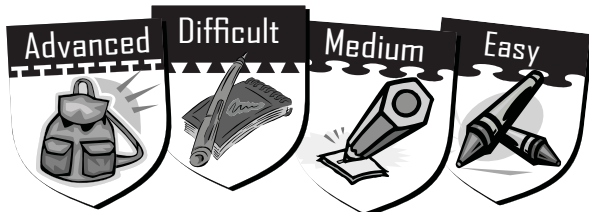


UNIT 2

# CHAMPIONS

by the Fruit of the Spirit



## TEACHER BOOK

For all ages (4-15 years)

## DEAR TEACHERS,

We pray that God blesses each one of you as you serve Him and minister to children around the world. You are making a difference, and changing lives for eternity!

We have a surprise for you. You may think you signed up to be a Sunday school teacher, but your job description has now changed to COACH! That is right, this year we will be studying the Bible with a boxing theme and we hope to have some fun with sports.

Beloved teacher, start right now! Be a coach instead of a teacher, and it will help inspire you to care deeply about each student in your class, and their progress as they strive to become a champion.

We will be studying the fruit of the spirit. However, not only looking at the fruit, but also at the many sins of our flesh that fight against the fruit of the spirit. Your goal is to help your students become champions. To do this, they need to not only memorize the memory verses and learn the Bible stories, but they also need to put the fruit of the Spirit into action in their everyday lives. This is a much harder challenge for you as coaches.

Using the boxing theme, when your students are in your Sunday school class, let us imagine that they are in training. They are working out, and learning more about God and learning how to fight against sin. Your church therefore, is the training center.

When your students are out in the world, they are actually "In the ring!" This is where they will actually fight against their own sinful desires. Their homes and schools, therefore, are the actual competitions and boxing matches. This is because at church, we are all good at pretending and giving the right answers. Please do not let any child think he has won a match because of his memorization or learning at church. That is training. The real fight is in their life. They can win matches if they put into practice the lessons during the week.

Your final job as their coach is to reward them and encourage them when they succeed. Prepare some awards to be able to hand out. Give them a hug or a special shout of encouragement for each "punch," round, or match won. The behavior you reward will be the behavior you receive as your students strive to please you, their coach.

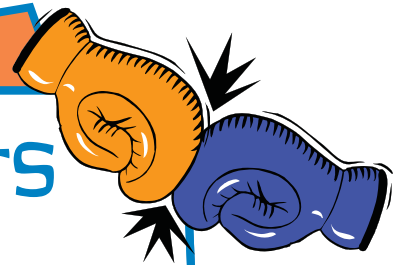
We hope you can have a good time dressing as a coach, decorating your class as a sports training center, and having some fun award ceremonies. Success in living the fruit of the Spirit will come, just as it does in sports, to those who are willing to work harder than anyone else. You CAN inspire your students to work hard and become champions. Just believe in them when no one else does, and watch God do miracles in their lives!



May our Lord God inspire you, as you take on this challenge of coaching your students in the fruit of the Spirit. We pray you break all limitations put on Sunday school teachers, and become a real coach in the lives of your students.

In Christ, Sister Kristina

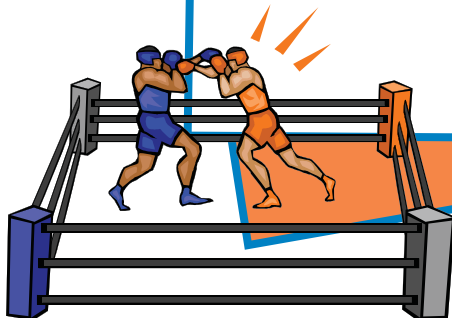
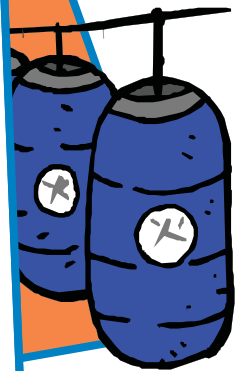




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**UNIT 3:** Faithfulness  
Gentleness  
Self-Control



**Children** are  
Important

# CHILDREN ARE IMPORTANT

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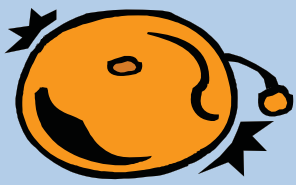
All Scripture is taken from NIV.

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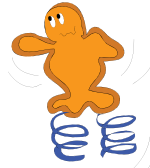


## UNIT 2

# CHAMPIONS

### 1 PATIENCE VS. IMPATIENCE

Bible story: The golden calf  
Exodus 32



#### MEMORY VERSE

"Being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience." Colossians 1:11

### 2 PATIENCE VS. SORROW

Bible story: Job suffers with patience  
Job 1-2



#### MEMORY VERSE

"My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life."  
Psalm 119:50

### 3 PATIENCE VS. PRIDE

Bible story: King Nebuchadnezzar  
Daniel 4



#### MEMORY VERSE

"The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride." Ecclesiastes 7:8

### 4 PATIENCE VS. ANGER

Bible story: David, Nabal and Abigail  
1 Samuel 25



#### MEMORY VERSE

"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry..." Ephesians 4:26

### 5 PATIENCE VS. ENTITLEMENT

Bible story: The manna and quail  
Exodus 16:1-18



#### MEMORY VERSE

"You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!" James 5:8-9

## UNIT 2: THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, **PATIENCE**, **KINDNESS**, **GOODNESS**, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23

6

## KINDNESS VS. COMPARISONS

Bible story: King Saul and David  
1 Samuel 18:5-16



### MEMORY VERSE

"Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else," Galatians 6:4

7

## KINDNESS VS. DECEIT

Bible story: Peter denies Christ  
Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75



### MEMORY VERSE

"I do not sit with the deceitful, nor do I associate with hypocrites." Psalm 26:4

8

## KINDNESS VS. DETACHMENT

Bible story: Ruth and Naomi  
Ruth 1:8-22



### MEMORY VERSE

"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act." Proverbs 3:27

9

## KINDNESS VS. MALICE

Bible story: Esther saves her people  
Esther 3-5



### MEMORY VERSE

"I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another." Romans 15:14

10

## GOODNESS VS. APATHY

Bible story: Sodom and Gomorrah  
Genesis 18:16-33



### MEMORY VERSE

"Anyone who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty." Job 6:14

11

## GOODNESS VS. EVIL

Bible story: Herod and John the Baptist  
Luke 3:18-20, Matthew 14:1-12



### MEMORY VERSE

"Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it." Psalm 34:14

12

## GOODNESS VS. SELFISH AMBITION

Bible story: Tower of Babel  
Genesis 11:1-9



### MEMORY VERSE

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves." Philippians 2:3

13

## GOODNESS VS. IMPURITY

Bible story: Joseph and Potiphar  
Genesis 39:1-21



### MEMORY VERSE

"With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith." 2 Thessalonians 1:11



# HOW TO USE THIS MATERIAL



## MUSIC

Start your class singing new songs and get everyone moving with the actions. Download the songs from our website, and learn the actions or choreography shown in the videos.



## MAIN LESSON

After you introduce the lesson, move on to the Bible story. Please look up the Bible reference to find the full Bible story, as it is not fully printed in this manual. After learning the Bible story, make sure to cover the main lesson with the application to life. At the end of the lesson, read the memory verse and pray with your students.



## DRAMA

For a fun drama every week, have two actors be two personalities that you use weekly: Wise Willie and Foolish Fred. (You may change their names as you choose.) Preview the lesson, and expand the drama ideas to match the lesson application and open the eyes of the children to see themselves in the Bible story. Using the same two actors each week will make the dramas relate better to life, and make the year more fun as they get to know Wise Willie and Foolish Fred. Create costumes for them that are easy to leave at church and put on quickly. (Just a hat and pair of glasses for example.)



## STUDENT BOOKS

Pass out the student books or photocopies of each lesson page. Help students that are struggling with the puzzles, because Sunday school books should not be difficult, but fun. You can also have students glue things on their pages. For younger students, objects can decorate their coloring page, like rice, cotton balls, noodles, or paint. For older students, their books can be like diaries, gluing on metro tickets, pennies, pocket fluff or other objects that remind them of the homework assignment.



## HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS (IN THE RING)

Discuss last week's homework assignment, and give your students the following week's assignment. They are located in the student books and on the match cards. Remind your students that only those who do the assignment can become champions. None of us will become a champion from attending church or memorizing the Bible, but in LIVING it! We recommend you create small groups with coaches to help the students track their assignments. (See more in small groups section.)

Doing the homework assignment once during the week will obviously not "knockout" that sin, just as one punch will not knockout an opponent in boxing. Using this analogy is helpful to show the students that if they actually want to become champions, they need to "throw more punches" during the week. Have your coaches keep track of how many "punches" the students achieve during the week and encourage competition. Each "punch" is an instance where they did the assignment during the week. To make the punches more fun, use these four different types of punches: jab, hook, cross and uppercut.



## SCHEDULE

1. SONGS

30 MIN

2. DRAMA

3. MAIN LESSON

30 MIN

4. STUDENT BOOKS

5. HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

30 MIN

6. MEMORY VERSE GAME

7. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

OPT. 30 MIN

8. ATTENDANCE CARDS

## MEMORY VERSE GAME

The games in this program are all for learning the memory verse of the week. Use the games provided, or allow your students to choose their favorite game to play each week. Prepare ahead of time anything you may need for the game.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (FOR OLDER STUDENTS)

There are three questions provided in each lesson in order to provoke a discussion with your students. They are for the Advanced student books (ages 13-15), but you may try them with other ages to see if they spark a debate. The idea is to make your students think. In order for this to work, it is very important that you do not give them the answers right away. The more they fight about a topic, the more they are thinking, and the better you are doing as a teacher. If they get into a real verbal argument regarding one of the topics, you are doing great! If your students settle on one side of an argument quickly, try to bring up the other side and get them thinking and talking.

## MATCH CARDS

Pass out the attendance reward, a card with the week's match fight on it. Encourage your students to attend all year, and collect all the cards! These cards are available to download and print very economically. You can also use the cards to play a memory game, matching the assignments to each sin.



### IN THE RING

Thank God for the giftings, physical appearance, possessions, and family that you have. Ask God to give you joy and contentment for what you have. Choose someone you may have been jealous of in the past, and give them a small gift. (Do not tell them of your past jealousy)

# COACHES



## SMALL GROUPS

Create small groups of 3-7 children. Each small group needs a coach. The coaches do not need to attend class every week, but need to check in with their students or "athletes" each week. Assign one of your main leaders to be the head coach and to organize and inspire all the coaches.

Divide your class into small groups to help your students actually do the assignments during the week. Most Sunday school programs are at church, and do not require homework during the week. However, your students cannot "knockout" sin in their lives by learning about it. They must actually get "In the ring" and fight the actual sin that they face during the week. Honestly, without someone checking up on them, this will be almost impossible to do. Please do not "trust their word" and accept when students say they did an assignment. If you become lax about this program, you will be training your students to tell you lies. However, just imagine with me that if you can actually coach your students, and track that they are doing the homework, you will see real change in their lives. In just 1 year, you can turn their lives around! Your students will not be memorizing the fruit of the Spirit, but will be actually learning to LIVE it!

To facilitate these small groups, we have created a handout for your coaches and a small book for your head coach. The coach's handouts are for each month and each fruit of the spirit. The head coach has a small book with the assignments for the full 3-month unit.



## RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COACHES

### COACH:

- Coach 3-5 children.
- Meet with students for 5 minutes before and after class each week to discuss assignment and encourage them to become champions.
- Call/text students weekly to remind them of the assignment. (Suggested=Tuesday)
- Call/text students a second time weekly to get report of assignment done. (Suggested=Friday)
- Keep track of assignments done for children in small group and report to head coach weekly.

### HEAD COACH:

- Meet with all the coaches for 5 minutes before class each week to discuss assignment and encourage them to coach faithfully their students.
- Call/text coaches weekly to remind them of the assignment. (Suggested=Tuesday)
- Call/text coaches a second time weekly to get report of assignments done. (Suggested=Friday)
- Keep track of assignments done for all students.
- Host monthly inspirational meetings for coaches and their families.



## RECRUITING

It may sound like a challenge to recruit more leaders so that you have enough coaches for small groups. However, this does not need to be that difficult. Here are some ideas to make finding coaches EASY:

- Ask coaches to serve for only 1 month. Each month covers one fruit of the Spirit. When asking adults for their commitment, if you only are asking for 1 month, many will be more willing to sign up. After the first month, if you make it easy and fun, they will want to sign up again!
  - Allow coaches to attend church as normal, but arrive at church 10 minutes early to meet with their students. Your coaches could attend your Sunday school class only once during the month, and the other weeks attend church as normal with the adults.



