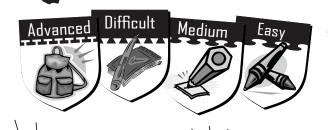
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CINIONS -

by the Fruit of the Spirit



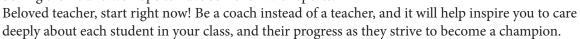
TEACHER BOOK

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.



by the Fruit of the Spirit Galatians

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.

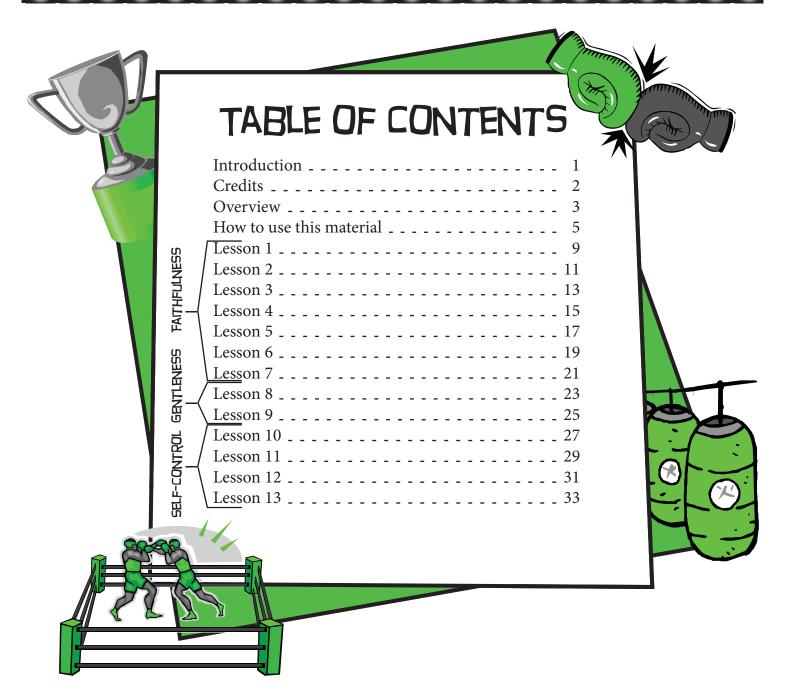
Your final job as their coach is to reward them and encourage them when they succeed. Prepare some awards to be able to hand out. Give them a hug or a special shout of encouragement for each "punch," round, or match won. The behavior you reward will be the behavior you receive as your students strive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





CHILDREN ARE IMPORTANT

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CHAMPIONS UNIT 3

SS当フココルド

7

FAITHFULNESS VS IDOLATRY

Bible story: The Ark is captured 1 Samuel 5:1-12, 6, 7:3



MEMORY VERSE

"You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below." Exodus 20:4



FAITHFULNESS VS DISLOYALTY

Bible story: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego Daniel 3:1-21



MEMORY VERSE

"Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name." Psalm 86:11



FAITHFULNESS VS HESITATION

Bible story: The Lord calls Samuel 1 Samuel 3:1-21



MEMORY VERSE

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1



FAITHFULNESS VS DISOBEDIENCE

Bible story: Spies in Canaan Numbers 13:1-3,17-33, 14:1-11



MEMORY VERSE

"But Moses said, 'Why are you disobeying the Lord's command? This will not succeed!" Numbers 14:41



FAITHFULNESS VS WITHHOLDING

Bible story: Abraham and Isaac Genesis 22:1-18



MEMORY VERSE

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." Hebrews 11:6

UNIT 3: 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



FAITHFULNESS VS UNRELIABILITY

Bible story: Noah and the Ark Genesis 5:32, 6:1-22, 7:1-12



MEMORY VERSE

"But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds." James 2:18



FAITHFULNESS VS DOUBT

Bible story: Jesus appears to Thomas John 20:24-31



MEMORY VERSE

"Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29



GENTLENESS VS DISSENSION

Bible story: Abraham and Lot separate Genesis 13:1-18



MEMORY VERSE

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." Ephesians 4:2



GENTLENESS VS TRADITIONS

Bible story: Clean and unclean Matthew 15:1-20



MEMORY VERSE

"Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God- even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved." 1 Corinthians 10:32-33



GENTLENESS VS BITTERNESS

Bible story: Cain and Abel Genesis 4:1-16



MEMORY VERSE

"Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice." Ephesians 4:31



SELF-CONTROL VS TEMPTATIONS No temptation has overtaken you except what is

Bible story: Jesus is tempted Matthew 4:1-11



common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it." 1 Corinthians 10:13



SELF-CONTROL VS LYING

Bible story: Jacob steals Esau's blessing Genesis 27:1-36



MEMORY VERSE

"A lying tongue hates those it hurts, and a flattering mouth works ruin." Proverbs 26:28



SELF-CONTROL VS LAZINESS

Bible story: The wise and foolish builders Matthew 7:24-27



MEMORY VERSE

"If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them." James 4:17

HOW TO USE THIS MATERIAL



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.



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.

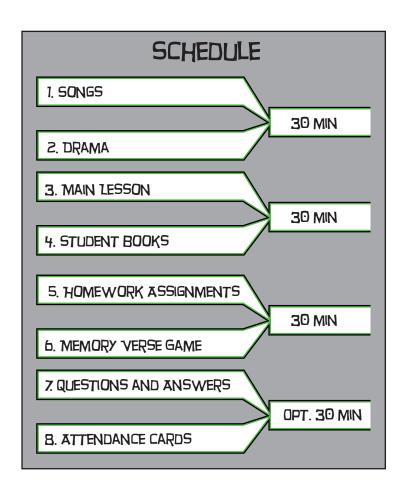


HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS (IN THE RING)

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.







