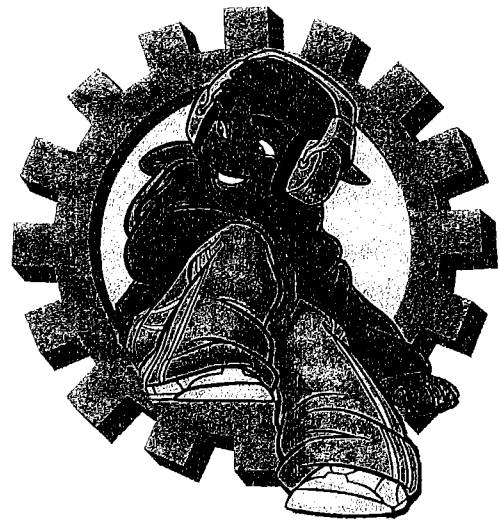


Lesson 30

God's Building Program



Lesson Overview

God's omnipresence (He's everywhere at all times) and omniscience (He's all-knowing) can be scary for kids. After all, He sees everything they do, good or bad. Some parents and churches have used this as a tool of fear to try to shape kids' behavior. However, one person said that a better way to approach this subject is to teach kids that God loves them so much that He cannot keep His eyes off of them! The psalmist said, "You notice everything I do and everywhere I go. Before I even speak a word, you know what I will say, and with your powerful arm you protect me from every side" (Ps. 139:3-5).

Today, unlike the age in which the psalmist lived, not only is the presence of God with us everywhere, but His Spirit also dwells inside us if we are His children. Jesus taught about this in John 14:17: "The people of the world cannot accept the Spirit, because they don't see or know him. But you know the Spirit, who is with you and will keep on living in you."

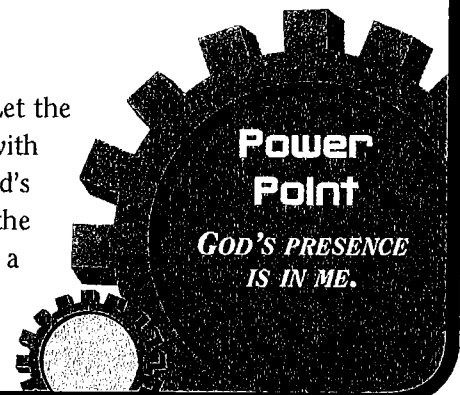
The Holy Spirit takes up residence in a person the moment she receives Jesus as Savior and Lord! What an incredible truth! And you have the high honor of conveying that truth this week to boys and girls!

The Holy Spirit brings boys and girls benefits that they desperately need: showing them truth from lies in a mixed-up world (see John 14:17); helping them understand right from wrong (see John 16:8-10); guiding their daily lives (see v. 13); teaching them (see vv. 14-15); assuring them of their future with God (see Eph. 1:13-14); helping them lead Christian lives (see Gal. 5:22-23), and so much more!

The best way you teach how God's Spirit lives in believers is by manifesting the fruit of the Spirit in front of your kids week after week. May the Holy Spirit enable you teach who He is by word and deed!

Going Deeper

During praise and worship today, take extra time in God's presence. Let the kids share how it feels to them. Use an empty cup to describe how God is with us and in us at the same time. The air surrounds and fills the cup as God's presence surrounds and fills us. Have the kids help you make a list of the places they will go next week. Then let those who would like prayer about a specific place stand while the other kids pray for them. Remind them that our loving God is with them and in them to be their guide.



Game #1

Pass and Pop

Review Questions

(Select two children who correctly answer the review questions to be participants in Game #1.)

1. **Last week's Scripture Memory Verse was: "I don't (run) without a goal."**

2. **Last week we cooked something in a microwave oven. What was it?**

Popcorn.

Props: Two each of the following colored balloons: red, green, blue, yellow and orange; two large trash bags and two chairs.

Participants: Two children and two helpers.

Preparation: Blow up and tie all the balloons. Place one balloon of each color in each bag. Place the chairs on the stage.

