etc.)