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 adolescents (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.



Choose 2 assignments from God to do this week. The first being something God asked you NOT to do, and the other something God asked you to do. Obey God in both items to win against disobedience.

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.

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:

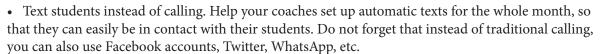
- Meet with all the coaches for 5 minutes before class each week to discuss assignment and encourage them to coach faithfully their students.
- Call/text coaches weekly to remind them of the assignment. (Suggested=Tuesday)
- Call/text coaches a second time weekly to get report of assignments done. (Suggested=Friday)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





- 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?

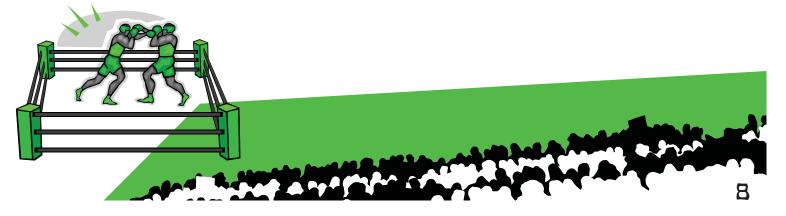


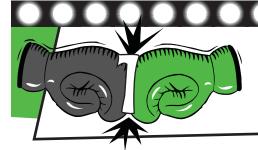
AWARD CEREMONIES _

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!





FAITHFULNESS VS IDOLATRY

Bible story: The Ark is captured

1 Samuel 5:1-12, 6, 7:3

DRAMA

Wise Willy and Foolish Fred are playing football and Fred scores a goal. He is so excited he takes off his tennis shoe and sock. He kisses it and says, "Thanks, lucky sock! Without you I wouldn't have scored!!!

MEMORY VERSE

"You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below." Exodus 20:4

MAIN LESSON

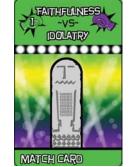
Welcome back to unit 3 of "Champions by the fruit of the Spirit!" We are kicking off this unit with the fruit of the spirit "faithfulness". This word has many meanings, including dependability, piety, trustworthiness, truth, belief, and even attachment. But as I studied the word "Faithfulness" in the Bible, the largest use by far was "loyalty" to God. Since the Bible covered the "loyalty" part of faithfulness so frequently, we will be spending 7 weeks on faithfulness, and 5 weeks will focus on sins that attack our loyalty to God. Today's match fight is faithfulness against Idolatry, the first, and maybe the most important attack on our loyalty to God. The 10 commandments (Exodus 20:1-6) begin with these two commands: 1) You shall have no other gods before me, 2) You shall not make an idol to worship. At the end of verse 6, God mentions that He is a jealous God, and how very important it is to Him that we love Him and keep His commandments. In today's Bible story, the Philistines had stolen the Ark of the covenant, and placed it alongside their idol Dagon. In the morning, they found their idol toppled flat on his face! They put their idol back upright, but the next morning, he was toppled again, with his head and arms broken

off! God also punished the people with tumors and rats. (Please look up more of the story from the Bible.) There are places around the world where it is common to make idols. They are made from wood, stone, or even paper. They are given parades, ceremonies, candles, time off work, and celebrations. Some places have idols that are so foreign to the Bible, that it is obvious that we should not worship them. Other idols are made from the Bible, even idols of Jesus himself, and so it is hard to know what to do. God makes it clear to us in the 10 commandments that He does not want us worshiping ANY IDOLS. There are other places around the world where idols are not common at all. In these countries, we tend to make other hidden idols for ourselves; like sports, TV, or famous preachers. Idolatry in any form is a sin against God. He desires our whole hearts. The best example I can think of would be the marriage covenant. How would it look in your town, village, or city if a new bride disrespected her husband, and ran around with whatever men she wanted, in plain sight for all to see? It would be terrible! In the same way, if we chase after other gods in various idols, we are like that bride who is disrespecting her husband. First and foremost, in our Christian walk, we must be a faithful bride to Christ. That means NO idols, and publically refusing to participate in something that would dishonor our God. Even if we are worshiping an idol of Jesus himself, it is not ok. A bride should not worship an idol of her husband, but should instead enjoy being with her husband, enjoy his company and respecting him in front of others. In some countries, not participating in parades for idols could even risk our lives! In other countries, it is very easy to be faithful, as no one cares about idols. Either way, it is very important to God and He can see our actions. Are you willing to take this first step in being faithful to God? Can you commit to being loyal to God and fight this sin of idolatry?

MEMORY VERSE GAME

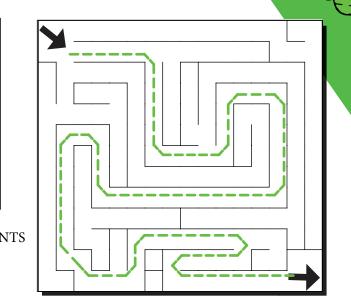
Quote if you...

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.



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FAITHFULNESS	PHILISTINES	COMMANDMEN
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IDOLATRY	COVENANT	CANDLES
WORSHIP	DAGON	FAME
GOD	TOPPLED	LOYALTY
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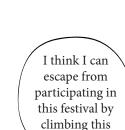


QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(For older students)

What if my parents have idols in our home? God holds us responsible for our own actions, and knows that our parents are not under our authority. Therefore, we are responsible to not pray to the idols or participate in worshiping them, but we are not responsible to get rid of the idol that belongs to someone else. However, sometimes, God will ask us to confront our parents, or even to destroy an idol. However, in many cases, they will only purchase another, because we cannot force a heart change.