- Text students instead of calling. Help your coaches set up automatic texts for the whole month, so that they can easily be in contact with their students. Do not forget that instead of traditional calling, you can also use Facebook accounts, Twitter, WhatsApp, etc.
- Create a place at church for coaches to store a few items. In order to look "sporty" your coaches could wear sport caps or have whistles and water bottles. Instead of having to remember each week to bring these items, allow them to keep them at church. This way your coaches can wear their regular church clothes, and just pull on a few "sport" items to look like coaches.
- Make the monthly meeting for coaches extra inspirational, so that they want to continue participating in the program as the year progresses.
- Allow for larger groups if necessary. (With the help of group notifications on Facebook, it would not be that difficult for someone to coach 10 students.)



## INSPIRATIONAL MEETINGS

The main job of the head coach is to keep the coaches motivated. One important way to do this is to host a monthly inspirational meeting. You can provide a meal, pray together, look at sports data and see how it can apply to our Christian lives. In addition, you can check out Olympic athletes or watch an inspirational sports movie together with popcorn or other yummy foods. Discuss with your coaches the idea that if it was worth it for the athletes to work hard, then isn't it worth even more for us to work for spiritual and eternal gain?



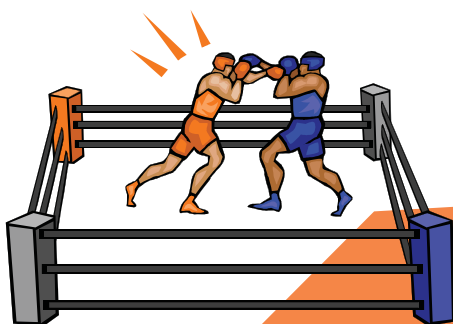
## AWARD CEREMONIES

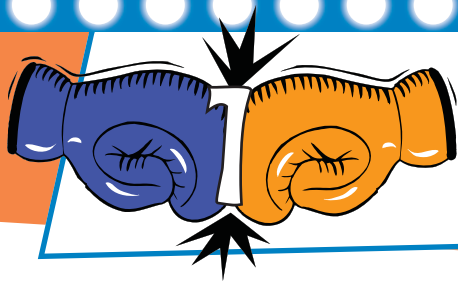


A very important part of being a coach is helping your students feel like winners. This means you need to define what behavior you are looking for, and reward that behavior. We recommend rewarding the students when they have done the homework assignments, where they put the lesson into action during the week. Attendance and memorization are "training" and doing the assignments during the week would actually be the competition. Encourage your students that training is very important if they want to win. However, the real world competition is where they actually do win.

One idea is to have an award ceremony at the end of each month, when you finish studying each fruit of the Spirit. For example, LOVE has 5 weeks of study. Those who did the assignment at least 3 weeks could win the bronze medal, silver for 4 weeks, and the gold medal for all 5 weeks. You could adjust how your students win the medals after the first month, as some villages or areas of town will need more challenging assignments than others will. Some zones will be more evangelistic, and you will need easier assignments so that they stay encouraged and want to continue with your class.

At the end of the year, have a larger award for those who won several awards throughout the year. This could be a trophy or a nicer medal. Make the awards even more special by giving them to your students on stage in front of the adults in church!





# PATIENCE VS IMPATIENCE

Bible story: The golden calf  
Exodus 32

## DRAMA

Wise Willy begins preparing a nice dinner for both of them. Foolish Fred gets tired of waiting and tries to eat a football.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience."

Colossians 1:11

## MAIN LESSON

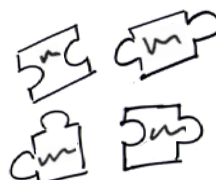
Welcome back to "champions," this month we will be learning about patience. Today's Bible story is about the Israelites and their lack of patience. It was only 3 months back (Ex 19:1) that they were saved from the plagues, saved from slavery in Egypt, and received God's protection by pillars of both fire and cloud. God saved them again in the crossing of the red sea, giving them miracles of water in the desert, and bread and meat falling from heaven every day to feed them! (Ex 16:1) God called Moses to the mountain where he was for a long time (40 days, Ex 24:18). The people asked Aaron to make them a god. Aaron had them gather their gold and formed a calf and they worshiped it with a festival eating and dancing. God saw their sin and told Moses to hurry down the mountain. Both God and Moses became angry and punished the people for their disobedience and impatience. God speaks to us like He did with His people back then. He gives us promises and direction for our lives. He may call you into missions, or give you a passion for something you will be able to do in the future. He may ask you to be a teacher, a pastor, or a doctor. Sometimes, God calls or assigns us years before it happens. This is when we need patience. We know God has called us, even though others cannot see it. It is hard to be overlooked and

treated as though we have nothing to offer. Perhaps you feel that God said He was going to heal you, and you are still sick. God is not limited by time like us. God has always existed, and will continue existing for eternity. We have mortal bodies right now and feel the clock ticking. For the Israelites, the month that Moses was on the mountain was long and they grew impatient. Instead of waiting for the God who had just saved them multiple times, they made another god. We can also be tempted to fulfil God's promises by organizing things ourselves, trying to make it happen on our own. That is not God's blessing. The blessing from God comes when we are patient and trust Him to do His work, in His timing. How did the Israelites actually forget all those amazing miracles that God had recently performed? We know exactly how they forgot, because we also forget what God has done in our lives as well! Patience is an important fruit of the Spirit. With it, we can become powerful men and women of God. However, without patience, we will be like babies, tossed around from one month to the next. Patience will help you no longer be like a baby!

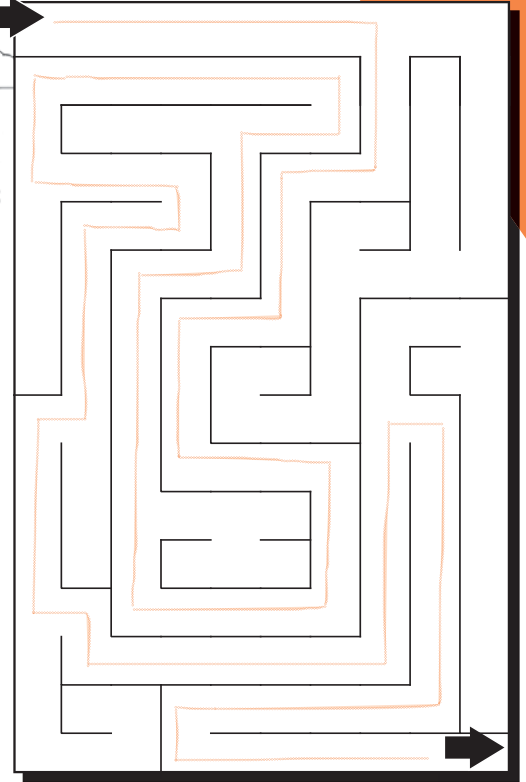
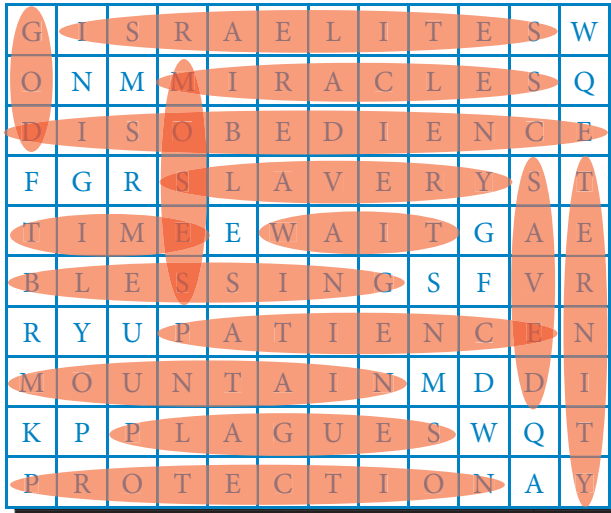
## MEMORY VERSE GAME

Jigsaw Puzzles

Have each child write a verse on a piece of colored paper, draw puzzle lines and cut out the pieces. (If time is limited, prepare puzzles ahead of time.) Have a race to see who can put their puzzle together the fastest. The winner is the first student or team to stand and recite the verse out loud when their puzzle is finished.



## PUZZLE ANSWERS

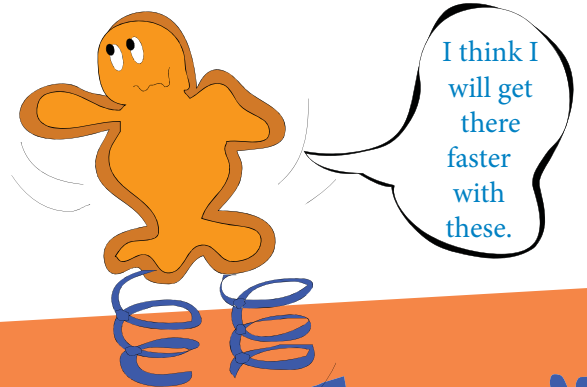
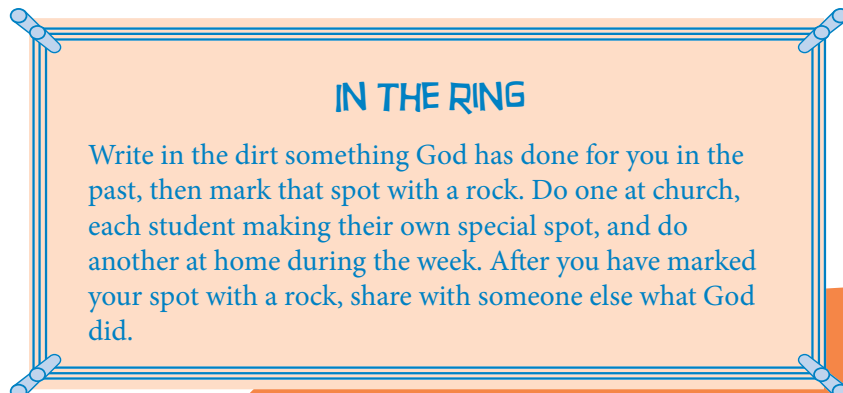


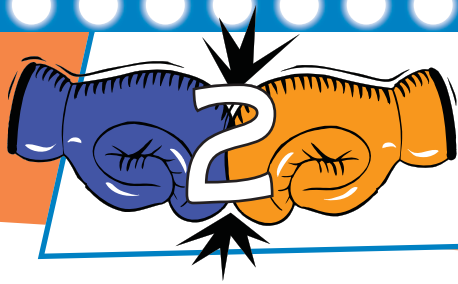
PATIENCE	PROTECTION	TIME
ISRAELITES	MOSES	ETERNITY
SAVED	MOUNTAIN	GOD
PLAGUES	DISOBEDIENCE	BLESSING
SLAVERY	WAIT	MIRACLES

(For older students)

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- How does God speak to us? What was the last thing He said to you?  
God uses His Word, the Bible. Verses will "jump" off the page and seem to apply at a specific time. God can also use people like coaches, pastors and teachers to speak to you. God can also speak directly to you like when you feel something strongly to stop and help someone else, or avoid a certain situation or person or street.
- What things can we do so we don't forget the miracles of God as quickly as the Israelites did in today's story? We can use diaries or journals to record how God moves. We can celebrate special times where God did something larger. Just we have festivals and special parties, we can mark special dates on the calendar and celebrate what God has done. We can testify and share things that God does in our lives.
- What does eternity mean? How is it possible that we will live forever?  
In eternity there is no time, it is endless life after death. The Bible says that we are eternal and we will live forever in heaven or hell. Christians don't believe in purgatory, but we will move directly to either heaven with God or hell for eternal punishment. This also means that we will not come back to earth as another person or being as some believe, but when we die, we leave earth forever and move on to heaven or hell.





# PATIENCE VS SORROW

Bible story: Job suffers with patience  
Job 1-2

## DRAMA

Foolish Fred and Wise Willy prepare for a big race. Willy runs far even though it hurts. Fred stops as soon as he is uncomfortable. Later at the big race, Willy wins easily, running through the toilet paper finish line.