Playing: Have a helper with a bag of balloons stand behind the last row of chairs on each side of the audience. Have the kids who answered the questions stand by the chairs on the stage. When you say, "Go," the helpers on each side distribute the balloons to five different kids seated in the back row. Then you call out a color. If you say "red," the kids must pass the red balloon up to the front by tapping on it. The player on the stage may run to the front row and get the balloon, or the kids on that row may tap it up to her. Once the player has the balloon, she sits on it until it pops. The team that pops the balloon first gets a point. Once one team pops their balloon, call out another color and repeat the process. The team must pop the first balloon before they can try to pop the second. The team that pops the most balloons first wins!

Presentation: (*Tap a balloon in the air as you speak.*) I love balloons! They're so much fun because there is something in them that makes them float. What is that something? (*Allow for a response.*) Yes, it's air. We all know what a balloon without air looks

like. It doesn't float at all. The air inside the balloon makes a difference. Did you know there is something special inside a Christian that makes a difference in her life? It is God's presence. **God's presence is in me!** We'll talk about that more during our lesson, but right now, let's see if we can have some fun with these balloons!

Tip: Have extra balloons available in case a balloon accidentally pops en route to the stage. In that case, the team must start over from the back row.

Game #2

Clean Your Room!

(Select two children who correctly answer the review questions to be participants in Game #2. Allow each participant to choose two teammates.)

1. **Last week we talked about some ideas God might give you during a missionary's visit. Name one of the ideas we talked about.**

Raising money, praying, or becoming a missionary when you're older.

2. **In last week's story, who actually came up with the best idea in the store?**

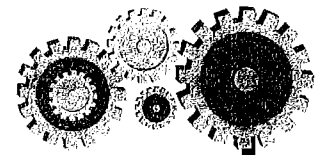
Chicky.

Props: Two brooms, newspapers, two trash bags, masking tape and whistle.

Participants: Two teams of three children.

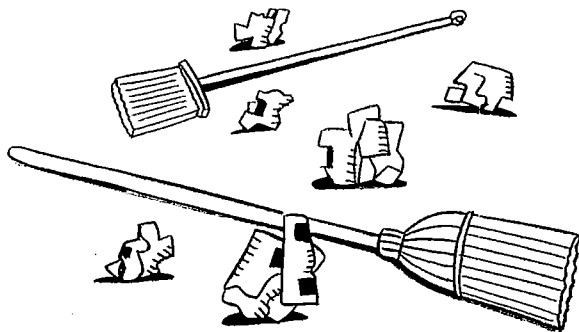
Preparation: Wad up 60 sheets of newspaper and put 30 wads in each bag. Use the masking tape to make a line down the center of the playing area. While you are asking the review questions, have a helper spread the newspaper wads on each side of the tape.

Playing: Give one player from each team a broom and have them stand on opposite sides of the tape. Have the other two players stand to the side. When you say, "Go," the players must try to sweep the trash across the tape and into the other



team's "room." When you blow the whistle, the players must stop sweeping and hand the broom to the next player. That player sweeps until you blow the whistle. Then the third player takes over. Repeat the process blowing the whistle at random intervals and as often as you like. When you're ready to end the game, announce that they have 10 more seconds, and count it down out loud. Blow the whistle a final time to signify the end of the game. Count the number of wads on each side. The team with the fewest wads in their "room" wins!

Presentation: How many of you cringe when your mom says, "Clean your room!"? I know I did when I was a kid. Today you'll learn that you are not alone, no matter what you're facing. The Bible says that when you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior, God's presence—His Spirit—comes and lives inside of you. Wow! That means that God is with you in all situations. And because He can do the impossible, His presence in you will help you do the impossible—or at least the very difficult! **God's presence is in me.**



Praise & Worship

Lead the children in a powerful time of entering God's presence using *The Next Generation* praise and worship CDs or DVD.

Lesson Introduction

Props: Two cereal boxes advertising different prizes, two posterboards, yarn and two adhesive labels.