Is there someone famous in your community that people idolize? Allow some time for your students to discuss famous people from the movies, from your church's denomination, politicians, or rich people in the community. Discuss how they are also just humans. What celebrations in your city or community are for worshipping idols? When we grow up in a community that has regular festivals for idols, we can become accustomed to them, that we do not even realize that participating would be disloyal to God! Discuss what parades, parties, candles, actions or festivals are present in your city, and what they celebrate.

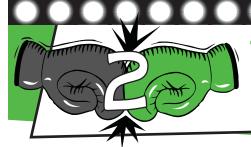


ladder!

IN THE RING

Choose an activity to NOT participate in because it may have idolatry. It may be a custom to remove your shoes, a parade to not participate in, a sports game you choose not to attend, or not buying flowers when others do.

10



FAITHFULNESS VS DISLOYALTY

Bible story: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego Daniel 3:1-21

DRAMA .

At a birthday party, Wise Willy and Foolish Fred are playing a game with others holding hands in a circle. Someone says, "Circles of three," and the children regroup to circles of three. Someone says, "Circles of five," and they regroup again. In each case any extra people who cannot form the correct size of group are out of the game. Willy and Fred have been in the same groups all the time, but when the groups get down to three, Fred goes to a different group than Willy, leaving Willie without his friend.

MEMORY VERSE

"Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name." Psalm 86:11

MAIN LESSON

Our match fight this week is faithfulness against disloyalty. It is very important to God that we are loyal to Him, and it is a huge part of being a faithful Christian. Loyalty has a lot to do with trust as well. When we are loyal to friends at school, it means they can trust us to keep their secrets, stand up for them, and always be on their side, if they are present or not

The difficulty comes when we face peer-pressure. We feel peer-pressure when others push on us to change our attitudes, values or behaviors to conform to the group. It can be very difficult to stand firm in our loyalty to God when we are facing incredible peer-pressure from others at school or in the neighborhood. They may want us to be unkind to someone else, or they may want us to say we believe in other gods when we do not.

Loyalty to God means that He can trust us, regardless of the pressure around us. It means that we are for God no matter what. When we are loyal, nothing people say will make us deny Jesus Christ or God at school, play, or in the neighborhood.

In today's Bible story, we see Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego face incredible peer pressure to bow to a golden image the king had set up. The announcement was made that anyone who does not bow down would be thrown into a furnace of fire! They must have felt incredible pressure from everyone around them. But they chose not to give in to the pressure, even though it meant sure death. Regardless of the amount of warnings they received and threats on their lives, they chose to remain faithful to God.

They refused to bow down. The king became very furious and threw them into the furnace! The furnace was so hot that it killed the men who threw Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego into the furnace. The king was amazed at what he saw, because, although he had thrown in only 3 men, he could now see 4 men walking around alive inside the furnace!!! The king ordered them to come out, and when they did, there was no smell of fire on them. Seeing this, the king praised their God, who had protected them from the fire! In some countries, even today people face death when they publically profess to be a Christian. But for those who live in countries with more religious freedom, it can still be difficult to publically profess to be a Christian when there is intense peer pressure. If we are to win this battle against disloyalty, we must be willing to be faithful to God and our Lord Jesus Christ, regardless of the cost.

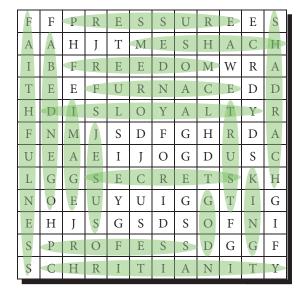
MEMORY VERSE GAME

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.

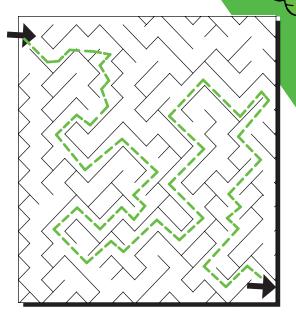






FAITHFULNESS
DISLOYALTY
CHRISTIANITY
TRUST
SECRETS
PRESSURE
SHADRACH
MESHACH
ABEDNEGO
IMAGE
KING
FURNACE
JESUS
FREEDOM
PROFESS

GOD



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(For older students)

Have you ever told a friend's personal secret to others? What happened?

Give time for your students to share their stories. In many cases, when we are disloyal to a friend, by telling their secret, we lose that friendship. They stop talking to you or they refuse to walk to school with you, for example. Some friends are able to forgive when we are disloyal, but it often requires some proof of loyalty.

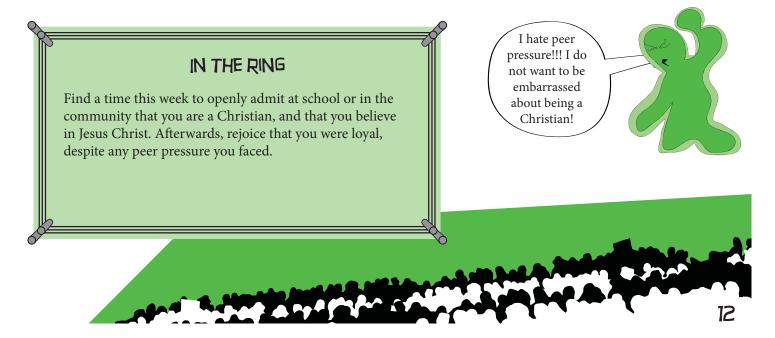


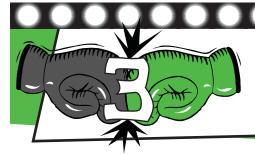
What peer pressure exists to hide that you are a Christian where you live?

