

Activity tie-in: Canoeing

Bible Verse – Malachi 3:6 "For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed."

Lesson – God's will doesn't change. Nothing can separate you from Jesus's will to save you.

INTRODUCTION IDEAS

- Ask the students about their ideas of canoeing and the idea of going upstream and downstream.
- Ask the students about what water does on a windy day, or when it runs over rocks and makes rapids
- You could ask students to tell about times they have changed their minds about a cartoon, food, toy, or sport that they used to like but now not so much.
- You might talk about a time when someone didn't do what they said that they were going to do.

LESSON SUGGESTIONS

- Move from your introduction of examples of people changing their minds to the comfort of knowing that God never changes his mind. Also that it is not in God to lie. He doesn't say one thing and mean another.
- Compare and contrast how changing one's mind can be like water with waves or in a rapids. Unpredictable and scary.
- Quote and apply the Bible verse: Malachi 3:6 "For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed."

QUESTIONS FOR INTERACTIVE LESSON

- When you quote the Bible verse, you could ask students to make the application:
 - o Who are the sons of Jacob that Malachi is talking about? And what are we being consumed by?
 - ♣ -- We are! All believers are the sons of Jacob because we share the same faith. God preserves us by his unchanging grace and forgiveness of our sins through Jesus
 - o "How do we know that God preserves us?"
 - ♣ --Because he says so! God does not lie. He is not unpredictable like water on a windy day, or like a river with rapids. When he says he is going to do something, he does it. And he doesn't flake out when he makes a promise. Quote Hebrews 6:17 "In the same way, when God wanted to make the unchangeable character of his purpose perfectly clear to the heirs of his promise, he guaranteed it with an oath," His purpose was to send his son as an atoning sacrifice for our sin. God promised ("he guaranteed it with an oath") to send us a savior, and he did, in Jesus.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Jesus, you are consistent and true to what you set out to do. To save us from our sins. Keep our eyes focused on you as we go through the unpredictable and daunting rivers of the things of this world. Direct our hearts and minds to focus on your consistent promises, and the saving truth of your Word. Amen.