

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY C.S. LEWIS





# The VOYAGE of The DAWN TREADER

10 Lesson Series by Nicki Straza






# Lesson 6 – The Dark Island

## Lesson Overview (1 of 3)

 <h3>Chapter Summary</h3> <p><b>Chapter 12 of <i>The Voyage of the Dawn Treader</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Brief summary of chapters that can be read as a story</li></ul>	<p>Page: 4-5 Time: 10 min</p> <p>Supplies: None</p>
 <h3>Kingdom Key</h3> <p><b>Prayer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>We'll learn that prayer is our secret weapon in God's invisible Kingdom, and how we can put it to good use.</li></ul>	<p>Page: 6-7 Time: 5 min</p> <p>Supplies: Strong rope, with flag at middle for tug of war</p>
 <h3>Bible Story</h3> <p><b>Jesus Calms the Storm</b> (Mark 4:35-41)</p> <p>Jesus prayed constantly and as a result his faith was big. When we pray, our faith grows too, and God can use our big faith to do amazing things in his Kingdom.</p>	<p>Page: 8 Time: 10 min</p> <p>Supplies: Bible Story</p>
 <h3>Memory Verse Game</h3> <p><b>Balloon Stomp</b></p> <p>1 John 5:14 - This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.</p>	<p>Page: 9 Time: 5-8 min</p> <p>Supplies: Approximately 20 balloons, Bible</p>

## Lesson Overview (2 of 3)

 <h3>Object Lesson</h3> <p><b>Object: Umbrella and Paper Balls</b> We do not have to be afraid of the "What If's" in life.</p>	<p>Page: 10 Time: 5 min</p> <p>Supplies: Umbrella, crumpled balls of paper</p>
 <h3>Small Group Activity</h3> <p><b>Saying No to Fear</b> Because we can pray, anytime we are afraid we can pray, and God will give us his truth and the courage to keep going. Explore fears and pray and ask God for help.</p>	<p>Page: 11 Time: 10 min</p> <p>Supplies: 1 Bible per Small Group</p>
 <h3>Craft / Activity</h3> <p><b>Direct Line</b> Make your own string telephone.</p>	<p>Page: 12 Time: 10-15 min</p> <p>Supplies: Cups, string, pushpin, and paperclips</p>

## Lesson Overview (3 of 3)

<p><b>Snacktivity</b></p> <p><b>Grapes of Prayer</b> <b>Rescue Rings</b></p>	<p>Page: 13-14 Time: 5-8 min</p> <p>Supplies: Grapes, donuts, or ring-shaped sugar cookies/pineapple rings</p>
<p><b>Bonus Material</b></p> <p><b>Game: Rescue/Freeze Tag</b> <b>Prayer Journal</b></p>	<p>Page: 15 Time: 5 min</p> <p>Supplies: See included instructions</p>



# Chapter Summary

## The Dark Island – Chapter 12

The crew of the *Dawn Treader* sailed on for 12 days, a gentle breeze pushing them along and whales spouting to the starboard. On the thirteenth day, Edmund, who was scouting from the fighting top, saw a great dark mountain rising out of the sea on their port bow. They immediately turned in that direction to explore. But when they arrived, they began to discover it wasn't land at all; it was sort of like a fog, or a mist... but not of light white clouds, but rather the deepest darkest, darkness.

Imagine if you will that you are standing at the mouth of a railway tunnel, a tunnel so long and twisty that you cannot see the light at the end of it. That is how the travelers felt, light behind them, and utter darkness ahead of them. As they slowly rowed forward, the light turned to twilight, and then, almost instantly, there was solid blackness everywhere, so black that you couldn't even see your hand in front of your face. The crew immediately went about lighting all the torches and lanterns that could be found on the ship.

As the crew became very aware at of the depth of the darkness, King Caspian asked the crew if they should continue, or turn around and go out as they came in. Everyone agreed the latter was a good idea - everyone except Reepicheep. He couldn't understand why everyone was giving up on such an obvious adventure; after all, wasn't that what this whole trip was about? After much discussion, Reepicheep convinced everyone that it was both their honor and duty as mates on the *Dawn Treader*, and representatives of Narnia, to push forward and explore all that was ahead. Not everyone was happy with this argument, but the Captain agreed that if there was the potential of finding one of the seven Lords of Narnia, that every corner of the East must be explored. So slowly, carefully, and steadily, they moved on into the pitch black. No one knew how long this voyage into the darkness lasted; time seemed to stand still, and save for the movement of the oars and the lapping of the water against the ship, the crew could barely tell they were moving.

Suddenly, from somewhere in the darkness there came a cry; it didn't even sound human, but the voice was most certainly terrified beyond its worst fears. Caspian didn't know what to say, and with great boldness, Reepicheep called out to the voice in the darkness, "Who calls? If you are a foe we do not fear you; if you are a friend, your enemies will be taught to fear us." The voice called back to them, "Have mercy, please have mercy; even if you are just a dream, please take me on board; even if you strike me dead I will be better off. Please help me."