Give time for your students to share. Have a real story ready for your life, or from the news regarding a Christian who stood up for their faith.

If a friend is absent, can we be disloyal, since they are not there?

Talk about how much it hurts when people betray us behind our backs. Real loyalty only exists when we are true to our friends whether they are present or not. God can see all our actions, so there is no use hiding our disloyalty from Him. But even if he could not see, He would want us to be faithful to Him while at church, at school, on the street, at home, or anywhere we go.





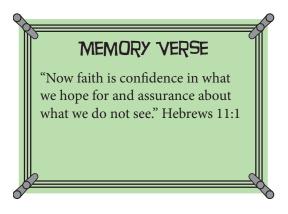
FAITHFULNESS VS HESITATION

Bible story: The Lord calls Samuel

1 Samuel 3:1-21

DRAMA

Wise Willy and Foolish Fred are happy to go to the zoo. Fred didn't know whether to bring his favorite toy or his lunch for the visit to the zoo. Fred decided to bring his toy, and finally he was so hungry he tried to eat his toy.



MAIN LESSON

Our match fight this week is faithfulness against hesitation. It is very important that we respond to God, and it is a huge part of being a faithful Christian. God speaks to us in many ways, but often times, we do not want to stop and listen to Him. We choose to pause and wait before responding to God. Sometimes we give no answer at all, hoping that God will not notice. How can we know if it was God talking to us? Have you ever experienced doubts that God was actually asking you to do something?

Today's Bible story is about a young boy who also experienced doubts that God was talking to him.

Samuel was a young boy who was given to the Lord by his mother. Even though he was still young, Samuel lived in the temple, and served God and the priest Eli. One night, as they were going to sleep at night, Samuel heard someone calling him. He assumed it was the priest Eli, so he got up and went to the priest. However, Eli said, "I did not call, go back and lie down." This happened two more times, and the priest Eli told Samuel to lie back down. However, each time Samuel was sure someone had called him! On the third time, the priest Eli figured out that it must have been God calling to Samuel. He instructed Samuel to answer God by saying, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." When God called Samuel again, he was ready and responded to God perfectly! Then God gave a special word to Samuel, and his life as a

prophet began, even though he was still young. It is not important how old you are, or how damaged you feel. God looks for boys and girls who will listen to His voice, and will believe and obey. One sin that we fight is the temptation to hesitate or wait before responding to God. In the case of Samuel, he did not respond correctly until the 4th time, but that was acceptable to God. If you think about it, Samuel still responded on the same evening. However, what will happen if God calls us to action, but we do not respond on the same evening? What if we wait a week to respond to God? Maybe God will show you someone at school who needs help. Will you hesitate, or quickly respond? Our memory verse for today shows that being confident in a God we cannot see means we have faith. Believing that He has called to us, even though we cannot hear Him with our ears, means we have faith. If you and I are going to have a strong faith, one that can win matches, we must believe when God speaks to us. And if we truly believe, we will act without much hesitation!

MEMORY VERSE GAME

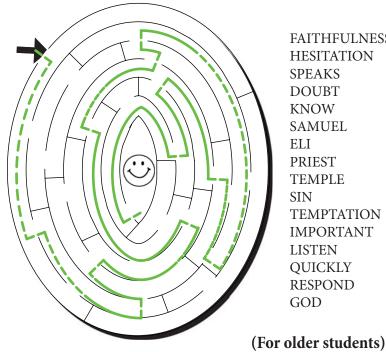
Musical Ball Game

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 the Continue until all have had an opportunity to say the verse on their own.









FAITHFULNESS HESITATION **SPEAKS DOUBT KNOW SAMUEL ELI PRIEST TEMPLE** SIN **TEMPTATION IMPORTANT** LISTEN **QUICKLY** RESPOND **GOD**

F	A	I	T	H	F	U	L	N	Е	S	S
I	K	L	Е	Е	L	I	S	Т	Е	N	Q
M	E	M	M	S	P	Е	A	K	S	S	U
P	L	G	P	Ι	Е	R	Y	N	Ι	A	Ι
О	I	D	L	Т	G	О	D	О	N	M	С
R	Н	S	E	A	F	О	D	W	F	U	K
T	Е	M	P	Т	A	Т	I	O	N	Е	L
A	A	P	R	Ι	Е	S	T	Н	V	L	Y
N	D	Н	D	O	U	В	T	V	Н	D	Е
T	V	В	M	N	R	Е	S	P	О	N	D

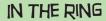
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

When does "silence" actually mean the answer is "no"?

For example, asking your mom if you can go play at the park, and she says "do your homework". She didn't say no, but she didn't say yes either. Or written letters to important people with a request. If you do not get a response, the answer is no. If God asks us for something, and we have no answer for Him, we are actually saying "no" to God. Has God ever asked you to do something? How did you know it was God? Sometimes we have a feeling that we must go help another, or it feels like we are being nagged, or constantly reminded of something that needs to be done. God is reminding us, because even when we try to forget, we cannot. Sometimes we dream at night of something that should be done.

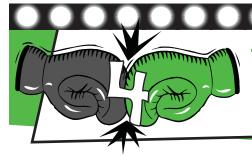
How can we overcome doubts that God wants us in a certain town, job, or friendship? Samuel doubted that he was hearing from God, but God was patient with him. We can ask someone who is closer to God, just like Samuel did. We can check with our parents, pastor, or leaders from church. We can also check in the Bible. If there are verses to confirm what we are doing, then we can trust we are on a good path. We can ask God to confirm it to us by sending someone to speak to us, or giving us a special song.





