

God's Power Unleashed in the Himalayas



Description:

An interactive story illustrating how God is building His kingdom in one little corner of the Himalayan Mountains that serves as a follow-up activity to the book *Angel Tracks in the Snow*

Aims:

- Children will hear a follow-up report on how God is expanding His kingdom in the area to which He guided Gary and David by using “angel tracks.”
- Children will learn of God’s awesome power in action in the life of a young man who is a new follower of Jesus.
- Children will understand that God can and does demonstrate His mighty power through weak people (like us!).

Audience:

Grades K–6

Minimum Time Requirements:

15–20 minutes (depending on whether you include the “Dolee Sara’s Story” section)

Scripture:

2 Corinthians 4:7

Materials:

- Bible marked at 2 Corinthians 4:7 or the printout from page 9
- A very large stuffed animal (leopard or other member of the cat family or pillows made to look like one)
- Optional: a large tube or rolled-up butcher paper into which the stuffed animal can be placed

If you have any questions or problems related to this lesson, please contact Wycliffe’s Children’s Communications team at kids@wycliffe.org.

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More curricula to engage children in Bible translation are available at www.wycliffe.org/kids.

Pre-class Preparation:

- If needed, create a very large “stuffed leopard” using pillows or foam rubber / batting made into a leopard shaped body. You will find a picture of a leopard on page 8.
- Optional: Place the “leopard” in a large tube or rolled-up length of butcher paper to represent a hollowed-out log.
- Become familiar with the story so you can read it with expression. Be thinking of which child might make a good “Luke.”
- Decide if you should include “Dolee Sara’s Story” (pages 6 and 7.)
- Optional: Print out a copy of 2 Corinthians 4:7 from page 9 or mark it in your Bible.

Class Time:

Begin reviewing the story *Angel Tracks in the Snow* by saying,

How many of you liked the story *Angel Tracks in the Snow*? Raise your hand and tell me your favorite part.

After several children have answered, ask,

What parts of the story do you think displayed God’s power?

Allow comments. Someone will likely mention the most obvious one: God provided tracks of unknown origin to guide Gary and David to the Bibleless people group they were seeking to find. Perhaps students will also recall examples like,

- God stretched their meager food supply—even when the local villagers refused to sell them anything.
- God kept them from accidents and getting sick.
- God led them to an empty shepherd’s cabin when they needed a place to spend the night.
- God gave Gary and David faith and courage to do what seemed impossible.
- God led David to Haldar who wanted to know more about Jesus.
- Through a dream God prepared Haldar to follow David.

Then ask,

Did you get the idea that Gary and David were super heroes—that is, did they do things that other human beings can’t do?

Materials:

Optional: pillow case, stuffing material, string to create a “stuffed leopard”



Allow some comments before saying,

They would not want you to think that. In reality, they were just men, trying to obey what God told them to do. They would want you to realize that when you step out in faith to follow God, He may surprise you with an assignment like the one He gave them!

Read 2 Corinthians 4:7, and ask,

1. Does anyone know what treasure God puts inside of us when we invite Jesus into our lives? (*Possible answers: salvation, the Holy Spirit, etc.*)
2. According to this verse, to what does Paul compare those who follow Jesus? (*Possible answers: clay or ceramic or china jars that hold this treasure*)
3. Are clay jars very strong? (*Answer: no.*)
4. What happens if you drop them? (*Answer: they break into many pieces.*)
5. Why did Paul compare us to fragile, ceramic jars holding a treasure? (*Answer: re-read the verse if needed to conclude that the comparison shows that our great power is from God and not from ourselves.*)
6. So, let's say this together: "When I accept Jesus' death as payment for my sins, I am like a clay jar with a powerful treasure inside!"

Continue,

Today we're going to hear about one of those "clay jars" named Luke. He lived in the area of the Himalayas where Gary and his family worked with a team of local people to translate God's Word into their language. Luke was rather small for his age, and in fact, the people of his village nicknamed him "Scrawny." While I read this story, I need a volunteer to act out the part of Luke—otherwise known as Scrawny. I need the rest of you to make the sound effects. I'll let you know what you need to do.

Invite "Luke" to sit up front until you tell him what to do. Then begin reading the story.

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An infection in seventeen-year-old Luke's leg bone made him very sick. In fact, he probably would have died from that infection, had it not been for a follower of Jesus

Materials:

Bible or copy of page 9

named Gyan, who used to live in a neighboring village. Gyan took Luke to a hospital down in the valley where he needed one operation after another until the bone infection finally healed. Gyan also took care of Luke for many months after the surgeries because Luke's family did not have much money.

By the time Luke returned to his village of Pipalchap*, he was a new follower of Jesus Christ—the very first Christian in Pipalchap! He believed what the Bible says: that if he accepted Jesus' death as payment for his sins, God would forgive his sins. However, his decision did not please the village elders. They feared that Luke's new "religion" might get in the way of their ancestor and idol worship. So they tried to get Luke to abandon his newfound faith in Jesus.

Pipalchap sits on a mountain ridge above the valley where Gary and his wife worked with a team of local men to translate God's Word into their language. The book *Angel Tracks in the Snow* tells how God miraculously guided Gary and David to find another Bibleless people group like this one tucked away in the Himalaya Mountains.

*pronounced [pea-PAUL-chop]

Invite Luke to act out what you read below, emphasizing the bolded text,

One night shortly after Luke had returned to Pipalchap, the whole village **awoke** to the sound of a squealing pig.