### MEMORY VERSE

"My comfort in my suffering is this:  
Your promise preserves my life."  
Psalm 119:50

## MAIN LESSON

This week we are focusing on patience as it contrasts to sorrow. People all over the world suffer from discrimination, natural disasters, persecution, sickness and death. No one on this planet can hide from inevitable suffering. Money, power or fame cannot protect us from suffering. For Christians, the challenge is how we will respond to it. Will we allow sorrow from our pain to grab ahold of us and pull us down? Or can we develop patience through the pain and become living examples to the world? In the book of James (James 5:10-11), God mentions patience in the face of suffering, highlighting the life of Job as a good example. The Word says that all those who have persevered through suffering are considered blessed. The Bible account of Job is very interesting as it opens up our eyes to a full supernatural world including angels, God in heaven and the devil who roams the earth. God brags to the devil about a wonderful man named Job. The devil says that Job behaves well because God has blessed him, and challenges God that if He were to take away all the blessings, then Job would curse God. Therefore, God gives the devil permission to attack Job, and all in one day he kills all his livestock, servants, and family! Job did not curse God, and so the devil

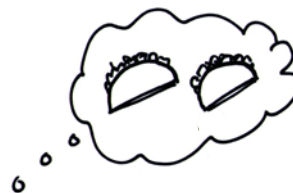
got permission to attack Job's health as well. The devil was sure that if Job were also personally suffering, surely then he would curse God for his troubles. Job was there, on the ground covered in very painful sores, having lost all his wealth and his whole family, but he refused to curse God and blame Him for his troubles. His wife pressured him and his friends came by and blamed him. They told Job that he must have sinned in order to have all this pain and death around him. However, Job remained true to God, and continued in patience instead of letting the sorrow pull him down. We can see from this Bible account that God wants us to honor Him in good times and bad times. We cannot only be joyful Christians when things are going well. Job said to his wife, "Should we accept good from God, and not trouble?"

Pain and death are natural. Sorrow from it is also natural and human. However, patience as we are going through a very difficult time is supernatural. It requires God working in us, and a complete trust in God. Everyone goes through hard times. However, if you can allow patience to grow in you instead of sorrow and complaints, you will develop into a mature Christian.

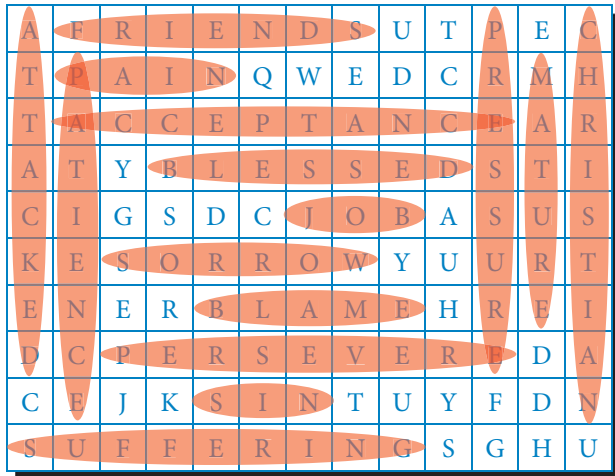
## MEMORY VERSE GAME

Quote if you...

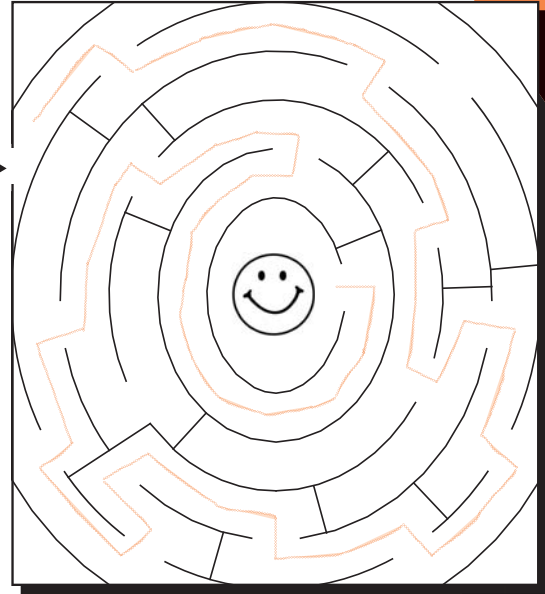
Quote the verse if you... ate breakfast this morning, took a bath last night, have brown eyes, like broccoli, made your bed today, have a sister, are wearing red, etc. This is an easy way to repeat the verse multiple times to help the children memorize it.



## PUZZLE ANSWERS



PATIENCE    PERSEVERE    BLAME    MATURE  
 SORROW    BLESSED    SIN    CHRISTIAN  
 PAIN    JOB    PRESSURE    ACCEPTANCE  
 SUFFERING    ATTACKED    FRIENDS



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(For older students)

1. Why does God allow us to suffer? Suffering entered the world with the fall. God did not want robots and mindless people for eternity. God wanted us to love Him and serve Him because we CHOSE to. However, this means that some will CHOOSE not to follow God. Some will choose to lie, cheat, steal, kill, and destroy. Suffering is with us because CHOICE is with us.

2. Why did our loved one have to die? Death is something that touches everyone, as no one lives forever. However, our spirits will live forever, either in heaven or hell. This is why death lost its sting for Christians. Death can only take away this body, but my spirit will then be free with God in heaven. God is not going to protect all the Christians around the world from the suffering that all humankind bears. Instead, we should be living examples to the world of patience under suffering.

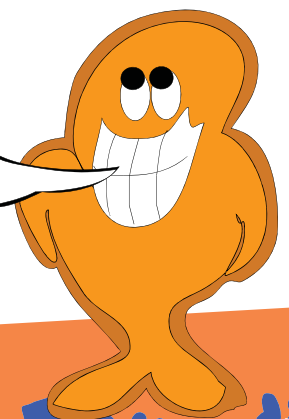
3. How could suffering possibly be a blessing? Suffering can draw us closer to God. It can give opportunities for learning compassion. Suffering can offer rewards to others, as Jesus said we would receive rewards for visiting others or giving a cold cup of water. We will be more equipped to help others, once we have endured suffering.



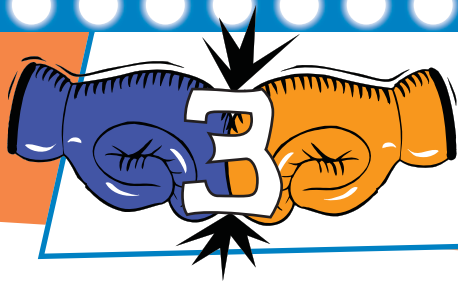
### IN THE RING

Write a thank you to God over something where you suffered. Try to say as Job did, "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. May the name of the Lord be praised." Share with others in class your testimony if you can.

Sometimes  
I feel like  
crying on the  
inside, but I  
can still put  
on this smile.







## PATIENCE VS PRIDE

Bible story: King Nebuchadnezzar  
Daniel 4

### DRAMA

Wise Willey and Foolish Fred apply for a job, each with a shovel. Fred loudly makes silly unrealistic claims about how fast he can dig, while Willy humbly says he really would like to work and promises he will work hard and do his best. Willy gets the job.

### MEMORY VERSE

"The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride." Ecclesiastes 7:8

### MAIN LESSON

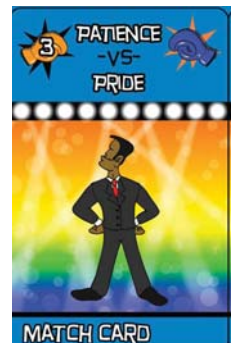
Today we are learning about pride and how it can take us down. In fact, pride can totally destroy us if we let it! The truth is that we should always recognize that God is the one who has helped us achieve whatever we have, and He should receive all the credit. The more we boast in our own achievements, the more trouble we can get into. Today's Bible story is about king Nebuchadnezzar who stood on his roof, gazing out at his wonderful kingdom. He thought to himself, "What a fabulous city I have made by my own might," basically saying, "I am so great!" God had warned this king a year earlier in a dream to be careful with pride, or God himself would humble him. However, there he was standing on his rooftop, full of pride for all that he had accomplished. So God humbled him. The words were still on the king's lips when a voice came from heaven taking his authority away. He was driven away from the palace, and lost his mind. He wandered in fields outside the city like cattle while his hair and nails grew. This famous king became like a wild animal living alone outside. Pride is an ugly sin, and God has no patience for it. God can humble men, taking away their fabulous jobs

or causing them to lose money. God is all-sovereign and He cares about us. When we become prideful, it is in our best interest that God humbles us. On the other hand, we can make life easier by humbling ourselves before He has to do it. Pride is an enemy against the fruit of the spirit. This month we are learning about patience. It can be very difficult to wait. Sometimes we have to wait on God to fulfill a dream He promised, or we have to wait on others to do what they promised. Either way, pride can get in the way of our patience. The higher we think of ourselves, the less we want to wait on others. A king should not have to wait for anyone! So the more we think we are like kings, the less we want to wait. The Bible says that this king lived like an animal for 7 "times", which may have meant 7 years! After that time, king Nebuchadnezzar looked up to heaven and acknowledged that God was the real king of the earth, and he praised God and glorified Him. His sanity returned to him, and he was restored as king. Do you want to be humbled by God, or to humble yourself? You choose.

### MEMORY VERSE GAME

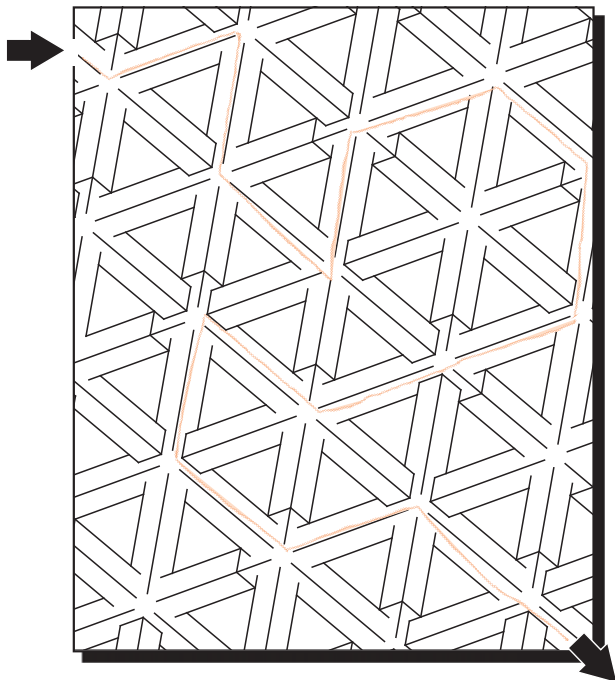
#### Balloon pop

Inflate balloons, one balloon for each word of the memory verse. With a permanent marker, write one word of the memory verse on each balloon. Using clear packing tape, place the balloons to the wall in order (if time allows, children can take turns to do this). If putting the balloons up during class time, ask the entire class to read what is up so far. After all the balloons are in place, then ask for volunteers to take turns popping any balloon (a "push pin" works well), followed by everyone saying the verse together each time a balloon is popped.



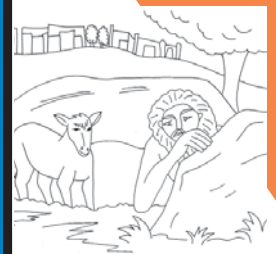


## PUZZLE ANSWERS



C	I	T	Y	P	R	I	D	E	E	R
P	I	P	O	R	E	R	D	T	W	A
A	C	K	N	O	W	L	E	D	G	E
T	A	C	W	M	N	M	J	E	C	E
I	P	R	A	I	S	E	T	S	R	F
E	C	V	I	S	I	N	G	T	E	U
N	E	Z	T	E	N	M	O	R	D	L
C	G	A	Q	S	G	H	D	O	I	F
E	O	K	I	N	G	A	E	Y	T	I
M	H	U	M	B	L	E	D	N	M	L

PRIDE	EGO	PATIENCE	ACKNOWLEDGE
SIN	CITY	WAIT	PRAISE
DESTROY	GOD	FULFIL	CREDIT
KING	HUMBLD	PROMISES	



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(For older students)

1. Do you think the king actually went crazy and ate grass?

Some people take stories from the Bible and say they are "figurative" and not actual true stories. When the Bible says that God humbled the king by making him crazy, will we believe it? We know it is possible! Let us choose to believe that God is all-powerful, and can humble us however He chooses.

2. How could the king have humbled himself so that God did not have to?

The king could have said, "Look at this wonderful kingdom that GOD has made successful" instead of claiming that it was done "By my own might." He could have thanked others, giving them recognition. From the throne, the king could have publically recognized God's help.

3. How do people act like kings in your community? What does it look like?

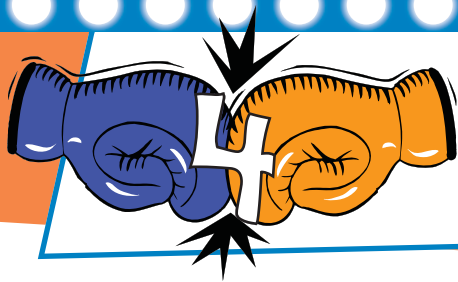
People act like kings all the time! This is where we claim glory for ourselves; show off how well we are doing, and refuse to give credit to God or others. It is also when we strive for fame and fortune in order to become rich or famous.