Preparation: Write "Holy Spirit" on each posterboard. Attach the yarn to the signs so they can be worn around the neck. Draw a cross on each of the adhesive labels.

Presentation: (*Ask these questions from last week's KIDS Church lesson. Give the cereal to the first two kids to give correct answers.*)

1. What does disobedience bring? *Trouble.*
2. Who was swallowed by a giant fish? *Jonah.*

(*Ask the two winners to guess what is inside their boxes. They should name the types of cereal and the prizes advertised on the box. Then let the kids open the boxes and check out the contents.*)

It wasn't hard to figure out what was inside these boxes because of the words and pictures on the outside. The boxes told the truth, didn't they?

Today we're going to find out what the Bible says should be inside of us. And I'm not talking about cereal or toys.

(*Ask everyone to locate 1 Corinthians 6:19. Then read it aloud together.*) "You surely know that your body is a temple where the Holy Spirit lives. The Spirit is in you and is a gift from God. You are no longer your own."

(*Have two kids come forward. Hang one of the signs around each of their necks.*) At the moment someone asks God to take away her sins and come into her life, God's presence moves right in. The Holy Spirit moves into the believer's body. How do I know? Because the Bible says so! We just read God's promise in 1 Corinthians 6:19, didn't we? Everyone say, "**God's presence is in me.**" (*Allow for responses.*)

(*Have one of your volunteers read 1 Corinthians 6:20. Then place the adhesive labels on the foreheads of the two volunteers.*)

When the Holy Spirit moves inside us, we no longer belong to ourselves. That's because we have been purchased by God. And the price was not cheap! The cross reminds us that Jesus paid for us by His death on the cross.

Scripture Memory Verse

Your body is a temple
where the Holy Spirit lives. —1
Corinthians 6:19

Practice It

(Display the Scripture Memory Verse. All the helpers quickly spread out across the room and whisper today's Scripture Memory Verse to each boy and girl.)

That was a very important message—a verse directly from God's Word—that our KIDS Church leaders whispered to everyone. Who can tell me what the message is? *(Let kids take turns saying or whispering the message.)*

Now let's all say the verse together in our normal voice: "Your body is a temple where the Holy Spirit lives." Now let's find the verse in the Bible. *(Let the kids find it and read it to themselves.)*

We've whispered the verse, we've said the verse in a regular voice, and we've read the verse directly from the Bible. Now let's imagine we have to communicate this message to a group of people who are hard of hearing. Are you ready to shout it? *(Have all the kids shout it together.)*

Now let's imagine we must tell this verse to a group of people who hear very slowly. So let's say it very slowly. *(Lead the kids.)*

OK, imagine that we have to say this verse as fast as possible because we only have a few seconds to pass this message along to someone who is leaving. *(Lead the kids in saying the verse as quickly as they can.)*

Understand It

Some people think God's home is in heaven. It's true that His throne is in heaven, and someday all of God's people will live with Him there. However, today's Memory Verse teaches us that God sends His Holy Spirit to live inside of everyone who has asked God to take away their sin and come into their lives. As today's Power Point says, **God's presence is in me.** If you have asked God to come into your life, you can honestly say, "**God's presence is in me.**"

* According to 1 Corinthians 6:19, what is your body? *The temple of the Holy Spirit.*

Temple is another word for church. So this verse is saying that everyone who loves God is like a living church, with the Holy Spirit living inside. Amazing!

As fast as you can, I want everyone to go to at five different people and say, "Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit." Ready? Go!

Live It

This week at home, I want everyone to read the third chapter of Colossians. Read a few verses every day. I will be reading it, too. These verses show us how we should and should not live as people whose lives are filled with God's presence.

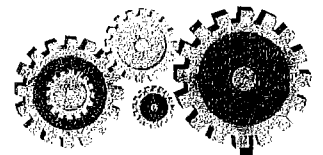
Bible Lesson

Haggai and the New Temple

Haggai 1:2–2:9

Visual Option: A puppet skit is provided in *Acting God's Word* to enhance the presentation of your Bible lesson. In the skit, the Doodad Gang strives to always be ready to do what God asks as they learn to follow directions. Involve your creative team in preparing and presenting this lesson segment.