Ask God to speak to you this week, and to have you to do something. Practice obeying immediately without hesitation. If you forget and hesitate, ask God for another assignment.





FAITHFULNESS VS DISOBEDIENCE

Bible story: Spies in Canaan Numbers 13:1-3,17-33, 14:1-11

DRAMA

Wise Willy's mom prepared a tasty gelatin dessert to enjoy with his friend Foolish Fred, but she told them to not stick their fingers in it because it wasn't ready. Foolish Fred didn't obey. He stuck his finger in it and wrecked it.

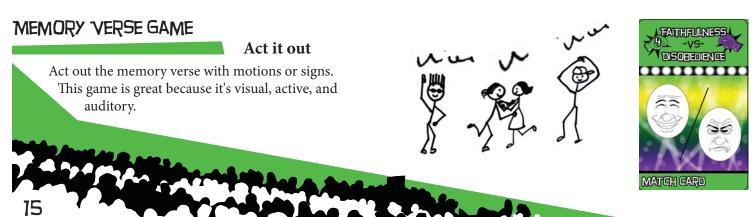
MEMORY VERSE "But Moses said, 'Why are you disobeying the Lord's command? This will not succeed!" Numbers 14:41

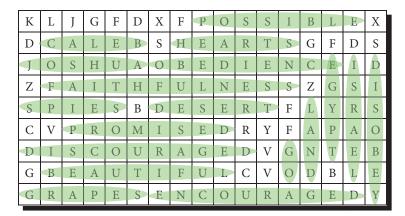
MAIN LESSON

Being faithful includes being obedient. We cannot say "I am faithful to God" when at the same time, we disobey His commands. That is what we are studying this week: the fight of "Disobedience" against "Faithfulness". Disobedience is often seen as when we do something we should not do. For example, if your mother says that you cannot go to your friend's house to play today, but you go anyway, you are being disobedient. She said NO, but you disobeyed, and went. Many people in churches have this definition for disobedience. For example, if Christians believe that they are not allowed to smoke a cigarette, but they do it anyway, that means they are disobedient. This is true. If we are told not to do something, and we do it anyway, we are being disobedient. There is another kind of disobedience that we must also watch out for. If your mom tells you to go to the store to pick her up some onions for dinner, and you do not go, this is also disobedience. If God tells us to do something, and we choose not to do it, we are being disobedient. This is what happened in today's Bible story. The people of Israel were saved from their slavery in Egypt, and traveled

across the desert, toward the beautiful land that God promised. When they got near, God stopped them. He asked Moses to send 12 leaders, as spies into the promised land. These 12 men went into the land and spied on the

people, the cities, the buildings, and the crops. They went to see if the land was good or bad. Up to this point, the Israelites had obeyed everything that God asked them to do. They sent the 12 spies just as God asked. However, when the spies arrived home, they disagreed. All 12 reported that the land was great, flowing with milk and honey. They brought back a huge bunch of grapes to show the people about the fabulous agriculture possibilities. But 10 of the spies said that the people were too large and the cities too fortified, so they should NOT go take the land. Only 2 of the spies said that although the people were large, they should still go. The Israelites all listened to the negative report of the 10 spies, and didn't want to go. God became sad and frustrated because the people were discouraged. They wanted to disobey God, refusing to go into the land. It is very easy for us to get discouraged and sad in our hearts when we see something impossible. Sometimes the TV news discourages us or comments from others make us sad. But God wants us to have faith in Him and trust Him. If God asks us to do something, we need to be willing to step out in faith and obey God. Joshua and Caleb were the two spies who believed God, and encouraged the people that it was possible. Will you be like Joshua and Caleb, willing to obey God, and protect your hearts from getting discouraged? With practice, we can win the match fight of disobedience against faithfulness!

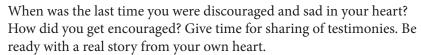




FAITHFULNESS	DESERT	DISCOURAGED
OBEDIENCE	PROMISED	ENCOURAGED
DISOBEY	LAND	JOSHUA
GO	SPIES	CALEB
ISRAEL	GRAPES	HEARTS
EGYPT	BEAUTIFUL	POSSIBLE



(For older students)

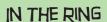


Has God every asked you to do something that seemed impossible or too difficult? As I grow in experience with God, each time it seems that He asks more and more difficult tasks of me. The encouraging thing is that when God asks so much of us, we can know that He sees us as much stronger than we see ourselves.

Do you see yourself as obedient to God? Try to have an open discussion with your students, where no one judges each other. Share your own mistakes and failings, to help them also open up. Discuss what actions show obedience and what actions show disobedience.

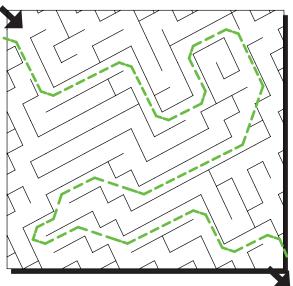
I refuse to obey my mom! I am going to the store for candy anyway!

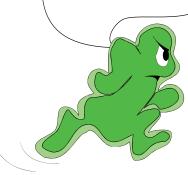
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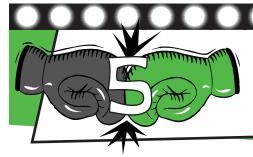


Choose 2 assignments from God to do this week. The first being something God asked you NOT to do, and the other something God asked you to do. Obey God in both items to win against disobedience.