Very soon, the sound of someone swimming in the water filled the ears of the crew on the *Dawn Treader*, and after some time, a feeble, pale, and frightened face of a man peered up at them from the water. The crew pulled him up immediately and wrapped him in warm blankets. The man was old, and his hair was long and white, just like his skin. With such fear in his eyes,

he urged the crew to turn back and to get out of this dreadful place with as much speed as they could. He told them that this was the island where dreams come true!

At first one of the sailors thought this a grand idea, but soon it became apparent that this was also the place where nightmares come true. Reepicheep was unmoved by the man's fear, but the rest of the crew decided that they'd had enough, and the *Dawn Treader* was turned around. As they rowed, nothing seemed to change, and suddenly the crew realized they had no sense of direction, no way to navigate, and no way to ensure they were headed OUT of the darkness.

Lucy knew that no matter what, Aslan could hear her, so she leaned over the edge and whispered to Aslan, begging him for help, and a sign to guide them out. Suddenly there was a large beam of light, like a spotlight on the boat. At first Lucy saw in the light what looked like a cross, then a plane, and then at last she saw it was an albatross flying towards them. It circled and then called to them. Lord Drinian knew he must follow the albatross.

Soon the darkness turned to grey and then suddenly they were shot out under blue sky and sunlight and everyone cheered. The man they rescued ended up being Lord Rhoop, one of the missing Lords of Narnia. This adventure had turned into a rescue mission. Lucy knew that the albatross that had come to rescue them was actually Aslan, and when the crew looked again the great darkness was gone. Rescuing Lord Rhoop had completely destroyed the darkness! With Lord Rhoop safe, the crew sailed on, but Lucy knew that Aslan had rescued them.



# Kingdom Key

## Prayer

*Recommendation: You can use the Balloon Stomp Game in this lesson to setup this discussion on prayer*

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Can anyone tell me what prayer is?
2. What does prayer do?
3. Does prayer really work?

**Leader Talk:** *(Need tug of war rope, with a flag tied to middle)*

Prayer is simply talking to God! Just like you or I can talk to each other, we can go to God anytime, anywhere and talk to him, and he promises he will always hear us. Prayer is an amazing way to participate in the invisible Kingdom of God, because prayer is asking GOD for his help! I need 8 volunteers!

*(Choose 8 children to help you, divide them into 2 teams of 4 and define a line on the floor that marks the middle. The flag should begin over the line on the floor. When you say GO, allow the children to compete in a round of tug of war. Once complete, tell the teams that you will give them a chance to try again to see if the other team can win, as they are competing, have 1 or 2 leaders come and help the other team to ensure they win. The kids will argue this is unfair, they cheated, etc., etc. Have them all sit down).*

When we pray, we are asking GOD to join us on our tug of war team. It's like getting an extra advantage. People who don't have Jesus in their heart do not have a hope to win in the game of life, but when we have God on our Side, we will win! Sometimes however, this thing called FEAR comes and gets us, and we forget to pray. When we forget to pray, we lose our power in the invisible Kingdom of God. When we forget to pray, we forget to add God to our tug of war team. Let's find out what happened to the disciples, when they forgot to pray and became afraid of the storm.

### **READ, RE-TELL or ACT OUT the BIBLE STORY**

*Recommendation: Act the story out, with 4-8 children acting as the waves and the wind. First they are very stormy, but when Jesus speaks they go very calm.*

## **Leader Wrap Up:**

In our story, the storm caused the disciples to be afraid. Instead of praying themselves, they woke Jesus up, asking him to rescue them. Jesus simply spoke to the wind and the waves and the storm went away. Jesus prayed a lot, so his faith was big. He did not have to be afraid of the storm.

On the Dark Island, darkness surrounded everyone and they felt lost and afraid. But Aslan heard Lucy's prayer, and helped them rescue Lord Rhoop and find their way out. When we have God on our Team, we do not have to be afraid of the dark, or nightmares, or bad dreams, or worry about what might happen in the future. With prayer, we have a direct line to God that no one can steal away from us.

God has given us the secret power of prayer to help us in our everyday life. When we pray, we invite God to be involved in the real life situations we face. The more we pray, the bigger our faith grows; and the bigger our faith grows, the less afraid we are. We can pray for anyone at any time in any place, so God can use your prayers to rescue others and to help others. We can go undercover in God's kingdom and pray for people to be saved, healed, helped, protected, and encouraged. We never have to be afraid because God loves us, and always hears our prayers. In fact, our prayers are what enable God to do things on earth. Prayer is the super power of God's Kingdom, and when we pray, our prayers allow God to do great things right here on earth.

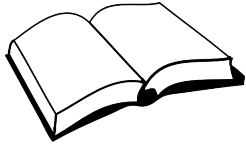
## **Prayer:**

Dear Jesus,

I thank you that you have given us such a gift as prayer. Help me to remember that when we pray, we invite you to be a part of all of life, and that you will help us and guide us. We pray that you will increase our passion to pray and talk to you. We ask that you would remind us to pray often for our friends, our families, and our city. Thank you, Jesus, that you care about everyone, and that you allow us to help you accomplish great things on this earth through our prayers. In Jesus name,

Amen.





