



Asaph's Slippery Moment!

By Deborah Wassenberg

Introduction:

This lesson is from Psalm 73, written by Asaph. It will help children understand that when life seems unfair and wicked people succeed, living God's way brings true joy, peace, and lasting reward if they stay steady, remain near Him, and trust Him.

Slippery Pre-Lesson Activities:

- Slip 'N' Slides
- Splash Pads
- Obstacle course incorporating a playground slide and ropes

Memory Verse: Psalm 73:28a (NET)

'But as for me, God's presence is all I need.'

Before moving on with the program, use the 'Slip 'N' Slides for a Memory Verse game!

- Write out the words of the Memory Verse (one word per card) and laminate
- Make one set per team
- Divide the children into teams (one team per Slip 'N' Slide for safety)
- Place the words of the Memory Verse at the end of the Slip 'N' Slide
- On GO, the first child in the team must reach the words at the end of the slide as fast as they can, select one, and return with it to their team
- The second child on the team cannot GO until tagged by the child who has just returned
- When all the words have been retrieved, the children must put the verse into the correct order and say it aloud to a leader
- First team to complete the Memory Verse game wins!

Bible Story: Asaph's Slippery Moment

Bible Reference: Psalm 73

Visuals You Will Need:

1. A child slipping
2. Asaph, the Levite, and Psalm 73
3. Asaph's chores
4. Wicked, proud people
5. Kids in the Church
6. Asaph before a throne or in a courtroom (representing judgement)
7. Wicked people before a throne/courtroom
8. Child before a throne/courtroom

Words:

1. Was it easy to keep your balance on the Slip 'N' Slide?
It's hard not to slip and fall, isn't it?
And once you start slipping, it's hard to stop.
That's the trouble with slippery things.
And of course, when you're finished playing on a Slip 'n' Slide, you can easily dry off or change.
Today's Bible story is about a different kind of slipping.
The dangerous kind!
2. Psalm 73 was written by a man named Asaph.
He was from the tribe of Levi.
It was the job of the Levites to assist the Priests who served in the Tabernacle, the place where the Israelites came to worship God.
3. Asaph had to take care of the courtyard and side rooms.
He was in charge of the choice flour for the grain offerings, and he had to check the weights and measures to ensure the amounts were perfect for the sacred bread, the wafers made without yeast and the cakes cooked in olive oil.
He assisted with burnt offerings that were presented to the Lord on Sabbath days and special ceremonies.
Priests supervised him as he faithfully carried out his duties in the house of the Lord.
And every evening and morning, Asaph led worship and sang songs of thanks and praise to the Lord.
4. But, one day, Asaph was upset.
He saw people who didn't care about God misbehaving.
They had money. (*Pretend to slip a little.*)
They were wearing the latest fashion. (*Pretend to slip a little more.*)
They had all the food they wanted. (*Pretend to slip a little more.*)
They had no problems and no pain. (*Pretend to slip a little more.*)

They were having lots of fun while he felt he was disciplined and suffering all day long. *(Pretend to slip a little more.)*

'It's not fair!' he thought.

'Maybe I'm wasting my time doing the right thing.'

(Pretend to nearly slip right over.)

5. *(Find your balance and freeze.)*

Woah! That was close!

Asaph said, '**My feet came close to stumbling,**

My feet had almost slipped.' *(Verse 2)*

What saved Asaph from slipping?

He said, 'I went into the sanctuary of God;

Then I understood their end.'

He saw that God only allows His faithful people to go to heaven.

6. Asaph went into the House of God.

In God's presence, things became clear.

He understood that he shouldn't only look at the here and now, but that he should look at eternity.

At the end of his life, he could face God and say, 'I love You and I served You no matter what.'

7. Asaph knew he was safe and on solid ground because he was right with God. It was the wicked people who said, 'God doesn't know anything!' who were in danger of slipping.

When the wicked are at the end of their life and they face God, what can they say to Him?

Will they say to Him then, 'You don't know anything?'

No.

Asaph wrote, 'Surely You put them in slippery places; You bring them down to ruin.' *(Verse 18)*

It will be too late for them.

8. What about you?

Do you sometimes feel like Asaph?

Do you see people in the world doing the wrong things and getting away with it?

Do they appear to have everything?

Why do they look like they are having all the fun?

Do you feel like giving up because your Christian life doesn't seem to be working?

Don't slip!

Keep coming into God's house and see things from God's point of view.

He will be near you, and He is better than anything this world can offer!

Ministry to the Children:

At the end of your life, where will you spend eternity? After you die, you will spend eternity with or without God, depending on your decision now. Eternal life with God in Heaven is His gift to you when you believe and receive His Son Jesus as your

Lord and Saviour. God sent His Son, Jesus, to come and die on the Cross for the sins of everyone. When you repent, ask Jesus to forgive you and receive Him into your life, the sin that separated you from God is gone. Live for Him for the rest of your life. Then you can stand before Him and say, 'I love You and I served You no matter what. I did not slip, and I kept near to You.'

Morning Tea: Jelly and Fruit Cups

Ingredients:

- Packets of jelly crystals
- Fruit (banana slices, strawberry halves, raspberries)
- Plastic cups and wooden teaspoons

Method:

- Make up the packets of jelly as per directions.
- Fill each cup two-thirds full of the jelly mix
- Add the fruit
- Place the jelly and fruit cups in the refrigerator until set

Note: Some fruits, such as pineapple, should not be used because they contain enzymes that can prevent gelatin from setting.

Slippery Stations:

Add these activities to the Slip' N' Slide and other activities already set up!

- Slime play
- Mud play
- Soap foam art
- Finger painting and printing
- Bubble play