FAITHFULNESS VS WITHHOLDING

Bible story: Abraham and Isaac

Genesis 22:1-18

DRAMA

At recess time a boy approaches Wise Willy and Foolish Fred who are eating their awesome sandwiches. He asked if he could share with them because he didn't have money to buy any food. Fred refused to share his sandwich, but Willy gave him the whole thing.

MEMORY VERSE

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

Hebrews 11:6

MAIN LESSON

Throughout the whole Bible, God shows an important aspect of faithfulness is to be willing and not to withhold things from Him. That is why this week we are fighting the sin of withholding. To withhold something is to refuse to give something that is due. It can also mean to suppress or hold back. In today's Bible story, God asked something HUGE of Abraham! He had to choose to withhold from God or to be willing to obey Him.

For most of Abraham's life, he and his wife Sarah had been unable to have children. God had promised Abraham and Sarah offspring (children, grandchildren, etc.) as many as the stars in the sky. Therefore, it was surprising that they had not yet been able to have even 1 child. Then one miraculous day, God opened Sarah's womb, and she became pregnant, even though she was very old! They had a son named Isaac, and they loved him and cared for him. Then God decided to test Abraham to see if he was willing, or if he would withhold from God. God called to Abraham and told him to take his son Isaac up the mountain, and to sacrifice him as a burnt offering. That very morning, Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took two servants and his son Isaac, and all the supplies needed for the sacrifice. They traveled to the place God said, then Abraham and his son went on, prepared for the sacrifice.

Isaac said to his father, "The fire and wood are here, but where is the lamb for the sacrifice?" Abraham must have been so scared to actually have to obey God! But he trusted God and continued with the plan. They set up

the altar, and Abraham put Isaac on it. However, just as Abraham raised the knife, God stopped him! God told Abraham not to hurt the boy and said, "Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." (Genesis 22:12)

This verse shows that God was testing Abraham to see if he would withhold anything from God. We can celebrate with Abraham that he passed the test! Abraham proved to be willing, and didn't hold anything back. God will also test us. He is looking for men and women, boys and girls who will be willing to give God anything He asks for. God is looking for those who will not withhold from Him. Are you willing to obey God? Could you pass a difficult test?

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.



F	W	Ι	Т	Н	Н	О	L	D	Ι	N	G
A	S	T	0	Р	Р	Е	D	О	M	W	D
Ι	Т	Е	R	G	Н	A	F	N	О	Ι	S
Т	А	S	Е	В	A	В	Ι	K	U	L	U
Н	R	T	F	N	L	R	R	Е	N	L	Р
F	S	G	U	S	Т	Α	Е	Y	Т	Ι	Р
U	G	F	S	K	Ā	Н	G	F	Ā	N	R
L	N	D	A	Y	R	A	О	Н	Ι	G	Е
N	V	S	L	С	F	M	D	K	N	N	S
Е	G	I	V	E	I	S	A	Α	0	Е	S
S	A	С	R	Ι	F	I	С	E	Н	S	D
S	A	R	A	H	Т	U	Y	G	D	S	С

FAITHFULNESS ISAAC SACRIFICE WILLINGNESS WITHHOLDING **TEST** REFUSAL GOD **GIVE DONKEY SUPPRESS MOUNTAIN FIRE ABRAHAM STARS ALTAR SKY STOPPED**



(For older students)

SARAH

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

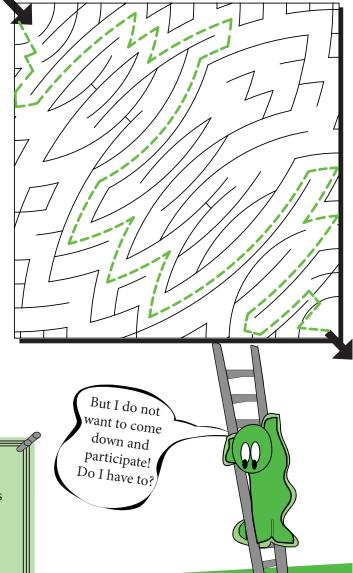
Have you ever withheld information, friendship, or kindness from someone? When and to whom? Discuss what it is like to give partial answers, or incomplete information. We can often fool others into thinking that we are being honest, but we know that we are withholding something.

If God were to ask you to sacrifice your most important thing in life, what would it be? For many of us, it would be our closest family, just as it was for Abraham. But God does actually want to be first in our lives, and will ask us to sacrifice even family in order to serve Him. Discuss with your students how missionaries must feel when they have to leave their family to serve God in another country.

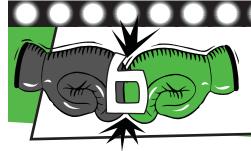
Has God ever tested you? Explain. Search your own heart before class to find a time when God tested you, so that you can share it with your students. God often causes situations that will show us our own priorities. If we are caught not putting God first, then we did not pass the test.

IN THE RING

Is there something that God is asking you to give up this week? Take a moment to think about what that is, and then pray that God gives you the strength to give it up. It could be tea, Facebook, or a favorite food. To win this fight, choose to give that item up all week long.



18



FAITHFULNESS VS UNRELIABILITY

Bible story: Noah and the Ark Genesis 5:32, 6:1-22, 7:1-12

DRAMA

Wise Willy promised he would take out the garbage every day for two weeks. Foolish Fred said he would wash the dinner dishes, for the whole week. But after two days, Fred quit doing what he had promised.