# **Bible Story**

## **Jesus Calms the Storm**

### **Mark 4:35-41 (NIV)**

<sup>35</sup> That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." <sup>36</sup> Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. <sup>37</sup> A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. <sup>38</sup> Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

<sup>39</sup> He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

<sup>40</sup> He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

<sup>41</sup> They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"



# Memory Verse Game

## Balloon Stomp

### Supplies:

- Approximately 20 regular balloons
- Bible

### Setup:

1. Put 1-2 words of the memory verse into a balloon, inflate and tie a knot. Repeat until the entire verse is inside balloons.
2. Place all balloons in a large black garbage bag until it is time to play.

### How to Play:

1. Select some or all of your children to participate (depending on your numbers)
2. When leader says GO, release all the balloons onto the floor and instruct the children to pop all the balloons and retrieve the pieces of the memory verse.
3. Once all pieces are retrieved, they must look up the verse, and put it in the right order on the floor.

### Memory Verse:

1 John 5:14 - This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.



# Object Lesson

## Umbrella and Paper Balls

### Object:

- Umbrella

### Other Supplies:

- 15-20 balls of crumpled paper

### Setup:

1. Write (or print off a computer) "WHAT IF..." on 15-20 pieces of paper and crumple them into balls and put in box or bucket
2. Create a sign that says PRAYER and tape it to the open umbrella

### Demonstration:

1. Choose a child from your group to be the designated "thrower". Instruct them to try to hit you with the paper balls.
2. Use the umbrella to deflect all their shots and protect yourself.

### Application:

1. Once you have allowed 2 or 3 children to attempt to get you, have one of the children pick up a crumpled piece of paper, and open it up to read what it says. (What if...)
2. Prayer protects us from all the "what if's" in life. We never have to be "afraid" of "what ifs". Whenever we or someone we know have a problem, a worry, or a concern, we can pray to God for help, wisdom and strength. We never have to be afraid of the things that may come at us in life; God always hears our prayer and will help us find a way out of every situation.

*NOTE: Keep these crumpled balls of "what if" and the umbrella for the NEXT lesson ALSO!!*



# Small Group Activity

## Saying No to Fear

### Supplies:

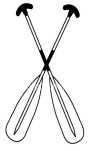
- Pens and paper

### *Round 1:*

1. Have students sit in a circle and have each member write out a list of people they know who need God's help, or who are not saved!
2. Read a few random lists selected from the group.
3. Have them place all the papers in the middle of the circle
4. Next, have each child take a turn to pray and ask God to help those on the list. Pray specifically if you can.
5. Have the children each take home someone else's prayer requests, and encourage them to pray for that person every day until the prayer is answered.

### *Round 2:*

1. Have students sit in a circle and have each member write out a list of things that they are afraid of!
2. Read a few random lists selected from the group.
3. Have them place all the papers in the middle of the circle
4. Next, have each child take a turn to pray and ask God for courage not to be afraid of those things.
5. Have the children rip up all the pieces of paper showing that God is bigger than all their fears.



# Craft/Activity

## Direct Line

Make your own string telephone!

### Supplies per child:

- 2 paper or plastic cups (empty yogurt cups work well also)
- 1 piece of string 2 yards long
- Scissors
- 1 push pin
- 2 paperclips
- Decorations: stickers, Alpha-bits cereal, letter stickers etc.

### Instructions:

1. Poke a small hole in the bottom of each cup using the pushpin.
2. Thread the string through the holes and tie a paperclip to each end of the string to ensure that it is secured inside the cup.
3. Give one up to a friend, and take the cups far apart, so that the string is tight. Talk and listen to each other through the string telephone.
4. Allow the children to decorate their cups with assorted stickers and sticky letters. Using Alpha-bits or letter stickers spell the word PRAYER on the cups.

### Application:

We have a direct line to God any time, any place, for any reason.

# Snacktivity

## Grapes of Prayer, Rescue Rings

### Grapes of Prayer

#### Supplies:

- Grapes
- Small bowls

#### Instructions:

Set out a bowl and begin pulling grapes off the stem and placing them in the bowl. As you do this, talk to the kids about our prayers. Example: Each time we pray, it is like putting a grape in the bowl. Just like we wait until the bowl is full to serve the grapes, God needs our prayers to be able to serve up answers to prayers, miracles, and help. God does everything on earth through prayer, so we need to fill a big bowl of prayers for God to use!

#### Application

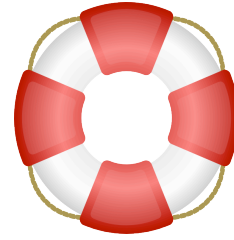
Reference to the Bowl of Prayers can be found in Revelation 5:8:

"And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints."

## Rescue Rings

**Mix-and-match the following supplies:**

- Pineapple Rings
- Apple Rings
- Sugar Cookies (in shape of a ring)
- Donuts (with hole in middle)



**Other Supplies:**

- Picture of a life preserver ring

### Application

Ask the children if the shapes of their snacks remind them of anything? Show them the picture of the life preserver ring and remind them that our prayers can rescue people from darkness by leading them to Jesus Christ.