Props: Large number of building blocks, table,



bag with hole in bottom, coins, empty water bottle and ripped shirt.

Preparation: Before KIDS Church, use the blocks to build the most elaborate “church” possible. Assign scriptures to children who would like to read aloud.

Presentation: Many, many years ago in the country of Israel, King Solomon built a beautiful temple where the people could worship the Lord. (*Refer to the block structure.*) Imagine this is the temple. It was made with the most beautiful wood, stones and jewels that could be found anywhere. It was awesome! The people would gather there to learn about God, sing to Him and give offerings to Him. There was no temple like it anywhere else.

But something horrible happened! (*Knock down the blocks.*) Because the people of Israel quit serving God with all their hearts, the Lord allowed an enemy nation to enter their country and tear down the beautiful temple. The Israelites were taken away as slaves.

Seventy years later, the Israelites were allowed to begin returning to their country. God spoke to a man named Haggai, who was a prophet of the Lord. The Lord said, “You say this isn’t the right time to build a temple for me. But is it right for you to live in expensive houses, while my temple is a house of ruins?”

The people had built themselves homes but were ignoring God’s house! Because of this, God was not blessing them. (*Have a child read Haggai 1:6.*) They didn’t have enough to eat or drink. (*Hold the empty bottle upside down and shake it.*) Their clothes didn’t keep them warm. (*Put on the ripped shirt.*) They earned money but never seemed to have enough to meet their needs. (*Place coins in the bag and let them fall out the hole.*)

Haggai urged the people to get to work. (*Have a child read vv. 13–14.*)

(*Have two kids come forward. Let them start building a foundation out of the blocks. After a few moments, continue with the lesson as they build.*)

Once the people started working, it took only a few weeks to build the foundation. When everyone saw it, they knew this temple would not be nearly as beautiful as the first one. But God was pleased. Listen to the message He gave to the prophet Haggai. (*Have a child read Haggai 2:3–4.*)

The temple was off to a good start, and God promised to be with the people as they continued the work. God said, “Don’t worry. My Spirit is right here with you.”

The Lord made an amazing promise: “This new temple will be more glorious than the first one,” He said.

The new temple’s beauty would come from the presence of God. His presence would fill the new temple, and one day His Spirit would fill His people.

Object Lesson #1

The Presents of His Presence

Props: Three gift boxes, wrapping paper and three sheets of paper.

Preparation: Write the words *love*, *strength* and *joy* on the papers. Then place each one in a gift box and wrap it. (Mark the boxes on the bottom so you will know which order to open them.)

Presentation: The funny thing about our Power Point—**God’s presence is in me**—is that the word *presence*. P-r-e-s-e-n-c-e, sounds exactly like the word *presents*, p-r-e-s-e-n-t-s. We know that our lesson is about God’s presence in us, meaning that God lives inside of us and that He is always with us. We know that the other word *presents* means gifts, like these I have up here. (*Hold up the presents.*) But as I was thinking about it, I realized that saying the word *presents* isn’t so wrong after all. God’s presence in us is a huge present to us!

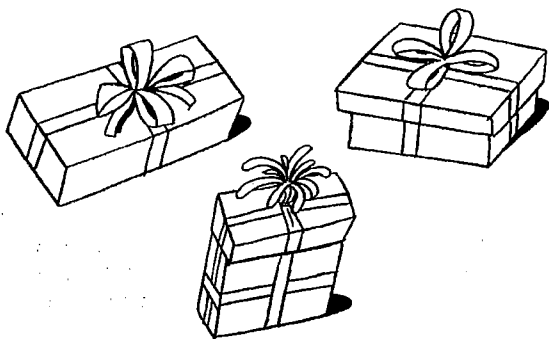
(*Choose three kids to come up.*) Let me show you what I mean. (*Have a child open the first present*

and hold up the paper that says "love.") One of the presents God gives us with His presence in us is love. It's amazing and incredible. We have the most perfect love, the strongest love, the most faithful love living inside of us! God is love. And **God's presence is in me** means that His love is always with me. Nothing can separate us from God's love!