MEMORY VERSE

"But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds." James 2:18

MAIN LESSON

Being faithful includes doing what you say you will do. Politicians often have slogans for this while they are campaigning to be elected to a position of government. Some examples are "Deeds not words" or "Promises kept". It may seem political to keep your promises, but actually, it is biblical! In the sermon on the mount, Jesus preached to his disciples and the people gathered. He said that we do not need to swear or make special promises. Jesus said, "Let your yes be yes, and your no, no." It is very simple, yet also very difficult! God will always be looking for men and women who will be faithful to Him to do what they said they would do. If we do not complete our promises, we are unreliable. Our fight this week is "faithfulness" against "unreliability".

Noah was a faithful man. When he said YES to God, he completed his task. Many of us have heard the story of Noah and the ark. God asked Noah one day to build a huge boat out of wood. When Noah finished building the ark, God sent two of each animal, and Noah loaded them all inside. When they were safely inside, God shut the door, and sent a huge flood to the earth. However, can you imagine how difficult it must have been for Noah? We do not know exactly how long Noah worked on building that huge boat, but based on the fact that his children were older and all married, it had to have been somewhere between 55 and 75 years!!!

Therefore, after God asked Noah to build the ark, Noah worked and worked and worked. The years went by, and he kept working! 10 years, then 20 years, then 30 years, and he kept working. Do you think it would have been difficult to continue working on an assignment for 55 years or 75 years? Yes! It would have been very difficult!

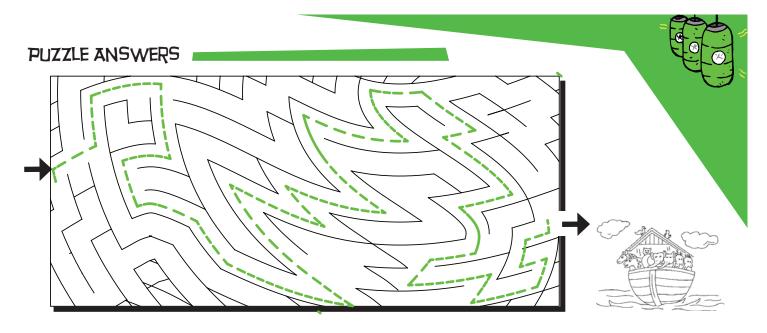
When God asked Noah to build the ark, Noah did it. He said yes to God, then his actions followed. He built the ark. It sounds simple, but finishing things we promise to do is not easy. Especially if others are laughing at us or mocking us as we work. Most likely Noah's neighbors were laughing at him, and for 50+ years! To win this week, we must be reliable to God to finish the things He asks us to do, even if it takes us 75 years! Will you be faithful and reliable to God to complete what you promised to Him?

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.





ANIMALS FAITHFULNESS FLOOD PROMISES SAFETY KEPT YEARS DIFFICULT **WORK** YES **ASSIGNMENT** NO NOAH **ACTIONS FOLLOW ARK**

A	N	I	M	A	L	S	G	P	R	О	M	I	S	Е	S	D
F	Α	Ι	Т	Н	F	U	L	N	Е	S	S	Н	J	F	Y	Y
A	R	K	W	0	R	K	D	I	F	F	I	С	U	L	T	Е
N	W	Е	S	A	F	Е	Т	Y	Z	A	С	Т	Ι	0	N	S
О	О	Р	S	F	G	Н	Ι	Y	Е	A	R	S	L	О	W	О
A	О	T	F	L	0	О	D	D	G	F	0	L	L	0	W	L
Н	D	L	I	A	S	S	Ι	G	N	M	Е	N	T	V	N	0

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WOOD

(For older students)

How many years have you been faithful at your school, home, or work?

After discussing how difficult it must have been for Noah to be faithful and reliable for so long, ask each student to share how many years they have been faithful.

Do you know of any politicians in your community that kept their promises, or those who have not? The idea isn't to dive into politics, but instead to realize how very difficult it is for us to keep our promises and to finish jobs that God has given us to do. Talking about the community issues helps bring a feeling of reality to the lesson, and will help your students apply it to their own lives.

What has God asked of you? Take some time for sharing personal testimonies of what God has asked of each person.

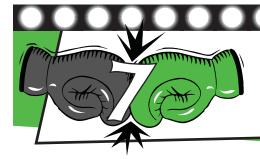
Have they been reliable to finish the work God gave them to do?

IN THE RING

Choose an area of your life to be reliable to God. Choose something to do for God one day this week, and make sure to be reliable in it. When you finish, choose another promise to God for a day, and set what day to do it. Make sure to complete your promise.

Look! I am
a blob, and
can become
anything! I do
not have to stay,
do I?

20



FAITHFULNESS VS DOUBT

Bible story: Jesus appears to Thomas

John 20:24-31

DRAMA

Wise Willy and Foolish Fred were told there would be a fabulous prize if they completed their chores. Wise Willy finished his chores, even though he had to wash the bathroom. But Foolish Fred didn't believe there would really be a prize so he didn't do his chores.

MEMORY VERSE "Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29

MAIN LESSON

Faith is confidence or trust in a person or thing. It is a belief in something or someone that we cannot see. For Christians, faith in God is a confidence and trust in Him, even though we cannot see Him. Our match fight this week is doubt against faithfulness. Doubt is an uncertainty or lack of conviction. If we are to have the fruit of the Spirit "Faithfulness" in our lives, it includes that we be full of faith, and we will have to fight against doubt on occasion in our hearts.