### IN THE RING

Do some activities to humble yourself. You could give someone your place in line, avoid watching a TV show where the characters are full of pride, give up your spot on stage or in front of others, or allow others to be correct.



I do not want to humble myself! Do I actually have to?



# PATIENCE VS ANGER

Bible story: David, Nabal and Abigail  
1 Samuel 25

## DRAMA

Someone accidentally trips Foolish Fred and he falls down into mud. Fred gets mad and wants to hit the person who tripped him but Wise Willy says the person did not try to do it and should not be punished. Later all three become friends because Willy deflected Fred's anger.

### MEMORY VERSE

"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry..." Ephesians 4:26

## MAIN LESSON

This week we are learning about anger as it opposes patience. Anger is an interesting emotion, because it can blind us. It can take over our whole being, making us think of nothing else. We can be angry while we are sinning against others, or ourselves. The hardest anger to control is when we have been wronged. When we know that we are correct, that is when it is most difficult to control our anger.

This is what happened in today's Bible story. David was angry because he had been wronged. David was traveling with 600 men in his company. He sent some men ahead to ask Nabal for a favor, feeding his men as they traveled through the area. Since David had been doing Nabal favors for a long time, saving him time and money, it was within David's rights to ask kindly for a favor in return.

However, Nabal said meanly, NO!

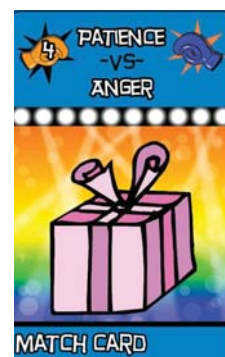
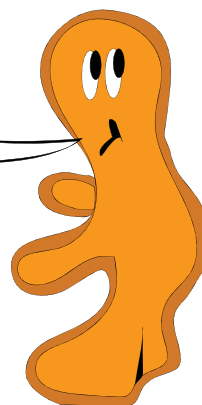
Therefore, David became angry, and decided to take revenge. David was on his way with 400 men to kill Nabal, when Abigail (Nabal's wife) was informed of the danger, and she quickly set about to save the day. She packed up a wonderful meal for all 600 men, and traveled to meet David. She bowed low, apologized for Nabal's behavior, and gave the food to him. It would seem that Abigail saved Nabal's life. The Bible shares this story showing that David was within his rights to be angry.

However, when Abigail stopped David from avenging himself, the story changes, and Abigail is seen more as protecting David than Nabal. David would have been within his rights to avenge himself, but it would not have been good. He would have been correct, but not blessed.

Although it would seem that Abigail saved Nabal, in reality she saved David from his own anger. Wisdom in this situation is to be patient instead of angry. In the end, God punishes Nabal for his wrongs against David.

When we are facing the decision between anger and patience, we can ask ourselves the same question. Do we want to be correct and right, but not blessed? Or would we rather choose the best way that leads to more blessing?

Do not look! I don't want to get caught!  
(because that makes me really mad.)



## PUZZLE ANSWERS

R	E	V	E	N	G	E	H	D	A	N	G	E	R	M	A	B
B	E	F	A	N	G	E	R	G	V	A	A	M	I	Q	B	L
L	P	R	O	T	E	C	T	I	O	N	B	O	G	D	I	E
I	D	N	A	B	A	I	X	Z	I	O	P	T	H	A	G	S
N	A	Q	C	O	R	R	E	C	T	E	E	I	T	V	A	S
D	H	T	R	A	V	E	L	E	D	R	N	O	S	I	I	E
S	Y	U	M	E	A	L	B	M	W	R	O	N	G	D	L	D

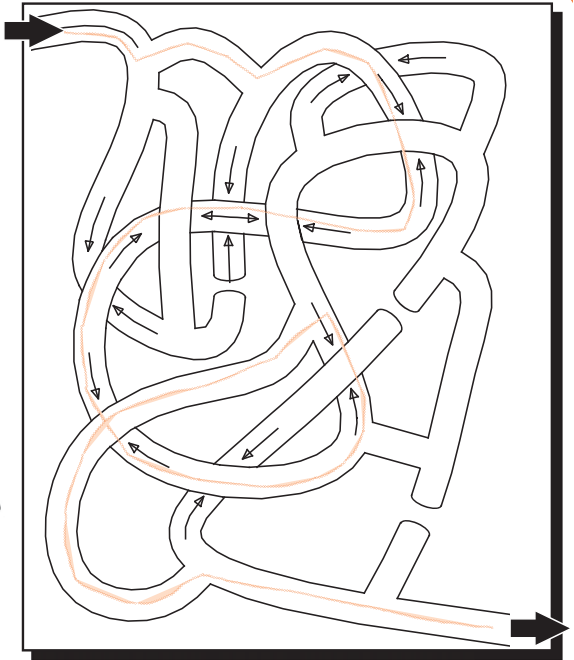
ANGER	RIGHT	REVENGE	PROTECTION
EMOTION	DAVID	DANGER	CORRECT
BLINDS	NABAL	MEAL	BLESSED
WRONG	ABIGAIL	TRAVELED	



## MEMORY VERSE GAME

### One letter at a time

Write the first letter of each word of the memory verse on the board. Children then try to write the verse.



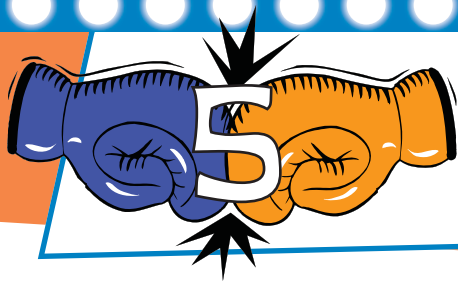
## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(For older students)

1. What is wrong with getting angry when we are wronged?  
Anger when someone wrongs us can be an outward demonstration of our lack of trust in God. It shows selfishness in our hearts. However, anger over someone else being wrong can be us showing love and care for them. What we do with our anger can be a sin, so we must be careful.
2. Have you ever been treated wrong when you were in the right? Explain. Give your students an opportunity to discuss different situations where they feel they were wronged. Discuss if it was their own fault or not. When you have established that something was not their fault, discuss the patience it takes not to retaliate.
3. Will God always avenge me? One of the reasons we can set aside our anger over wrongs is the assurance that God has the vengeance and that He will repay each one according to their actions. The problem comes when we want God to avenge us on this earth and in our lifetimes. God will repay each person, but we cannot know when, where or if it will even be in our lifetime.

### IN THE RING

Purchase a few small items to give away as gifts. Whenever you become angry, give an item to the person you are angry with. Try to stomp out your anger by giving small gifts to people, and watch your patience grow.



# PATIENCE VS ENTITLEMENT

Bible story: The manna and quail

Exodus 16:1-18

## DRAMA

Wise Willy and Foolish Fred are served lunch at school, it is not a great lunch but adequate. Fred complains loudly that his food is not great. Willy quietly thanks God for the food he was given.

### MEMORY VERSE

"You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!"

James 5:8-9

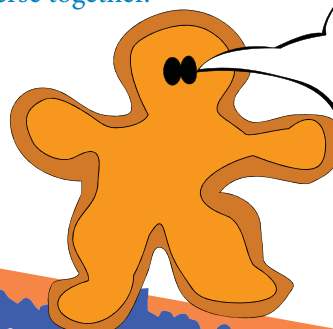
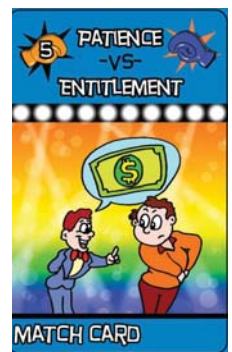
## MAIN LESSON

Students, this week our match fight is patience against entitlement. Entitlement means when a person believes that he or she deserves certain privileges, and usually they are arrogant about it. This is seen in wealthier countries where people expect they should have everything they want or need. Entitlement is also found in poorer countries, where people feel they have a right to beg because they should be given the same as others. Neither one of these attitudes is good. God expects us to be patient and trust Him with our lives. In today's Bible story, the people of Israel found themselves in a place of need, and started to beg and plead to God. The Bible says they grumbled against God, and complained saying they wished they had stayed in Egypt instead of following God into the desert. They shouted that they preferred to have died in Egypt. But then the unexpected happened! God took care of them miraculously, sending manna and quail down from the sky! Every morning there was bread to eat, a thin flake called manna. In addition, every evening there was meat to eat, birds called quail that God sent their way. However, even when God did these miracles, they continued to grumble. In Numbers 11:6, the people grumbled, "But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!" God was angry at the Israelites for their grumbling and complaining. They had a sense of entitlement, where they felt they could demand food from God. In reality, none of us is owed anything from anyone. We cannot demand things from God, our governments, our parents, from our churches or from foreigners. We should have patience instead of a sense of entitlement.

## MEMORY VERSE GAME

### Musical chairs

Arrange a chair for each child and put them in a circle. Cut up different pieces of colored paper and take them to the back of the chairs. Each color should be taped to at least three chairs. Start the music and the have the children walk around the chairs. When the music stops, the children sit down quickly. The teacher names a color, and everyone sitting in a chair that has that color taped to it stands up and recites the memory verse. If the teacher names red, everyone with red paper on their chair stands up and says the verse together.



I believe that I deserve it all, as much as these blob arms can carry!



## PUZZLE ANSWERS

P	G	G	R	U	M	B	L	E	D	B	F	M	P
A	D	J	G	O	D	E	B	Q	B	C	X	I	R
T	E	N	T	I	T	L	E	M	E	N	T	R	I
I	M	Z	R	Q	M	V	L	D	G	A	D	A	V
E	A	C	U	U	A	V	I	C	G	B	E	C	I
N	N	F	S	A	N	Q	E	E	I	N	S	L	L
T	D	G	T	I	N	W	V	W	N	D	E	E	E
U	I	I	T	L	A	D	E	A	G	S	R	S	D
D	N	C	V	P	E	R	S	O	N	Y	V	E	G
G	G	A	R	R	O	G	A	N	T	R	E	S	E

ENTITLEMENT	ARROGANT	TRUST
PERSON	DEMANDING	MANNA
BELIEVES	BEGGING	QUAIL
DESERVE	GOD	MIRACLES
PRIVILEGE	PATIENT	GRUMBLED



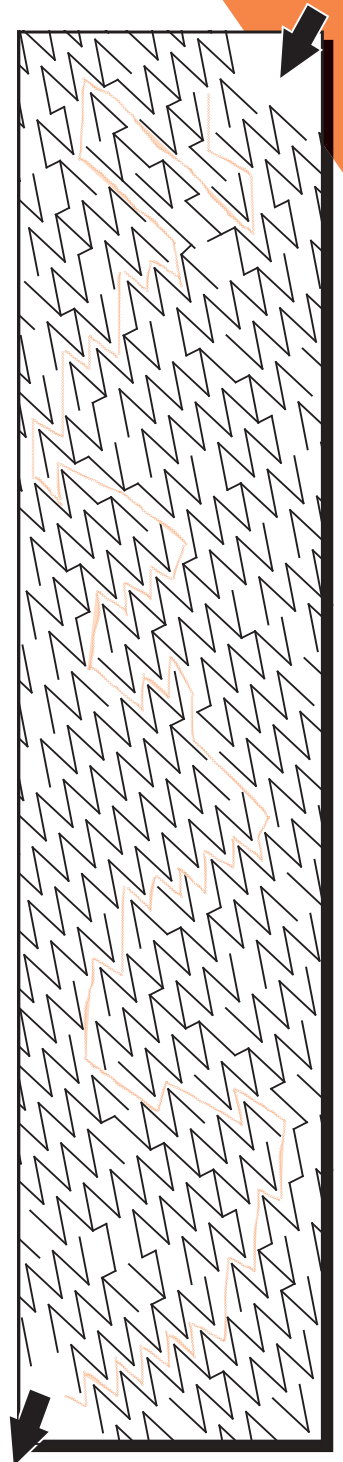
(For older students)

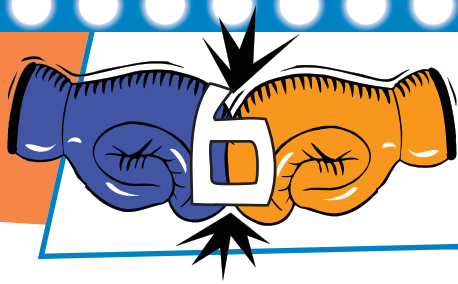
## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What things do you expect to receive from your government?  
Discuss the different programs your government may have, and how we feel entitled to receive those programs. Do you have a neighboring country that has a different set of programs that everyone knows about? Do people grumble about what they do not have, or brag about what they do have?
2. What do people often say when they are grumbling and complaining about what they do not have? Discuss the common complaints in your area or country. Play around with your students, lightly mocking the ways we complain. Be careful, but use the teasing as a tool, to help your students see that grumbling and complaining is never a good thing, but will always be an ugly attitude.
3. Have you ever been tempted to demand something from God?  
Discuss what demanding things from God looks like. For example, if we get angry when a person is not healed of their sickness, or does not get well quickly, we can often blame God. When someone steals from you, it is common to be angry with the thief. However, if we find we are angry with God for not protecting us from those thieves, it would show we were demanding protection from God.

