COPY MASTERS

GRADES 3-4
YEAR 3 | SPRING

Sunday School
I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.

John 8:12
(NIV 1984)
God’s Word Is Spreading

Use the map below to mark places where our WELS missionaries are spreading God’s Word.
Christians Suffer Persecution

**PART 1**
Put these lesson events in the correct order. Number the first group from 1 to 5 and the second group from 6 to 10.

____ Some men spread the story that Stephen was speaking against Moses and against God.

____ The Holy Spirit gave Stephen the power to speak God’s Word with great wisdom and boldness.

____ Stephen told the leaders that the people of Israel had refused to listen to the prophets God had sent to them.

____ The Christians chose seven men to help the apostles take care of their work.

____ The Jewish leaders arrested Stephen and brought him to trial.

___ Stephen said to the Jewish leaders, “You stubborn people! You have betrayed and murdered the Savior himself!”

____ Stephen prayed for his enemies before he died.

____ The leaders dragged Stephen out of the city and stoned him.

____ The believers left Jerusalem and shared the good news about Jesus wherever they went.

____ Saul tried to stop God’s church from growing by having Christians thrown into prison.

**PART 2**
Write always, sometimes, or never in each blank to make the sentence true.

1. There will _________ be enemies of Jesus in this world.

2. As a Christian I will _________ face persecution because of my faith in Jesus.

3. God will _________ leave me to deal with persecution alone.

4. God _________ makes bad things, including persecution, work for the good of his people.

5. The devil will _________ be able to stop God’s Word from being spread.

Name ___________________________
Spread God's Word

PART 1 Complete the chart below to show how God made bad things work for good in today's lesson.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bad Thing That Happened</th>
<th>Good Result God Caused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stephen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Believers in Jerusalem</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PART 2 Read the following passages to answer the questions. Then do the last activity in the empty area or, if you need more room, on the back of your paper.

1. Psalm 46:10 Where is God exalted?

__________________________________________________________________________________

2. Psalm 68:32 What does God want all people to do for him?

__________________________________________________________________________________

3. 1 Timothy 2:4 What does Timothy tell us that God wants?

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

Dustin attends a public school where the word holiday is used instead of Christmas. He wants to share what Christmas means to him. His teacher wants each student to make a holiday decoration, picture, or poster. Draw or tell about a project Dustin could make.
“Oh, Mom,” Justine moaned, “look at this shirt that I got from Aunt Jane for my birthday. It’s my favorite, but now I think it’s ruined! It tore when I was playing kickball at school today. Is there any way you can fix it?”

“I’m sorry, Justine,” her mom replied. “I think it is too damaged to be fixed. Unfortunately, nothing lasts forever.”

Do you believe that nothing lasts forever? Explain your answer.

Justine told her mother, “I know some things won’t last forever. But my Sunday school teacher taught me that God’s church will never be destroyed. God has told us in his Word that it will last forever.”

“You’re right, Justine,” her mom said with a smile. “I’m glad you reminded me of that.”

God has indeed promised that his church will last forever. Nothing can destroy it—not even Satan. In today’s lesson we will learn why that is true. We’ll find out the answer to the question,
Acts 12:1-11,18,19,21-24

1 It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. 2 He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. 3 When he saw that this pleased the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. 4 After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.

5 So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.

6 The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. 7 Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. “Quick, get up!” he said, and the chains fell off Peter’s wrists.

8 Then the angel said to him, “Put on your clothes and sandals.” And Peter did so. “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me,” the angel told him. 9 Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. 10 They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.

11 Then Peter came to himself and said, “Now I know without a doubt that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod’s clutches and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating.”

18 In the morning, there was no small commotion among the soldiers as to what had become of Peter. 19 After Herod had a thorough search made for him and did not find him, he cross-examined the guards and ordered that they be executed.

Then Herod went from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there a while.