Invite the rest of the children to squeal like a pig while you count to three, holding up fingers as you count. When they stop squealing, continue reading this part of the story,

In the darkness, the pig's owner spotted a leopard running off with the poor little pig. The next day, Luke and all the village men **followed the leopard's tracks**. As soon as they **spotted the leopard**, they **shot at it**. Sadly, their old rifles only slightly wounded the animal, just enough to make him very angry! The thirty or so men **followed the animal cautiously**. They watched it climb into a huge hollow tree that had fallen beside a ravine. Most of the men circled that log. One-by-one three men peeked inside the log. **Luke peeked in last**. He had no weapon—not even a stick to protect himself. Bending over, he could just barely see the cat inside the dark, hollowed-out log.

Evidently that leopard saw Luke quite clearly, though, because just then he let forth an earth-shaking roar!

Invite the rest of the children to roar like a leopard while you count to three, holding up fingers as you count. When they stop roaring, continue the story,

The two other men jumped right over Luke's bent-over body, and ran off in fear. Luke also **tried to run**, but only managed to **take a few steps**. Then he **slipped and fell down** on the edge of the ravine. Before he could get back up, the leopard pounced on his back.

Put the stuffed leopard on Luke's upper back, and continue,

Luke was no match for one hundred and thirty pounds of angry cat! He only weighed about eighty pounds and was still weak after his surgeries.

On hunts like this, the other members of the community usually tried to distract the animal or drive it away. That allowed time for the wounded man to run. Not this time! Instead of coming to Luke's aid, the others only screamed at the leopard and either ran into the forest or climbed up a tree. It appeared that Luke had to fight alone. But *Someone* much stronger stayed right there to help Luke.

The leopard took Luke's head in his jaws. But, instead of piercing or crushing his skull, as it so easily could have, the cat's upper fang only peeled back a small flap of Luke's scalp. The cat's lower fang only tore off a small piece of skin on Luke's neck.

Lying there face down, with a leopard on his back, Luke suddenly felt a mighty *strength* entering his body. In response, he **bucked like a horse**, throwing the leopard off his back and into the ravine! The effort **flipped Luke over so that now he lay on his back, face up**. Before he could move, the leopard returned, angrier than ever.

Put the stuffed leopard on Luke's upper chest, and instruct him to adjust the leopard's position according to the story. Then continue on,

His claws tore at Luke's face. Just as his jaws started to close around Luke's throat, the small man felt another surge of *power* move through his body. Instinctively, **he pushed his hands against the cat's chest as hard as he could**. The leopard landed back in the ravine again! He

Materials:

Stuffed leopard

"God's Power Unleashed in the Himalayas" was adapted with permission for children from Gary Shepherd's account as written in *God's Hand in the Himalayas* (fall 2011)

didn't come after Luke anymore. Instead, he returned to the safety of the hollow log.

Have the class applaud Luke's "performance" while he comes back to sit beside you and you finish the story.

Luke told this story to Gary and his wife a few days later while they stitched up his wounds. It reminded Gary of how God had empowered David to kill a lion and a bear in order to protect his sheep (recorded in 1 Samuel 17:34–37). Later, by God's power, David also killed the giant, Goliath, with only his sling shot and one stone. What perfect examples of Paul's words to the believers in 2 Corinthians 4:7, "We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves" (NLT).

Have Luke return to his seat before continuing,

Can you remember what we're like after we accept Jesus' death as payment for our sins? Let's say it together, "I am like a clay jar with a powerful treasure inside!" Just like Gary and David, just like Luke, and just like David the shepherd boy who later became king of Israel, God can show His mighty power through *you* when you follow Him with your whole heart.

Read this optional part for older children who would enjoy hearing the rest of the story. Otherwise, jump down to the → below.

What do you suppose happened in Pipalchap when Luke returned from fighting the leopard?

After some comments, continue,

Sadly, *nothing* really changed in Pipalchap. Life returned to normal. The village elders continued to pressure Luke to stop following Jesus. Every Sunday Luke hiked an hour down to the village where his friend Gyan lived to worship God and learn more about Jesus so he could follow His example.

Dolee Sara's Story:

One day Dolee Sara started acting very strangely. Her father was the headman (like a mayor) of Pipalchap. Her strange behavior really frightened her family. Her father spent all his money to take her to seven different shamans* and four hospitals to try to cure her, but nothing

*a person who acts as an intermediary between natural and supernatural worlds to cure illness, foretell the future, control spiritual forces, etc.

helped her. Finally, as a last resort, he invited Scrawny Luke to pray for her.

Luke asked a friend from the church in the valley to accompany him. After they prayed for her the first time, they only saw a little change, so they brought more believers to pray with them in Jesus' name. After several visits, God answered their prayers and transformed Dolee Sara into a child of God. She no longer acted strangely nor frightened her family.

Dolee Sara went to another area so she could study the Bible with other new believers. There she learned how to think and act more like Jesus.

On her return to Pipalchap, she explained to her family how they could also find peace with God through Jesus. As a result, her father and her mother both asked God to forgive their sins and take control of their lives! Now, all three of them, plus Scrawny Luke, hike an hour down to the church in the valley every Sunday to learn more about Jesus and how to obey Him.

→Closing:

Close in prayer with some or all of these points:

- Thank God that His kingdom is growing in the Himalayan Mountains and that Luke received the gift of salvation through faith in Jesus.
- Thank God for protecting Luke from the leopard.
- Thank Him that the New Testament has now been translated into the language Luke speaks.
- Ask God to remind the students who have also received salvation through Jesus that His powerful Holy Spirit lives in them too.
- Ask God to remind students to follow Him wherever He leads, so that His power can show through their clay jars.
- Ask that others in Pipalchap will come to know Jesus as their Savior too.
- Ask that one day there will be a church right there in Pipalchap.





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shining in our hearts, but we
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clay jars containing this
great treasure. This makes it
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—2 Corinthians 4:7 (NLT)