### IN THE RING

This week you are owed nothing from anyone. Every time you want to ask for something, stop yourself. Each time you successfully stop yourself from asking for food, favors, time, or help; you win against this sin.





# KINDNESS VS COMPARISONS

Bible story: King Saul and David  
1 Samuel 18:5-16

## DRAMA

In a big football game, Wise Willy scores 2 goals, Foolish Fred only 1. Everyone cheers for Willy. Fred gets mad that people are celebrating Willy's success.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else," Galatians 6:4

## MAIN LESSON

This week we are studying the fruit of the spirit "kindness" and we will see how comparisons can come against kindness in a major way. Comparisons can be painful for everyone involved. This is where we look at what another person has in gifts, abilities, time, or money and compare that to others or ourselves. In this week's Bible story, we can see King Saul getting jealous of David, and becoming very angry. However, the interesting part is that his jealousy began when the crowds started to compare the two men. Before the crowds started comparing, King Saul was not angry with David at all! In fact, King Saul was pleased to have David play the harp for him. He was also grateful when David killed Goliath. Everything was fine until the women came out singing songs of comparison. The army men were on their way home from the battle against Goliath and the Philistines, when the women came out dancing and singing, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands."

We cannot blame the women for the hatred that developed in Saul's heart. King Saul is responsible for his own actions. However, it is interesting to note that it all started when the women began publically comparing the men, and

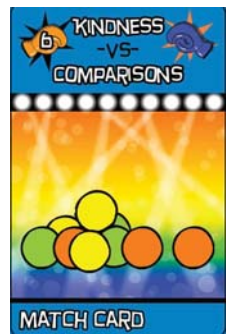
putting David above the king. At this time, David had not killed more men than the king. David had only just killed Goliath! It is very easy for all of us to compare ourselves amongst ourselves. However, this is not good, it is not kind to others, and God asks us not to do it. God wants us to look at ourselves only, and to judge ourselves compared to what God asks of us. One way that we publically compare others is in social media, like Facebook. We post pictures and compare our lives with other people's lives. Even worse is when we create comparisons publically between other people, just as the women did in our Bible story. We look at different ministries, compare them, and can cause anger or frustration amongst them. Or someone shares a great testimony, and we have to "one-up" them by telling a better one. Have you ever seen one person who throws a great party, and then another has to have an even better party? Let us not be unkind with comparisons, but allow differences and similarities without getting jealous!

## MEMORY VERSE GAME

### Alphabet scrabble

Divide the class into two or three groups, and give each group a cup of alphabet cereal or pasta. Ask the children to use the letters to make words from the memory verse. The group that makes the most words wins.

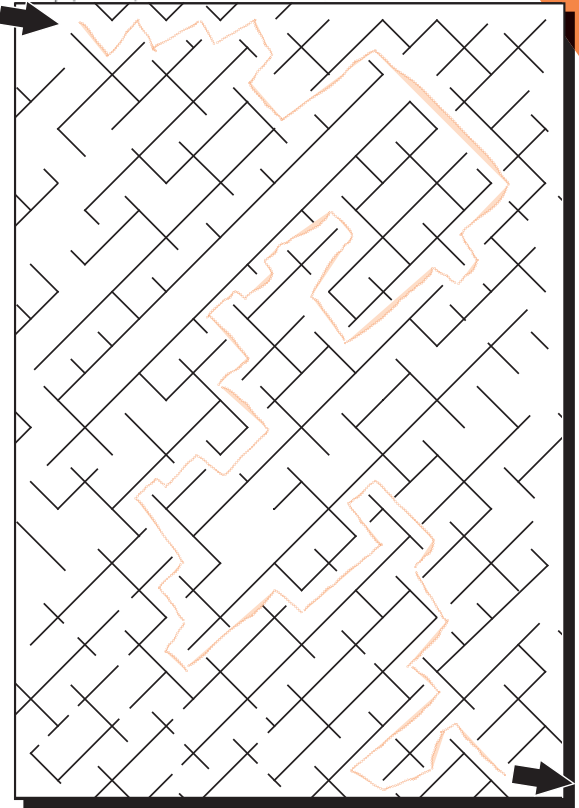
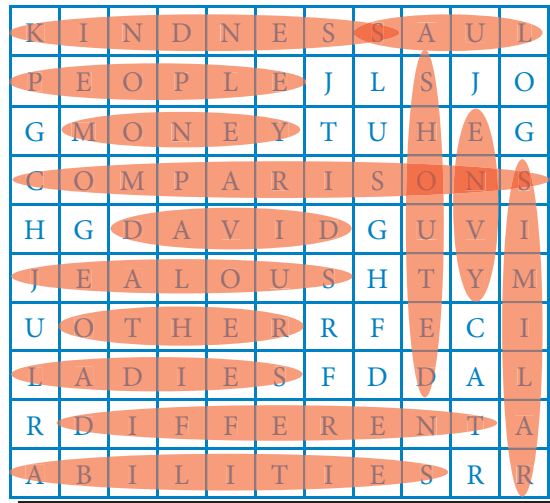
ABC





## PUZZLE ANSWERS

KINDNESS  
OTHER  
PEOPLE  
ABILITIES  
MONEY  
JEALOUS  
DAVID  
SAUL  
LADIES  
SHOUTED  
ENVY  
COMPARISONS  
DIFFERENT  
SIMILAR



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (For older students)

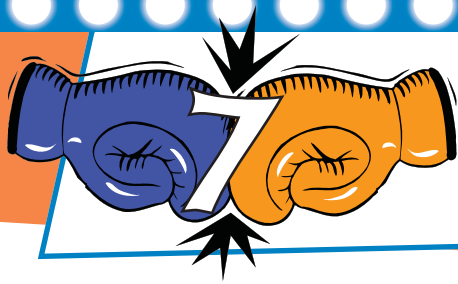
1. With whom do you normally compare yourself? How does it make you feel? Give your students some time to openly share about comparisons. Do not tell them they should not compare, however allow the discussion to shift into feelings. As they talk about how painful the comparisons are, they will naturally want to stop them in the future.
2. In what ways do you see comparisons in Facebook or other social media in your circle of friends? Allow your students to talk about people's vacation photos, cute selfies, amount of likes received or amount of friends online. Talk about how painful comparisons are, and how Facebook does not show our real lives.
3. Do the people in your community try to have bigger and better parties? In what way? How common is it in your community to compare parties? People compare the food served, the amount served, the drinks, the activities, the decorations, if the music is a live band or just a DJ, the location rented, the amount of time, the gifts given, the beautiful people, and who all is in attendance. Discuss how unkind it is to compare.

### IN THE RING

Give yourself 20 small balls at the beginning of the week. Each time you find yourself comparing yourself to others, take away one of the balls. This includes facebook or other online applications where we often compare ourselves to others. If you need to, go off facebook for the whole week.

My magazine  
is better  
than your  
magazine. I  
know it!





# KINDNESS VS DECEIT

Bible story: Peter denies Christ  
Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75

## DRAMA

Wise Willy and Foolish Fred each accidentally break a lamp in their home when no one is around. Fred hides the broken pieces and when his father asks about it, he says he doesn't know anything. When Willy's father gets home he tells him everything.

### MEMORY VERSE

"I do not sit with the deceitful,  
nor do I associate with  
hypocrites." Psalm 26:4

## MAIN LESSON

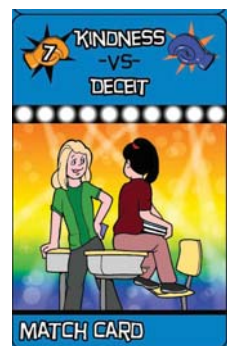
This week our match fight is against deceit, a sin where we hide the truth. Psalm 101:7 says, talking about God, "No one who practices deceit will dwell in my house; no one who speaks falsely will stand in my presence." If you do a study on the word deceit, you will find that it is mentioned many times in the Bible. God really does not like it. But why? We all tell little lies from time to time. For example, we will tell someone that his or her baby is beautiful, when really we are thinking how ugly it is! We all know that these times where we do not tell the whole truth are not so bad. So why is deceitfulness so evil to God? David says, "I do not sit with the deceitful, nor do I associate with hypocrites." Here David is comparing a deceitful person with a hypocrite! Maybe that will help us understand how much God dislikes deceit, because we all hate the idea of hypocrites.

I followed a famous preacher for years, who continually taught on integrity. Then one day I found out that he had been abusing young girls the whole time. The natural anger that welled up in my heart was amazing! I wanted to throw into the trash every teaching he had ever done. This preacher does not even know who I am, but he was unkind to me. He cheated me and deceived me.

This week's Bible story is on Peter the Apostle. He made a mistake one day that led to him being a hypocrite as well. The wonderful thing is that Peter

repented of his sin, and Jesus forgave him. If you and I are caught being deceitful, we can also be forgiven. Unfortunately, the preacher I mentioned has not repented, does not admit his sins, and continues to preach as if he has done nothing wrong. In the Bible story, one day when Jesus and His disciples were having the Passover meal, Jesus told them that they would all fall away. However, Peter spoke up saying, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will." Jesus then predicts that Peter will disown Him three times before the rooster crows that very night. Peter must have felt terrible, and at the same time determined to have it not be true.

However, Jesus was right. That very same night Peter disowned Jesus 3 times. He was not just pretending not to know Jesus, but he swore and oath saying he had never known the man. At that point, the rooster crowed. A major disciple of Jesus stood there and publically said he had no friendship at all with Jesus. This must have broken Jesus's heart. Our own deceitfulness can break God's heart as well. We can be grateful that God will forgive us if we can admit our sin, repent and change.



## PUZZLE ANSWERS



FIGHT  
SIN  
DECEIT  
HIDE  
TRUTH  
INTEGRITY  
HYPOCRITES  
PREACHER  
LIVE  
TEACHINGS  
PETER  
DISOWNED  
JESUS  
FORGIVENESS  
REPENT

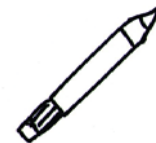


I	N	T	E	G	R	I	T	Y	B	H	F	I	G	H	T	D
D	H	Y	P	O	C	R	I	T	E	S	L	I	F	V	R	E
P	H	L	F	O	R	G	I	V	E	N	E	S	S	D	U	C
E	S	I	N	E	L	W	P	R	E	A	C	H	E	R	T	E
T	E	A	C	H	I	N	G	S	R	J	E	S	U	S	H	I
E	E	R	F	X	V	B	R	E	P	E	N	T	D	G	A	T
R	H	I	D	E	E	D	I	S	O	W	N	E	D	V	X	N

## MEMORY VERSE GAME

### Picture It

Have the children write the verse, drawing as many pictures for the words as possible.



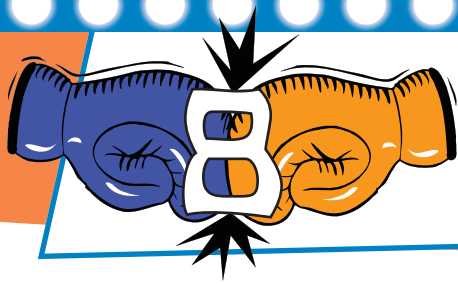
## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(For older students)

1. What makes a hypocrite? Discuss with your students how a hypocrite talks something different from how they live. The most frustrating hypocrites are the ones who passionately preach something that they are not willing to live.
2. Have you ever been frustrated by a church scandal? Which one? All of us are human and make mistakes. It is important that we not place our trust in a famous preacher, but in the Lord Jesus Christ. Do not "bash" this person, but to discuss how easy it can be to preach what we know the Bible says, but how hard it is to live it.
3. When is it right to hide the truth? Discuss with your students different times when deceitfulness may be right. What if someone asks you if they look ugly? It would not be kind to say so. In addition, what if someone asks you to keep a secret for them? Is it correct then to lie to others, and pretend that you do not know the secret?

### IN THE RING

This week, go to someone that you have lied to, and tell them the truth. Apologize for the lie, and ask them to forgive you. Each time you return and tell the truth will be another major win against this sin.



