

Lesson 11 / February 12, 2012

# Triumph Over Troubles

by Lisa Brock

for use as

## STEP 1

Lesson 11

### Focus:

Our faith in God can encourage others.

Lesson 11

### Bible Basis:

Acts 27:1—28:16

Students will discuss how faith can encourage others and consider ways they can make a faith-impact on friends and family members.

#### Materials:

Internet access

**H**ow many of you love PBJs—peanut butter and jelly sandwiches? Who likes mayo on a ham & cheese or turkey sandwich?

If you do, you can thank George Washington Carver. He developed ways to make these products popular and easier to manufacture, which provided new economic opportunities for southern farmers in the early 1900s. Carver is credited with developing more than 300 uses for peanuts, as well as hundreds of uses for sweet potatoes, soybeans and pecans—products that grew plentifully in the South during his lifetime. Would you have guessed that synthetic rubber can be made out of a sweet potato? Carver is also responsible for introducing crop rotation, a practice still used by farmers today to keep their farms productive year after year.

Show the following video:

<http://www.biography.com/people/george-washington-carver-9240299>

Discuss:

- ▶ **George Washington Carver faced many obstacles in his lifetime including slavery, poverty and discrimination. How did he react to those obstacles?** (*Answers should include that he persevered and achieved great things in spite of the many difficulties that stood in his way.*)

It wasn't just George Washington Carver's desire to do something good that prompted him to dedicate his life to helping others. It was his faith in Jesus that led him to work so hard to make a difference in the lives of those around him. Carver was taught about Jesus when he was young and followed his faith for the rest of his life, dedicating himself to using the talents God had given him to make the world a better place. Inscribed on his gravestone are the following words: "He could have added fortune to fame, but caring for neither, he found happiness and honor in being helpful to the world."

- ▶ **Why do you think Carver was able to achieve such great things?**

Lesson 11  
**Memory Verse**

Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.

—Psalm 55:22

(Answers should include that his faith gave him the strength to persevere.)

Carver's faith in God gave him the strength to see possibilities where others saw only disappointment. Carver followed God, and God opened doors of hope in his life. His faith also helped others to see the paths God wanted them to follow. Today we are going to learn about someone else who relied on his faith to help him triumph over troubles and gave others hope in the face of danger.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

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Sources:

<http://www.christianity.com/ChurchHistory/11635040/>

<http://science.howstuffworks.com/innovation/famous-inventors/george-washington-carvers-inventions3.htm>

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## STEP 4

### Lesson 11 Focus:

Our faith in God can encourage others.

### Lesson 11 Bible Basis:

Acts 27:1–28:16

### Lesson 11 Memory Verse

Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.

—Psalm 55:22

### Materials:

- Index cards
- Pencils

**A**lthough they lived very different lives, the apostle Paul and George Washington Carver had a lot in common. Both of them faced many difficulties in their lives, and both knew that true strength comes from the Lord. They also used their faith to encourage others by setting a powerful example of what can be accomplished when you trust in God.

Have a student look up Psalm 121:1-2 in the Bible and read it aloud.

- ▶ George Washington Carver's favorite Bible passage was Psalm 121:1-2. How do you think this attitude made a difference in the life he led?** (Answers may include: he helped others because God helped him; he used his faith to set an example for others; he leaned on God in times of trouble.)
- ▶ George Washington Carver and Paul used the gifts God had given them to help others, in spite of all the difficulties they faced. How do you think their faith affected those around them?** (Answers may include: their strength helped others to have strength; they showed others how important it is to help others; they set an example for others of how to overcome difficulties with faith.)

Hand out index cards and pencils to your students. Ask them to write out today's focus on the front of the index card: *Our faith in God can encourage others.* On the back, have them write the name of a person they can encourage with their faith. Ask them to keep the card in a special place—in their backpacks, taped to their bathroom mirrors—some place where they will see it often. Challenge them to encourage that person frequently through words and actions.

Close in prayer. **God, thank You for all the gifts and talents You have given me. Help me to use them to make a difference in the lives of others. Please help me find Your direction for my life and to trust in Your loving guidance so that others can see that Your path is the only one to follow. In Jesus' name, amen.**

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