

PECULIAR TREASURES LESSON – 20th SEPTEMBER 2020

PROTECTED II

TEXT Psalm 91:1-16

MEMORY VERSE Psalm 91:14 NIV “Because he loves me,” says the Lord, “I will rescue him; I will protect him; for he acknowledges my name.”

OR

Psalm 91:14 “I will protect him; for he knows my name.”

STORY – THE FACE MASK

Lanre, Emmanuel, Sola, and Gloria entered the class one after the other. It was the first day of school. Things were different this session. They were not allowed to hug and give high fives to their friends. No, because of COVID 19, in addition to their uniform, they had to wear a face mask. The masks were not comfortable, but they had no choice but to wear them. Just before they stepped into their class, each of them used the sanitizer placed on the wall. They had washed their hands at the gate, but each class had sanitizer for everyone to use before entering class.

The children adjusted to the new school rules although it wasn't easy at first. They were told that they would need to have a clean face mask every day and if possible, change at least their top every day. Alternatively, they were to put the uniform in the sun when they reach home after school. Also, there was to be no sharing of pens, pencils, erasers, etc. They were encouraged to leave everything in school and have a separate one for home so they would be no excuse of forgetting any of their stationery.

Lanre ensured that he had at least two pencils, two pens, etc. in his desk. He even kept an extra face mask in a small nylon bag just in case. The principal always punished students who were not prepared for the day. One day Emmanuel went to Lanre's desk during break and took his face mask. The one he had been using, had gotten dirty because he had been playing at the back of the school despite the fact that he had been told not to. Nobody was in the class when he took the mask, but as he was about to leave, Sola saw him.

“That looks like Lanre's facemask.” Sola said as she saw Emmanuel putting on the face mask after putting his own in his pocket.

“Is it only Lanre that has this kind of facemask?” Emmanuel asked. “He is using one. I couldn't have taken it off his face.”

“I know, but this is not the facemask you used this morning.”

“Leave me alone. I'm off to the art room.” Emmanuel almost knocked Sola down as he left. Sola thought about checking Lanre's desk but felt that it was not right to do so. Instead she took the things she needed and went to the art room. Ten minutes later the art class was full and the students listened to what the art teacher had to say. Lanre had gone to his desk, but he had not noticed that his spare mask wasn't there.

Two days later Lanre had almost finished eating when someone mistakenly spilt her juice on his face mask. Lanre wasn't happy, but he wasn't worried because he knew he had kept an extra face mask in his desk. He finished his food and started going to class. Just then the principal passed but he didn't notice Lanre because Gloria had somehow covered him. The principal was sometimes just too strict. He would have made Lanre buy a face mask from the office without first listening to his

explanation. Lanre breathed a sigh of relief and hurried off to the class. He opened his desk and looked for his face mask. It wasn't there. Where could it be? He took everything out and returned them carefully, even though his eyes had already told him the truth. His desk was neat. He had been a little conscious of the fact that he had not seen his extra face mask, when he was about to go home two days earlier, but he thought that it was imagination. Now it was confirmed that someone had taken his face mask.

Sola and Mrs Oluranti entered the class at the same time. They noticed Lanre sitting down without his face mask.

"What is the problem, Lanre?" Mrs Oluranti asked.

"Someone spilt juice on my facemask and I can't find my spare facemask."

"Emmanuel, took it." Sola said. "He took it a few days ago."

"Are you sure?" Mrs Oluranti asked.

"Yes, I am."

"Why didn't you report that day?"

"At that time I thought maybe I was wrong."

"Hmm." Mrs Oluranti then faced Lanre. "You need to use a mask. School rules." She then took out a new disposable facemask and gave Lanre. "Use this for the rest of today."

"Thank you, ma" Lanre said relieved.

Two days later Emmanuel got in trouble for the bad deeds he had done. Meanwhile, Lanre had been protected.

QUESTIONS

1. Who were the four people that entered the class?
2. What was different this year about the dressing and actions of the students?
3. Emmanuel means God with us. Did Emmanuel in this story behave like someone who knew God?
4. On two occasions Lanre was protected from getting into trouble. Mention the two occasions.
5. Mention a few good tips for school that you picked up from the story.

CONFESSION

I believe in God. I believe his word. I believe the Bible is the word of God. I shall not fear. God has not given me the spirit of fear. I am protected. God protects me. God protects me as a hen protects her chicks. I do the right thing because it is the right thing to do. It is well with me. It is well with my family. It is well with the church.

ACTIVITIES

1. **With younger children** – Talk to your children about parts of their body. Tell your children how special they are.
2. **With older children** – Talk with your children about standing for what is right because it is the right thing to do. Talk about the consequences of doing the wrong thing and the benefits of doing the right thing. Let them know that even though they might sometimes see people getting away with doing the wrong things, they can't always see the consequences those people end up facing.