# KINDNESS VS DETACHMENT

Bible story: Ruth and Naomi  
Ruth 1:8-22

## DRAMA

Wise Willy and Foolish Fred are out for a walk and encounter someone with an overloaded bicycle. Fred says it isn't his problem and walks off. Willy stays and helps push the bike.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act."  
Proverbs 3:27

## MAIN LESSON

This week we are learning about detachment verses Kindness. Detachment is an attitude of disengagement, or failing to make a connection. It brings separation instead of unity. Instead of showing kindness to someone, we say, "it is not my problem." More and more in today's times, we have become more detached. We stay in family units, and do not feel obligated to help those who are outside our own group. However, that is not how God wants us to live. One example of kindness would be the Afghan code of honor known as Pashtunwali, where a tribe is required to undertake the responsibility of safeguarding an individual against his enemies and protecting him at all costs. There are stories where Afghans actually died protecting someone they did not know. Another example of kindness instead of detachment would be international maritime law. It is actually required by law to stop and help someone in need on the ocean. Instead of being a code of honor, or just instinct, mariners are obligated to assist someone they have never met. Should we do extraordinary things to help those in need, even where there is no code or law obligating us?

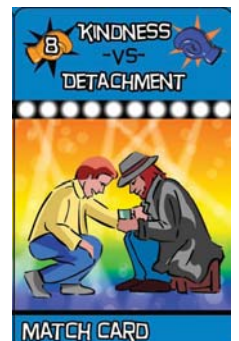
In today's Bible story, Ruth's husband died, as well as her father-in-law and her brother-in-law. In their family, only her mother-in-law and sister-in-law

remained. Neither Ruth, nor her sister-in-law Orpah had children. Naomi decided to make a trip to her homeland, but told both girls that they did not need to go with her, but could return to their families and remarry. Neither girl wanted to leave Naomi alone, but with persuading, Orpah decided to head back to her family. Ruth, however, was not persuaded, but was determined to stay by Naomi's side. Ruth traveled with Naomi, and helped her set up home when they arrived. She also started working in the fields to provide food for them both. Ruth did what she could to support and help her mother in law, but actually went way beyond the normal. In the end, with God's blessing, Ruth was able to remarry in a way to carry on Naomi's family line. Her first child carried the name for Naomi's husband, and so Ruth showed much kindness to Naomi. She did not tell Naomi "it is not my problem" but instead showed kindness and went beyond the normal in her actions and words. Shall we also be like Ruth in kindness, instead of detachment?

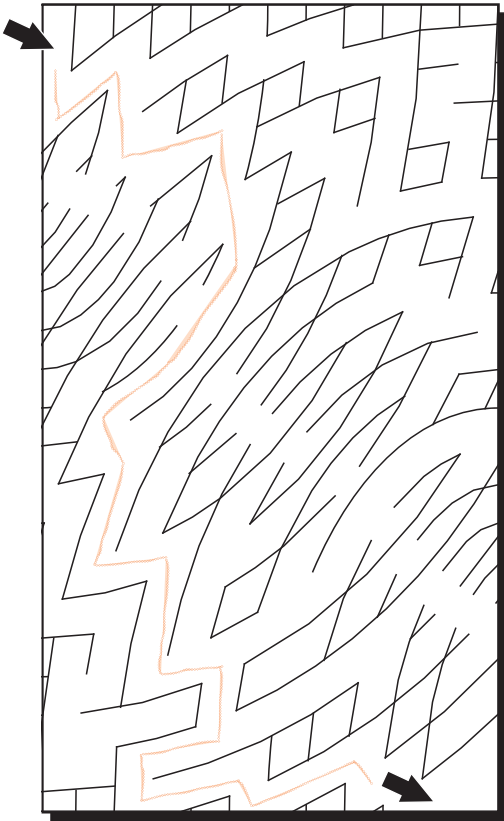
## MEMORY VERSE GAME

### Slips of paper

Write each word of the memory verse on a slip of paper. Children must place the slips in the correct order. You can also tape each piece of paper on the front of each child and have them line up in order.



## PUZZLE ANSWERS



L	I	C	O	D	E	Q	D	H	G	J	R	T
G	N	E	P	R	O	B	L	E	M	G	H	J
H	S	H	O	N	O	R	F	L	A	W	C	A
A	T	T	I	T	U	D	E	P	D	G	O	V
D	I	S	E	N	G	A	G	E	M	E	N	T
N	N	Y	N	A	O	M	I	F	G	H	N	C
M	C	H	W	H	O	S	E	E	D	C	E	V
O	T	H	E	R	S	E	T	U	Y	G	C	S
G	H	L	F	A	I	L	D	F	R	U	T	H
D	E	T	A	C	H	M	E	N	T	L	O	I

DETACHMENT  
ATTITUDE  
DISENGAGEMENT  
FAIL  
CONNECT

WHOSE  
PROBLEM  
HELP  
OTHERS  
CODE

HONOR  
INSTINCT  
LAW  
RUTH  
NAOMI



(For older students)

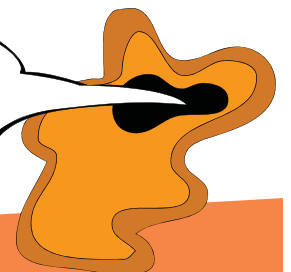
## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What laws does your society have where you are responsible to help those in need? Discuss how different cultures around the world have different unspoken laws in their society. There will be many unspoken rules in every society. Do you have to give to a beggar? If an old woman falls on the street, would people stop and help? If a child were lost, are people expected to help?
2. In your society, in what ways do people often say, "It is not my problem" and refuse to help? Discuss with your students the rules of the society where you live, and where it is ok not to help. For each example, also discuss what they think God expects of us.
3. What does unity in the body of Christ look like? Discuss what the churches would look like in your community if they were truly unified and working together to reach the world for Jesus Christ.

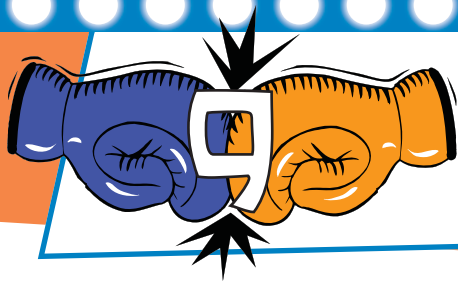
### IN THE RING

Find someone to help, especially if they are "not your problem." Give to a homeless person on the street, or maybe a child at school needs a new pencil or eraser. Make sure they are not related to you, and that you have no responsibility or need to help them.

I do not need to help anyone, because LOOK! I do not even have a real shape! I am just a blob!







# KINDNESS VS MALICE

Bible story: Esther saves her people  
Esther 3-5

## DRAMA

Foolish Fred is really mad at his brother and steals his favorite toy. Wise Willy talks about the times Fred's brother has shared toys or candy and reminds Fred that he really loves his brother. Fred realizes he has no right to be mad and relents.

### MEMORY VERSE

"I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another."  
Romans 15:14

## MAIN LESSON

This week we will be looking at kindness verses malice. Malice is a desire to inflict injury, harm, or suffering on another person, either because of a hostile impulse or out of deep-seated meanness. It is an evil intent on the part of a person who commits a wrongful act.

In today's Bible story, Haman plots to kill the Jews. Originally, he was angry with Mordecai, for not bowing down to him. However, when he found out that Mordecai was a Jew, he did not want only to kill him, but instead he wanted to kill all his people, throughout the whole land of Xerxes. It is amazing how the human heart can get so mean and vindictive. Instead of just killing the one man he was angry with, not Haman wanted to kill a whole people-group!

Our hearts are wicked, and we are born into sin. It takes living by the fruit of the spirit to overcome this malice, and to live with kindness toward others. Even today, all over the world, there are those who want to kill a whole race of people. Over the past 100 years, we have had multiple instances where one race wants to kill another whole race. More than once, people have wanted to kill all the Jews!

Thankfully, in this story in the Bible, Haman was stopped from achieving the malice in his heart.

Mordecai went to Queen Esther and asked her to go to the king to plead for the Jews to be spared. She had everyone fast and pray for 3 days, and then she went to the king. She prepared 3 banquets for the king and Haman, and on the third banquet, she revealed Haman's plan and edict to kill all the Jews.

Queen Esther took a risk to save her people, and God blessed her. She was able to show kindness to others and save them from Haman and his evil plans.

We may not have situations as severe as they did in this true Bible story, but there will always be evil and malice around us. Can we choose to live with kindness, and fight the malice in the world today?

## MEMORY VERSE GAME

### Bean Bag Toss

Have the children sit in a circle on the floor. Write the verse on the board, or on a piece of paper where the children can see it. Then have the children pass a bean bag (or wad of paper, stuffed animal, etc.) to the child next to them, whoever is holding the bean bag says the next word of the verse. To make things more difficult, allow the students to toss the bean bag across the circle to any child to say the next word of the verse.





## PUZZLE ANSWERS

M	A	L	I	C	E	H	G	F	K
J	M	E	A	N	H	A	R	M	I
I	N	J	U	R	Y	N	D	E	L
H	A	M	O	N	X	O	A	S	I
V	I	N	D	I	C	T	I	V	E
P	L	O	T	S	C	H	B	T	S
R	K	I	N	D	N	E	S	S	T
J	E	W	S	V	B	R	X	S	H
B	A	N	Q	U	E	T	A	Z	E
I	N	F	L	I	C	T	S	E	R

KINDNESS	ANOTHER	MEAN
MALICE	HAMON	VINDICTIVE
INFLECT	PLOTS	ESTHER
INJURY	KILL	BANQUET
HARM	JEWS	

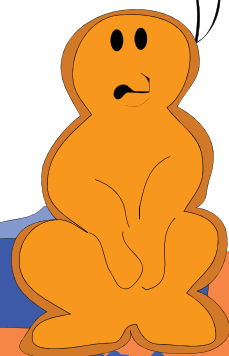
(For older students)

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

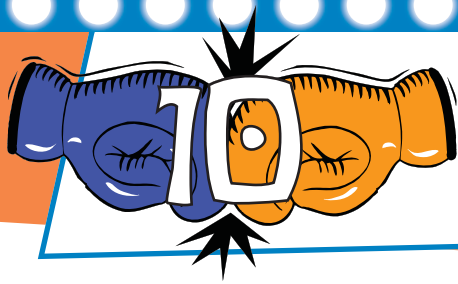
1. Why doesn't God just wipe out all the evil people? God loves everyone and continues to hope that they will repent of their evil ways and turn to Him. Wishing God would wipe out the evil people is dangerous because many of us are hiding evil in our own hearts, so we would end up getting wiped out too!
2. Almost all countries have a story when they tried to kill off a whole race of people. What is your country's story? Some countries killed off large portions of indigenous peoples, but now are trying to hide the truth. Research before class your country's past so that you are ready to share that history with your students. The idea is to show that many stories in the Bible are similar to stories of today. Evil was in the hearts of men then, just as it is today.
3. Are babies born pure and without sin? The Bible says that we are born into sin, so babies would therefore NOT be pure, but have sin already in their hearts when they are born. If the baby is not pure, but is born into sin as the Bible states, does that mean it will be going to hell? Many do not want to believe that, so they imagine babies are pure for a while. But we all know children who are 1 or 2 years old who act terrible and need to be disciplined. When does sin enter our hearts?

### IN THE RING

Protect someone this week from someone who is being mean to them for no reason. As we protect someone else, we will also combat this sin in our own hearts. Risk your own reputation to protect someone else.



Ouch! It hurts when others are mean to me.



# GOODNESS VS APATHY

Bible story: Sodom and Gomorrah  
Genesis 18:16-33

## DRAMA

Wise Willy and Foolish Fred have an argument. Willy wants to invite the new boy at school over to play. Fred says it isn't his problem, he doesn't even know the boy. Willy argues that they should be nice to the new boy even though they aren't yet friends and gives him a gift.