(Have a child open the second present and hold up the paper that says "strength.") God's presence in us means that we have strength in us. The One who is able to defeat all our enemies, the One who makes us able to do all things well, the One who strengthens us and encourages us when we are down, lives inside us! How amazing is that? What a great present that is! God's presence in us is truly a present in us!

(Have a child open up the third present and hold up the paper that says "joy.") Joy! The Bible says that the Lord rejoices over us with dancing and singing. God's joy in us makes us dance, sing, laugh and shout! When things aren't going so good in your life, God's presence in you—His present of joy—makes you say things like, "I'm not going to worry about it. God will work it out!" You may have so much joy that people won't understand. You can tell them, "**God's presence is in me!**" And His presence gives me the present of joy!"

So I guess it's not so far off after all. God's presence in us really is God's presents in us!



Object Lesson #2

The King's Hids

Props: Crown.

Preparation: If you don't have a crown, make one from construction paper.

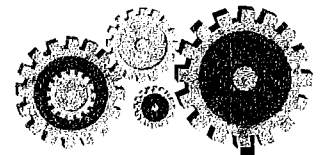
Presentation: God is awesome and holy. That means He is way above us. His ways are not our ways. His thoughts are not our thoughts. To have God's presence in us is an awesome thing. We are not to take it lightly.

(Put the king's crown on.) It is like having a king with you everywhere you go. God is our King. He is the King of all the kings who have ever lived or who ever will live. He is awesome, majestic and holy. God is above any king we could ever imagine. But to help us understand what it's like to have the awesome Most High God living inside of us, let's think of what it would be like to have a royal, mighty earthly king with us all the time.

(Choose a child to join you onstage.) If you had a mighty king with you all the time, you would want to show him respect. You would be careful of the way you talked and of the way you acted. Why? Out of respect for his majesty, the king. If you had an awesome king go to school with you, you would do your very best on your schoolwork, because you would want to be excellent, as he is excellent. You would feel obligated to behave well and respect your teacher.

You would also know that nothing could defeat you. You would face the bullies with confidence, because the king could handle the bullies for you! In fact, you would face all your problems with confidence, knowing that there is no problem too hard for the king to solve.

If a king were with you like God is in us, you would also hear the king when he speaks. You would hear him say, "I love you," because not only is this a mighty king, but he's a king full of kindness and truth. You would hear him say, "I'm proud of you," and "I'm here to help you. Ask me for what



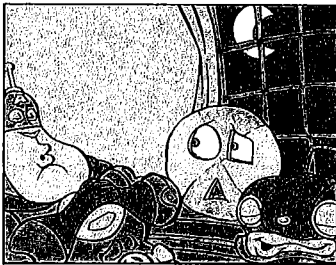
you need and I will give it to you.” You would hear him say, “Don’t be afraid,” and “I am with you.” **God’s presence is in me** means that you have a king with you all the time. Let this truth encourage you and correct you in your daily life.

Today’s Life Story

Home Alone Toys

▶ In Today’s Life Story, we’ll see what happens when the toys are left home alone. ❖

Illustration 30-1



All was quiet in the playroom. It was 2 o’clock in the morning, and all the toys were sleeping. All the toys except Barry the ball, that is. The Jackson family had left for vacation that morning. The house was completely empty...so why did Barry hear sounds coming from downstairs?

He tried to tell himself it was nothing. He tried to go back to sleep, but he couldn’t. Something was going on downstairs, and he had to find out what it was.

Illustration 30-2



Barry quietly rolled out of the playroom and into

the hallway. He hid himself by the banister. Barry couldn’t believe what he saw. Two men dressed in dark clothes and carrying flashlights were carrying the Jackson’s furniture out of the house. “We’ve hit the jackpot!” exclaimed one of the men. “Look at all these antiques! This stuff is worth a fortune!”

