Bible Verse: “With God all things are possible” (Matt. 19:26 ESV).

Objects: Cotton ball, picture of boll weevil, illustration of Rosa Young, Bible

Lesson
Good morning! Today I want to tell you a true story … it’s about a bad bug, a faith-filled young woman and our great, big loving God!

Bugs … can be yucky. They can be ugly, too. Sometimes bugs bite. Some sting. Some bugs do good things. Like bees make honey. Some bugs do bad things.

Do you like bugs? I’m not a big fan of bugs. Especially … spiders.

Today I’m going to tell you about a bad bug. You can help me tell the story! Every time I say “bug” you say “boooooo.”

This (picture) is a bad bug. (Boo). This bug (boo) is called a boll weevil. Isn’t it an ugly bug? (boo) You know what this bug (boo) likes to eat? Cotton (hold up cotton balls) Cotton — that our socks, shirts and towels are made of. Cotton that grows on plants in the South.

One day, these bad bugs (boo) arrived in Alabama. There were a lot of cotton fields in Alabama. These bugs ate all of the cotton plants.

The people who grew those plants had nothing left. They had no crops to harvest. They had no harvest to sell. They had no money to buy seeds for another year. Most of the farmers were already very poor. Now they had nothing.

Could God bring something good from an ugly plant-eating bug (boo)? Could He turn the farmers’ sadness into joy? Our Bible verse today is: With God all things are possible. But it seems impossible …

Let’s find out!

God had already started his work near these cotton fields in Alabama a few years earlier. A young faith-filled woman named Rosa Young built a school in those fields. She taught children math, reading and about Jesus. More than 200 students came to her one-room schoolhouse. She had a Bible for every student.

Then … the BAD BUG (booooo) showed up and ate all the cotton.

Rosa had no money for her school. People told her she would have to close it. But she said no. She had an unshakable faith in her great big God. She knew with God … nothing was impossible!

She asked lots of people for help. Each person said “No.” She prayed, she read her Bible. She believed God would make a way for her to keep teaching children about Jesus.

One day, a man gave her the name of a Lutheran pastor, Rev. C.F. Drewes, in St. Louis. She wrote Rev. Drewes a letter and asked if he would help her with her school.

God moved Rev. Drewes to say “yes.” In January, 1916 — 100 years ago — Lutheran pastor Nils Bakke came to Alabama to start working with Rosa Young. They added a chapel to the school and it became Christ Lutheran Church and School in Rosebud, Ala.
Rosa Young loved singing Lutheran hymns and listening to Rev. Bakke. “The bold and fearless preacher preached Christ and Him Crucified,” she wrote. Through his teaching, she learned she was a sinner saved by a loving, merciful God through Christ Jesus, our Savior.

You know, you and I are sinners, too. Sometimes we say or do something mean. Sometimes we forget to be kind. God takes that ugly-as-a-boll-weevil sin of ours, forgives us, and makes us beautiful in Jesus. Just like He did with Rosa Young.

Rosa Young and the Lutheran pastors started more than 30 church-schools in Alabama. They also opened the Alabama Lutheran Academy and College in Selma to help prepare teachers and pastors. That ugly bug and its appetite for cotton made it impossible for Rosa Young to run her school. But God stepped in … with His great big power and through His people brought the saving Gospel to Alabama.

What is our Bible memory verse? “With God all things are possible.” Matt. 19:26

**Let’s pray:**
Dear Jesus, thank you for waking us up this morning. Thank you for bringing us to Sunday school so we could learn more about your miracle-making majesty. Today we learned again that all things are possible with you. Thank you for examples of faith-filled, mission-focused people like Rosa Young and Rev. Nils Bakke. Help us remember that you forgive our bug-ugly sin and see us in the beauty we have in Christ. Help us share that Good News with others. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

**Activities**
Coloring page (schoolhouse illustration)

Cotton ball with Bible verse. (attached) You can also glue cotton balls to the cotton “bolls.”

Talk about things they are wearing and things at church made from cotton — the paraments, the altar cloth, the pastor’s robes and stoles, banners . . .
Rosa Young

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
With God, all things are possible. Matt. 19:25
Boll Weevil
Word Search: Rosa Young

ALABAMA
BOLLWEEVIL
BUG
CHURCH
COTTON
CROP
FAITH
LETTER
LUTHERAN
MISSIONARY
POSSIBLE
ROSA
ROSEBUD
SCHOOL
TEACHER