## MEMORY VERSE

"Anyone who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty."  
Job 6:14

## MAIN LESSON

This week our match fight is goodness verses apathy. Goodness is often considered moral excellence or virtue. However, true goodness includes showing a concern for others. This is where apathy comes in and tries to block our goodness. Apathy is an absence or suppression of passion, emotion or excitement. It is a lack of interest or concern for others. The Bible says that one day the Lord himself appeared to Abraham. He was out by a tree, when he saw three men standing nearby. There were two angels and the third was the Lord himself. (19:1, 18:1,13,17,20,26,33) After he fed them, and they gave special promises to Abraham, they decided to share their plans with him. The sin from two cities had become so terrible, that the Lord had decided to come down from heaven and destroy these cities, called Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham spoke up saying, "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the city?" It is wonderful how Abraham shows compassion and concern for others. Apathy would have stood there, maybe sad for the city being destroyed, but not willing to do anything about it. Apathy would say, "It is not my problem." He might have said, "Good thing I don't live there." However, Abraham shows goodness by actually going to the Lord, asking Him to spare the cities if there are 50 righteous people. The Lord and Abraham proceed to have a discussion back and forth, where Abraham

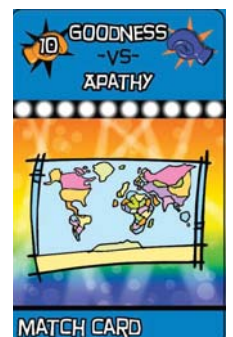
is bolder and bolder each time. He first asks if the Lord will spare the city for 50 people, but then he continually shrinks the number. Abraham follows by asking God for mercy if there are only 40 righteous people. Then he asks for only 30. Abraham continues to be bold, and asks if God will spare the cities for only 20 righteous people. Finally, Abraham questions God, "What if only ten can be found there?" God agrees to the constant questions, and says He will not destroy the cities if there are 10 righteous people. They finish speaking, and Abraham returns home. Sadly, there was not 10 righteous people, and so the Lord decides to destroy the cities anyway. Abraham had some family living in Sodom: Lot and his family. The angels of the Lord went to Lot's home and helped them escape. Then the Lord sent fire and destroyed the cities and that whole area. Abraham put his own life at risk, in order to save the lives of others. He fought apathy to have a good heart; he was a person that cared about others. Can you fight apathy in your life, and care about the well-being of those around you?

## MEMORY VERSE GAME

### Act it out

Act out the memory verse with motions or signs.

This game is great because it's visual, active, and auditory.



## PUZZLE ANSWERS

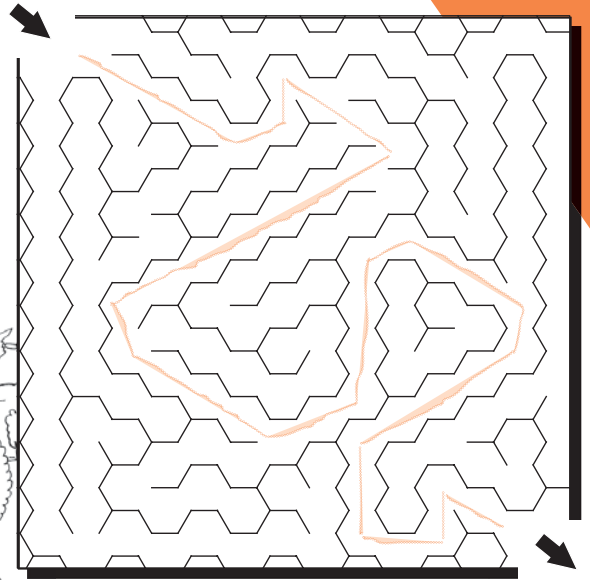
A	B	R	A	H	A	M	H	F	T	L	A	C	K	L	P	D
H	E	A	R	T	E	R	O	T	H	E	R	S	J	O	A	E
D	E	X	C	I	T	E	M	E	N	T	C	V	H	R	S	S
C	O	N	C	E	R	N	O	I	T	D	S	W	E	D	S	T
A	N	G	E	L	S	C	G	O	O	D	N	E	S	S	I	R
W	A	P	A	T	H	Y	J	L	C	I	T	I	E	S	O	O
C	O	M	P	A	S	S	I	O	N	C	B	V	F	S	N	Y

GOODNESS  
CONCERN  
OTHERS  
APATHY  
LACK  
PASSION  
EXCITEMENT

LORD  
ABRAHAM  
ANGELS  
DESTROY  
CITIES  
COMPASSION  
HEART



(For older students)



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What would you do if the Lord himself showed up at your house for a visit? How wonderful would it be to have the Lord visit? Maybe you would cook a good meal, or take Him to a great restaurant, prepare a bed for the Lord, and invite over church members to worship together?
  2. What apathy is in your neighborhood? Do people say, "It is not my problem?" Discuss specifics of your community and when neighbors would not be willing to get involved in other's problems. If you were to get involved, would there be a punishment for you?
  3. Are angels real? Is there an angel in our class right now?
- Discuss with your students if they really believe in angels. Would they be able to see one in class if he was there? Look up verses in the Bible that talk about angels to learn more about them.

### IN THE RING

Pray and ask God to increase passion in your heart this week. Look for something you can do for others to increase your passion for others. Visit a ministry and learn about what they are doing, help out in a shelter that feeds others, or watch videos about needs around the world. Participate where you can.

Why should I worry about someone else? I have my own troubles down in this hole!



# GOODNESS VS EVIL

Bible story: Herod and John the Baptist  
Luke 3:18-20, Matthew 14:1-12

## DRAMA

Wise Willy and Foolish Fred hear a radio report about some innocent people who were killed in gang violence. Fred gets upset and worried, hiding behind a blanket. Willy reminds Fred that God is ultimately in control and that evil will be punished and goodness will be rewarded.

## MEMORY VERSE

"Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it."  
Psalm 34:14

## MAIN LESSON

There is evil in the world. Men and woman at any time can hurt us, but we can always trust God. Ever since sin entered the world, there has been evil in the hearts of all men. However, some men fight the evil constantly, and try to live good lives. Whereas others do not fight it at all, but actually seem to enjoy living an evil life. We all fight against evil in our own hearts; even if it is small, it is there.

In today's Bible story, we see a man who lives an evil life. Herod the tetrarch did many evil things, but when John the Baptist rebuked him, Herod locked John up in jail!

Herod had taken his own brother's wife, Herodias, and so John had rebuked him. Herod then bound him up, and arrested him. During Herod's birthday party, the daughter of Herodias danced for them, and Herod was so pleased that he offered her whatever she wanted. Prompted by her mother, she asked to have John the Baptist killed. Herod felt he had no options, so he did it. (For older students, you can mention that she asked to have John the Baptist's head brought into the party on a platter.) It is truly terrible what happened in this Bible story. However, John the Baptist had accomplished what God asked him to do, to prepare the way for the Lord.

The Bible makes it very clear that there is a heaven and a hell. When we trust God for our salvation, believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, we can know that we will go to heaven. Those who have not believed will be going to hell. We all will live for eternity in heaven or hell.

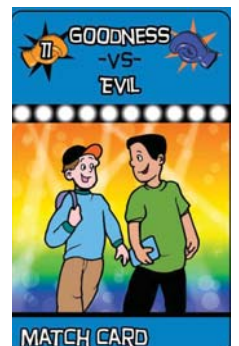
This is useful information because we all face evil people. It can be very frustrating to see an evil person getting away with their evil, with no justice or punishment. However, it is comforting to know that the injustice in the world will only exist here on earth. Once we die, we will be free, if we have trusted in Jesus Christ for our salvation.

Therefore, although evil happens in the world all around me, I can be certain that this evil cannot touch my soul and spirit. It can hurt my body and can even kill me, but when I get to heaven with John the Baptist, I will be free from all evil.

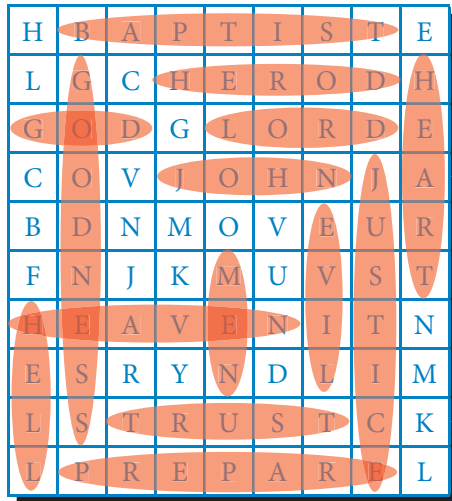
## MEMORY VERSE GAME

### Musical Ball Game

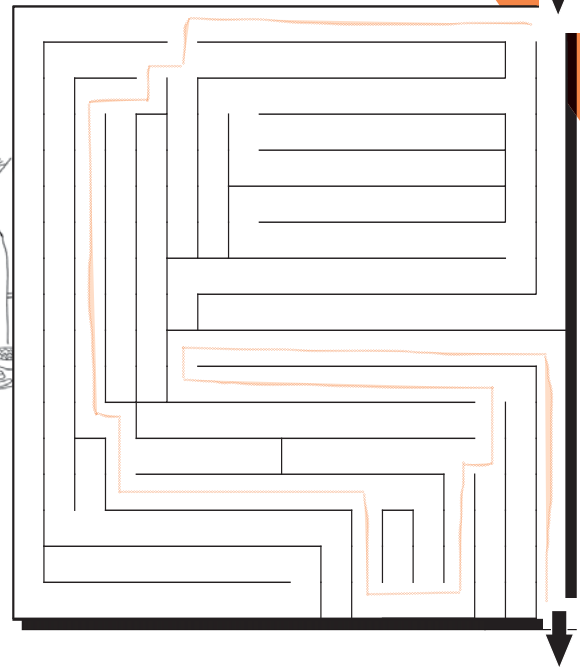
Learn the verse first, repeating it several times, or by any game. Then start the music and have the children pass the ball around a circle or the classroom (a good rule to mention is, "no throwing the ball"). When the music stops, the child with the ball gets to say the verse or to choose someone to say the verse for them. Continue until all have had an opportunity to say the verse on their own.



## PUZZLE ANSWERS



GOODNESS	GOD	LORD
EVIL	HEROD	HEAVEN
HEART	JOHN	HELL
MEN	BAPTIST	JUSTICE
TRUST	PREPARE	



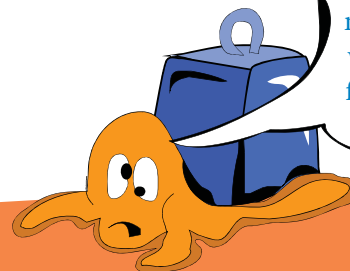
(For older students)

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What will heaven be like, and who will go there? There will be no death, no sin, no night, no pain, no rust, but there will be a new earth and New Jerusalem, mansions, worship, music, and joy. We will receive our promised rewards, much better than we can imagine. (It is NOT going us floating around in the clouds, playing harps, and not knowing what to do with our time.) (Luke 15:10-32; 20:36; Revelation 5:8,9; 7:16,17; 14:2,3; 15:2,3; 21:4,25; 22:5)
2. What will hell be like, and who will go there? The Bible says that hell will have weeping and crying, as well as gnashing of teeth, and a place with eternal flames. People will go there when they die if they have not trusted in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for their salvation. (Malachi 4:1; Matthew 13:42-50, 16:18; Revelation 9:2, 12, 20:14)
3. Can the evil things people do against me hurt my spirit? Evil on this earth can really only touch our bodies. (Matthew 10:28) Unless we allow them to affect our spirit. Discuss with your students what anger and unforgiveness can do to our spirits. Talk about how our reactions to evil done against us can actually effect our spirits if we let it. Only if we let them, can they hurt us eternally!

### IN THE RING

Look around you for the presence of evil, where someone is hurting another for apparently no reason. Find a way to intervene this week to protect the innocent person. Maybe helping them walk a different way home from school, providing a lunch, or having a group of 4 join you in walking with them.



I had no idea people could be this mean. It might take me a while to get out from under this weight.





# GOODNESS VS SELFISH AMBITION

Bible story: Tower of Babel  
Genesis 11:1-9

## DRAMA

Wise Willy and Foolish Fred are in a race, Willy is ahead. Fred reaches-out and grabs Willy's shirt and pulls him down so Fred can get ahead. Fred is dis-qualified from the race.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves."  
Philippians 2:3

## MAIN LESSON

This week our lesson is a fight with goodness against selfish ambition. One definition for ambition is "An earnest desire for some type of achievement or distinction, as power, honor, fame, wealth, and the willingness to strive for its attainment." We would like to think that ambition is a good thing, but we must be very careful with it.