“Shh! Someone may hear you.”

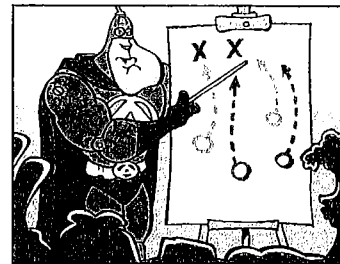
“Who’s going to hear me? This place is empty for the next week. Remember? We found that out from the neighbors.”

Now Barry was a young ball, but he still knew something was not right. *I don’t think they’re supposed to be here*, Barry thought. *I better tell the others*. But he froze and couldn’t move.

Then one of the men spoke up again. “The truck is almost full. Let’s take what we have down to the warehouse and come back tomorrow night and finish the job.”

“Sounds good to me!” said the other man. They went out the back door and into their truck.

Illustration 30-3



The next morning Barry told everyone what had happened. All the toys were terrified. Some were even talking about leaving the house for the night. A-Man spoke up. “Listen, everybody. We belong to the greatest kids in the world. Knowing who we belong to makes us strong.”

▶ Kids, the same is true for you. Knowing that you belong to God and that you have His presence in you makes you strong and courageous. Nothing is going to be able to defeat you. Nothing is going to be able to take over your life, whether it is a bully like

this robber coming into the Jackson house, or a different kind of robber—a robber that tries to steal your confidence, your sense of self-worth, or your joy. ❖

“A-Man’s right. We can’t let these robbers take over!” said Jazmin.

“Let’s just call the police,” said Gary the Game Kid nervously.

“We can’t just call the police,” answered Jazmin. “The robbers will run. And if they get away, the Jacksons will never get all their things back. We have to catch them red-handed.”

“Yes,” said A-Man, deep in thought. “We have to lead them right into the police officers’ arms.”

“How are we going to do that?” asked Randy.

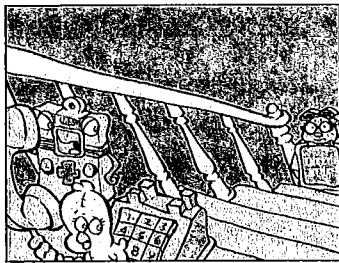
“I have a plan!” answered A-Man with a smile.

Everyone gathered around to hear A-Man’s plan. They went over it and over it until they had it down.

Then Holly led them in this cheer: “Who are we? We’re the toys of the Jackson household! What are we going to do? Win!”

❖ Knowing whom they belonged to made them brave. It will make you brave, too. ❖

Illustration 30-4

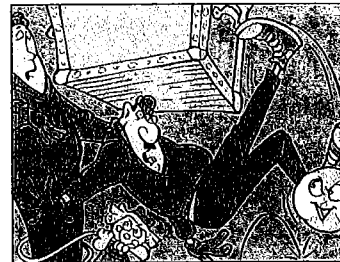


That night everyone was in position. At 1 o’clock, no one was there. Two o’clock came; there was no sign of the robbers. When 3 o’clock came, everyone was having trouble staying awake. But then at 3:24 it happened. The back door swung open.

Willie the Word Genius was positioned at the

bottom of the stairs and saw the robbers enter. He immediately displayed on his screen, “THEY’RE HERE.” That was the signal for Gary and Chicky to call the police. Chicky hopped on the “9,” then on the “1” and then on the “1” again. Gary did the talking. “I’d like to report a robbery. It is happening at 555 Maple Street. The robbers will be coming out the front door in seven minutes. Yes, that’s what I said, seven minutes. Thank you.”

Illustration 30-5



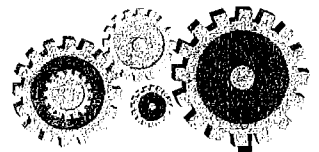
The robbers picked up the heavy antique chest given to Justin and Alyssa’s mother by her grandparents. Barry the ball knew what to do. He wasn’t afraid, because he knew who he was.