21 On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. 22 They shouted, “This is the voice of a god, not of a man.” 23 Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

24 But the word of God continued to increase and spread.

1. Read verses 1-5. What did King Herod do that showed he was an enemy of God’s church?

2. Who was using King Herod to try to destroy God’s church?

3. Satan is God’s enemy. He doesn’t want God’s church to grow, so he does all he can to keep people from hearing God’s Word. Who wants to destroy God’s church?

___________ wants to destroy God’s church.

4. What were the believers doing while Peter was in prison? (verse 5)

5. Whom did God send to help Peter? (verse 7)

6. Read verses 7-11. How did God miraculously answer the believers’ prayers?

7. Who continues to hear and answer believers’ prayers for help?

__________ continues to hear and answer believers’ prayers for help.
8. What did Herod do when he realized Peter was missing? (verse 19)

9. Why wasn’t Herod successful in finding Peter?

10. According to verses 21-23, Herod let the people believe that he was a god. Because he didn’t give praise to the one true God, how did God punish him?

11. What happened after Herod died? (verse 24)

12. God knew that Herod was a danger to the believers as they shared his Word. He guarded and protected the believers from this danger by infecting Herod with worms, which killed him. Whom will God guard and protect as they share his Word?

   God will guard and protect ________________ as they share his Word.

   Why can’t Satan destroy God’s church?

   Satan can’t destroy God’s church because ________ guards and protects ________________ as they share his Word.

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**Words to Treasure**

Isaiah 41:10

*Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

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**Table Talk**

- What do we mean when we speak about God’s church in this lesson?
- In what ways is Satan still trying to destroy God’s church?
- Why don’t we need to be afraid of Satan or other enemies of the church?
- Why are the words of Isaiah 41:10, the words to treasure, a comfort for us?
- James died because he was sharing God’s Word. Why can we say that God was still guarding and protecting him?

**This Week’s Family ✔ List**

- Read 1 Peter 5:8, and discuss the warning that is found in that passage. Then read 2 Timothy 4:18a, and talk about why these words comfort us.
• Pray together for believers around the world who are being persecuted for their faith and teachings.
• Make a list of things that God has told us will last forever. Display the list on your refrigerator as a reminder of God’s love.
• Read Colossians 1:15-20 together, and discuss the following questions: What do these words teach us about Christ’s power? Why is it wonderful to know that he is the head of the church?

2 doogether

• **Responsive Prayer:** Choose someone from your group to be the leader. Then pray responsively the prayer entitled “Mission of the Church,” found on page 129 of the hymnal.

• **Poster Promises:** Divide into four smaller groups. Assign one phrase from Isaiah 41:10 to each group. Have each group print the words of its assigned phrase on a poster and decorate it as desired. Then hang the completed posters under the title “Promises of God.”

• **Bible Exploration:** Assign one of the following passages for each person in your group to look up in the Bible: Psalm 32:7; Psalm 41:11; Psalm 46:1; Psalm 50:15; Psalm 138:7; Psalm 145:13; John 16:33; Romans 8:35-39; 2 Corinthians 4:17; James 5:13. Then have each person read the passage to the group and explain how it applies to today’s lesson.

• **Angel Posters:** Have each person make a poster showing an angel watching over him along with a written reminder that God often uses his angels to guard and protect believers.

• **Pretend to Be Peter:** Ask each member of your group to pretend to be Peter. Then say, “Write down what happened to you in today’s lesson. Be sure to include what you saw and heard.” When everyone is finished, share your stories with one another.

**Prayer**

Dear heavenly Father, how happy we are to know that your church will last forever, despite Satan’s attempts to destroy it! Help us remember that you are with us as we share your Word. Lead us to pray to you in times of trouble, trusting that you will hear and answer our prayers. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Answers: 1. He arrested believers, had James put to death, and arrested Peter and put him into prison. 2. Satan; 3. Satan; 4. praying for Peter; 5. an angel; 6. The angel helped Peter escape from prison. 7. God; 8. He searched for Peter and, when he couldn’t find him, had the guards executed (killed). 9. God was protecting Peter. 10. The angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died. 11. The Word of God continued to spread. 12. believers

Satan can’t destroy God’s church because God guards and protects believers as they share his Word.