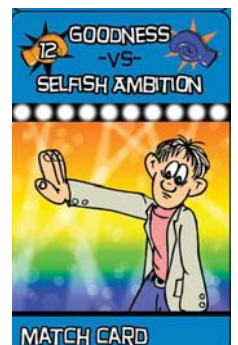
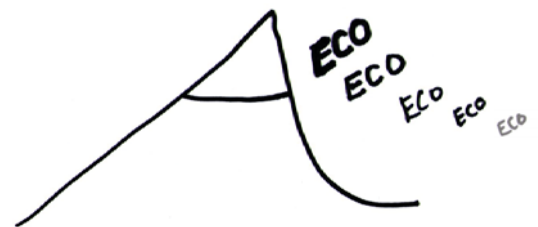
Today's Bible story is the tower of Babel. This is a real story where God decided to confuse the people of the world because they had too much ambition. They wanted fame, and to make a name for themselves. The Bible says that before this time, we all spoke one language, and lived on one side of the planet. But when God saw their selfish ambition as they built a city and a huge tower, he confused all their languages, and scattered them all over the earth. What stands out is that God himself stood against the people. This was not an attack from the devil, or from evil people. Instead, God himself was against them. But, Why? One Bible version says "They wanted to make themselves famous" and another says, "They wanted to make a name for themselves." There is a wonderful worship song by Chris

Tomlin, "Whom shall I fear". The song talks of angel armies that are on our side. It is exciting to think that no one will be able to come against us, when God is on our side. But this story on the tower of Babel shows one instance when God will NOT be on our side. When we are trying to achieve power, honor, fame, and wealth for ourselves, God is not on our side. In fact, He may go completely against us, as He did long ago in this account from the Bible. Part of goodness, therefore, is to stay humble and watch out for our own selfish ambition. This is important, because you really do not want to have God himself against you!

## MEMORY VERSE GAME

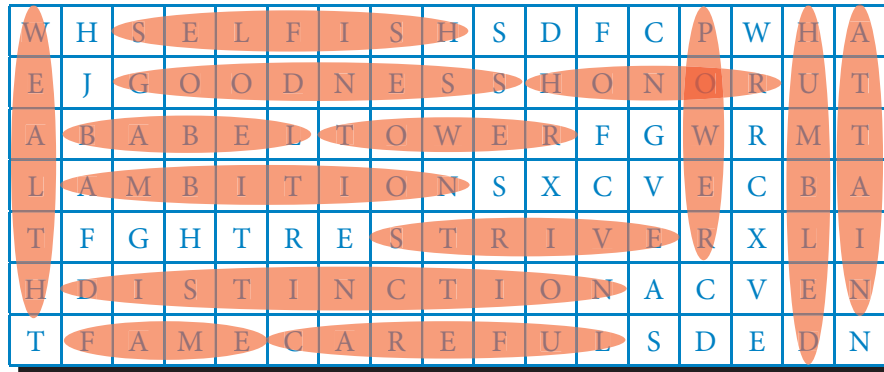
### Echo Mountain

Divide the entire group into three teams, for example; teachers, boys, and girls. One group starts by saying the first word or phrase of the memory verse, another team echo's, and then the final team. Continue the game, adding variety changing up the way you say each word. Ideas are: whispering, shouting, squeaking, talking in a macho voice, like the whale from finding Nemo, super-fast, Super Slow, opera, super quiet like a mouse, under water, or like a robot. Have fun with it!





## PUZZLE ANSWERS



GOODNESS  
SELFISH  
AMBITION  
POWER  
HONOR

WEALTH  
DISTINCTION  
FAME  
STRIVE  
ATTAIN

CAREFUL  
TOWER  
BABEL  
HUMBLING

(For older students)

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

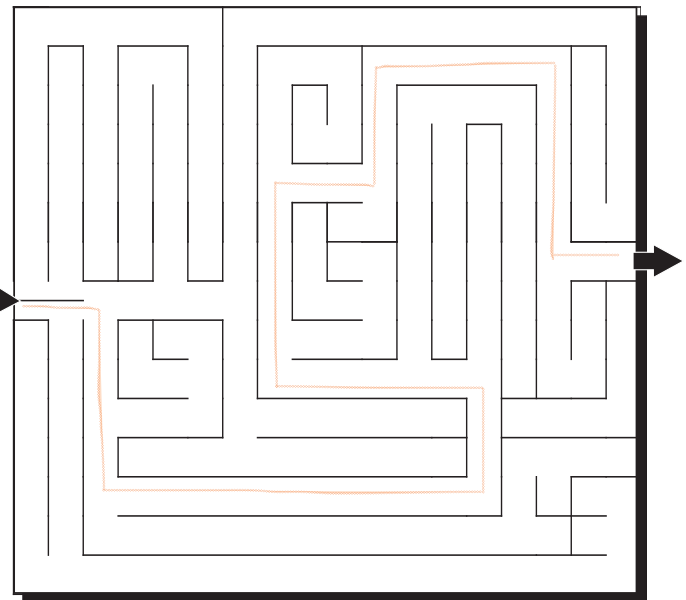
1. Name some examples of Christian fame. Do you think that sometimes people want to make a name for themselves?

Talk with your students about how God can see inside our hearts and see our motives. This could be singing, dancing, playing instruments, speaking, preaching, acting, and even praying. Talk about instances where you could tell if the person praying was actually putting on a show for the humans around, or actually praying to God.

2. How easy would life be if God himself were against you? Talk with your students about how as Christians we always assume that God is on our side. But that this Bible story clearly shows that if we allow selfish ambition to dominate our lives God himself will stand against us. Talk about different situations that would be very difficult if God were against you.

3. What are ways that we can humble ourselves so that God does not have to?

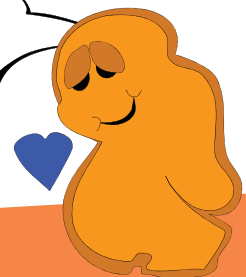
Here are some ideas: take the smaller piece of cake, give the better assignment to someone else, give credit to a friend instead of taking all the credit, do not take the main singing role, or give someone else a chance to play your instrument.



### IN THE RING

Do nothing this week to increase your fame or popularity. Each time an opportunity arises, turn it down. As you do this, you will be punching down this very sneaky sin.

I am so awesome!  
When I want something, I go for it!





## GOODNESS VS IMPURITY

Bible story: Joseph and Potiphar  
Genesis 39:1-21

### DRAMA

Foolish Fred takes a rotten fruit and tries to convince Wise Willy it is really good fruit even though it looks rotten outside. Willy cuts it open and shows that if it looks rotten outside, it is rotten inside.

### MEMORY VERSE

"With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith."

2 Thessalonians 1:11

### MAIN LESSON

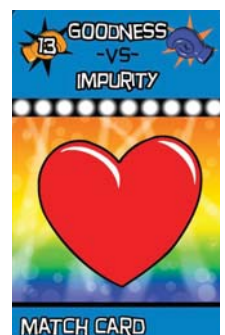
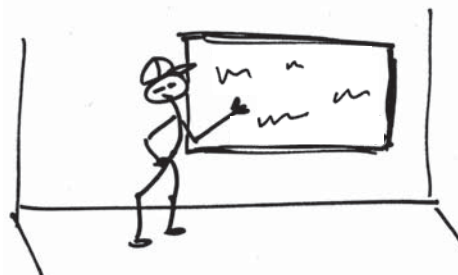
Impurity is something that ruins the uncontaminated nature of something. In this case, our hearts are what we would like to be pure and uncontaminated, and our actions show what is going on in our hearts. For example, if your actions are impure, we know there is impurity in your heart. In today's Bible story, Joseph was trying to have the fruit of the spirit "goodness", but Potiphar's wife is trying to pull him down with impurity. When Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery, he was brought down to Egypt and sold to Potiphar, the captain of the guard. Here had had dreams of success, but was experiencing the opposite. As a slave, the Lord blessed Joseph, and he found favor in his master's eyes. Potiphar put Joseph in charge of everything in his house. Joseph was well built and handsome, and after a while, his master's wife took notice of him. She flirted with Joseph, and invited him to sin with her, but Joseph refused. She chased him every day, but he always ran away. One day she grabbed his cloak, but he ran away, leaving his cloak behind. She kept his cloak with her until her husband came home, and then falsely accused Joseph. Potiphar was so angry that he fired Joseph from his job, and threw him in jail! Once again, Joseph was back at the back at the bottom, wondering when God was going to fulfil those dreams he had when he was young. Again, God blessed Joseph, and he prospered even from jail.

It is important to note, that Joseph had done nothing wrong. When another person attacks you or me, we have not sinned. They sinned against us. God does not look at us as damaged or no longer of use. God looks at our hearts. Since Joseph remained pure in his heart, and fled away from the impurity, God continued to bless him. People may sin against you, but they cannot take your heart. That you give away. If we can watch our hearts, during hard times and easy times, we can remain pure and win the match fight against impurity!

### MEMORY VERSE GAME

#### Erase a Word

Write the memory verse on the board. Erase the verse a word at a time, each time asking the children to say the verse.



## PUZZLE ANSWERS

G	U	I	U	H	E	A	R	T	S	R	A	C	T	I	O	N	S
E	J	O	S	E	P	H	S	L	A	V	E	R	Y	H	W	U	P
S	R	C	O	N	T	A	M	I	N	A	T	E	D	E	G	H	U
T	W	I	F	E	I	M	P	U	R	I	T	Y	B	A	D	R	R
A	D	E	M	O	N	S	T	R	A	T	E	U	I	R	F	G	E
Y	D	G	U	P	O	T	I	P	H	A	R	U	G	T	R	U	I

IMPURITY  
WIFE  
STAY  
PURE  
HEART  
JOSEPH

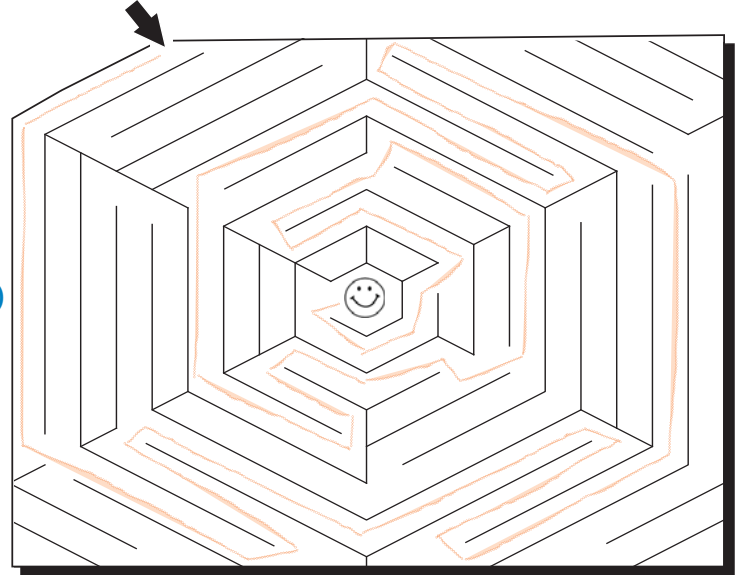
ACTIONS  
HEARTS  
SLAVERY  
POTIPHAR  
DEMONSTRATE  
CONTAMINATED



(For older students)

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What do you think about all the students in your school that have boyfriends/girlfriends? Discuss the amount of students that have boyfriends/ girlfriends. Do your students feel left out if they do not have one? What are they expected to do? Do they plan to marry their boyfriend/girlfriend?
2. Are you handsome/ beautiful? After your students finish laughing, talk about God's standards verses the worlds standards for beauty. Discuss what the world is looking for, and if those items matter to God. Try not to preach at them, but come to the conclusion with them that God cares about our hearts, and not the outside appearances.
3. If someone has been hurt, are they damaged and no longer pure? Teachers, the real question is "if someone has been morally violated..." and I know that this is a very difficult topic. As a courtesy to you, we have chosen to leave out the words "morally violated" from the student book. However, please be brave and open up a discussion with your students, if your church authorities will allow it. Over the whole world, victims are being blamed for the sins of others. Many young people have been morally violated in one way or another. This is not a topic that your students do not need, but one they are probably facing every day! In today's Bible story, Joseph was blamed for morally violating Potiphar's wife, but he was falsely accused. Use this Bible story as a way to open up the discussion and change the lives of your students forever. Does God see Joseph as unclean, damaged, and no longer pure? NO! God knows that Joseph did not do it. She attacked Joseph. In addition, God looks at our hearts. If someone else has attacked you, you are not damaged. THEY are unclean. You are an innocent victim. If you can forgive them, you will be free to live a full and wonderful life, pure before God.



### IN THE RING

Take care of your heart this week. If something has been done against you, remember that they are the ones that sinned, not you. Say in prayer every day, "I am pure before you, God". If you have done something against someone else, apologize to that person and to God. Then you can keep praying, "I am pure before you, God."



Can I run from this situation by climbing up this ladder?



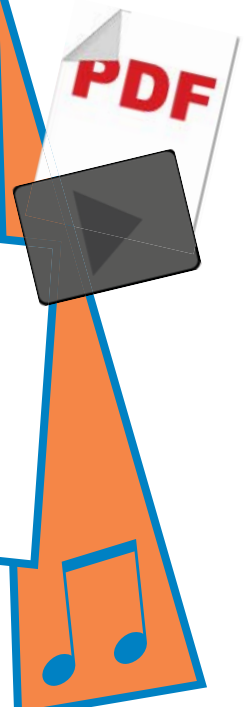
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