❖ You don’t have to be afraid either, kids, no matter what happens. **God’s presence is in you.** He is with you for any obstacles you face. Are your parents getting a divorce? God is with you to hold you up. Are you having trouble in school? **God’s presence is in you** to help you. Do you feel like nobody loves you? You don’t need to feel like that anymore. God is love, and His love is in you. You can say with confidence, “**God’s presence is in me,** and God is love.” ❖

Barry quietly rolled next to one of the robbers. When the robber took a step, his feet got caught up on the ball. He tried to get his footing, but he couldn’t. **BAM!** He fell right on the floor. **BAM!** The heavy chest came crashing down on him.

“Help get this thing off me!” he yelled to his partner.

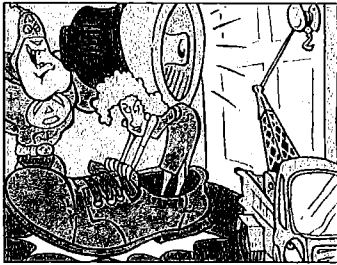
But he couldn’t, because Randy and Holly were



also in action. Holly taped a jump rope to the robber's ankles with packing tape. Then Randy drove around and around the robber's legs while Holly pulled the rope tightly. That's all it took to take that robber down. Randy, Holly and Barry took off.

"Let's get out of here!" yelled the robbers. They wrangled themselves free from the traps and were about to head to the back door.

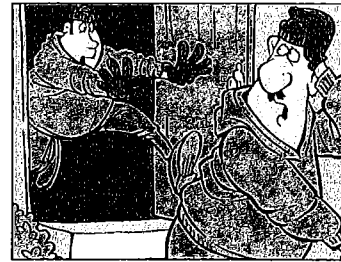
Illustration 30-6



Just then they heard the back door open and heavy footsteps enter the house. They didn't know that it was Zonka Truck opening the back door and Jazmin jumping up and down in one of Mr. Jackson's shoes to make the sound of footsteps. They were even more terrified when they heard A-Man say through a megaphone, "What's going on here?"

▶ These toys were determined not to let the house get robbed. They were determined to have everything that was already stolen brought back. Did you know that's what God wants for you? What is the devil trying to rob you of today? Whatever it is, don't let him have it. **God's presence is in me** means that you have God's strength in you. It means that you have His wisdom in you. It means that you have His undying love in you. Knowing that **God's presence is in me** makes all the difference. ◀

Illustration 30-7

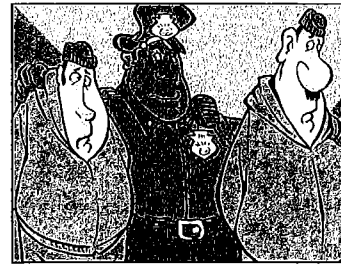


The robbers knew they couldn't run out the back door where their truck was. So where do you think they went? Yes! They went right for the front door! They couldn't get out fast enough. "Get me out of here!" yelled one of the robbers.

"Me first!" yelled the other one.

They fumbled with the locks and then finally swung the door wide open. They ran right out of the house—

Illustration 30-8



And into the arms of the police!

To this day, the police and the Jackson family wonder who made the call to 9-1-1, but we know that it was a bunch of super toys who stood up to the robbers in their lives and said no.

▶ Knowing that **God's presence is in me** helps us do the same thing! ◀

Closing Prayer

(Pause after each sentence, allowing the kids to repeat after you.)

Father God, I am so glad that **Your presence**

is in me. That means that wherever I go, You are there. All I have to do is call Your name, and I know You are with me. I never have to feel alone, because You are there. I never have to feel helpless, because You are with me. Help me to sense Your presence in my life always. Amen.

Small Group Ministry

Using your Small Group Module, divide your kids into age-appropriate small groups and go deeper into the life application of this lesson. Instruct your small group leaders to hand out the lesson's Take-Home Challenge. Be sure to ask for testimonies next week from the kids who participated!