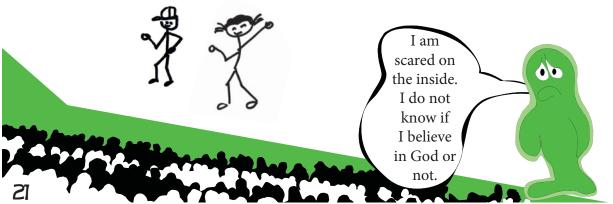
Today's Bible story is about Thomas. He was a disciple of Jesus, and lived and walked on the earth when Jesus did. He followed Jesus, and heard all His stories and sermons first hand. But then Jesus was arrested and put on trial. They condemned Him, and hung Jesus on a cross. Jesus had told all His disciples that he would be rising from the dead on the third day, but none of them remembered. Maybe they just couldn't believe it would be possible, since they saw Him die on the cross with their own eyes. Then Jesus amazed them and rose from the dead, just as He had promised. He appeared to the disciples one day when Thomas was not with them. (John 20:25) 'So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." A week later Jesus came again to the disciples and this time

Thomas was with them. Jesus specifically went to Thomas and showed him his scars on his hands and side. Thomas was caught doubting Jesus and wanted to see Him to believe. However, Jesus asks you and I to believe Him even though we cannot see Him. Will you fight the doubt in your heart so that you can have a strong faith? There is no need to be discouraged, if we also have doubt. Jesus will have patience with us, just as He did with Thomas!

MEMORY VERSE GAME

Running Relay

Divide the children into two teams. Place a chalkboard, white board, or large sheet of paper at a distance from the starting line. Hand the first child of each team a writing implement, and on the shout of "Go" have him run to the writing surface and write the first word of the verse. Then have him return to his team and hand the writing implement to the second person. The team that finishes writing the verse correctly first wins.





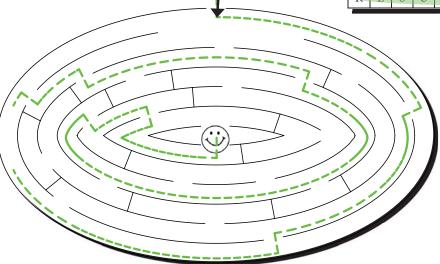
CONFIDENCE DEATH

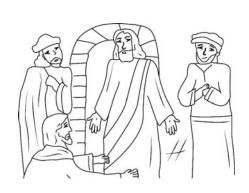
TRUST RESURRECTION
PERSON DISCIPLES
BELIEVE STRONG
CHRISTIANS FAITH
THOMAS HEARTS

JESUS SEE

TRAIL DISCOURAGED

Ι	C	D	I	S	С	I	P	L	Е	S	T
О	О	В	Е	L	Ι	Е	V	E	Е	Е	Н
Н	N	U	R	F	A	Ι	T	Н	Т	Е	О
Т	F	Y	F	Н	J	T	R	R	D	J	Μ
D	Ι	S	С	О	U	R	A	G	Е	D	Α
Е	D	Т	U	Y	Т	R	Ι	Е	Α	T	S
P	Е	R	S	О	N	Е	L	R	Т	R	G
Е	N	S	Т	R	О	N	G	G	Н	U	F
U	C	Н	R	I	S	Т	I	A	N	S	D
J	E	S	U	S	Н	Н	Е	A	R	T	S
R	Е	S	U	R	R	Е	С	Т	Ι	0	N





QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(For older students)

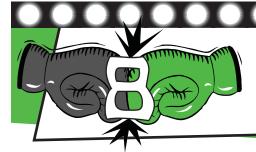
Why doesn't everyone just believe in Jesus? God gave us humans the right to choose to believe or not because He wanted us to have free will, and not be like robots with no choices. Many people choose not to believe in Jesus because it means they would have to change the way they are living, and live for Jesus instead.

Is there anything that God cannot do? There is nothing that God cannot do. However, He is kind and will not force us. Humans have the right to choose to live their own way in sin, following other idols, and gratifying their fleshly desires. It breaks God's heart, but He will not force us into believing or obeying.

IN THE RING

Choose to believe God this week on something that He promised you that seems impossible. Tell God that you are willing to wait until He completes His promise. To demonstrate your willingness to wait, go stand in any line, one where you do not need to be! Write down how many minutes you waited in the line so that you can report it back to your coach.

Are we in trouble when we have doubts? Thomas was not in trouble when he doubted that Jesus had risen from the dead. However, there are extra blessings for those who do not doubt, even when they cannot see.



GENTLENESS VS DISSENSION

Bible story: Abraham and Lot separate

Genesis 13:1-18

DRAMA

Wise Willy and Foolish Fred had only coupon to exchange for a hamburger or pizza, and they couldn't decide what to eat. Willy let Fred choose which food to get for the coupon and both were happy.

MEMORY VERSE

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." Ephesians 4:2

MAIN LESSON

This year we are learning about the fruits of the Spirit. These are actions and ways to live life as a Christian. Galatians chapter 5 also has a list of fruits of the flesh. They are actions to make ourselves feel happy, regardless of how it may impact others. One of the sins of the flesh is dissensions, the sin we are studying this week. In reality a dissension is just a disagreement, except that it often leads to discord. It is a dispute or conflict or a fight with someone because we do not agree with them. It is natural that we will not always agree with those around us. But it is important that we learn how to respect one another, and at times allow disagreements without fighting. If we start a fight, or refuse to work with others, then we are in sin. It might not seem like a huge sin, but God included it in the list of sins in Galatians along with other sins like witchcraft, drunkenness, and immorality! If God chose to include dissensions in this list of sins, I think we should assume that it matters to God.

In today's Bible story, Abraham shows us a good way to handle fighting. Abraham and Lot both had large families and large flocks and herds of

animals. They were trying to travel and live near one another, but they were too large, and the land could not support both groups. The Bible says that quarreling broke out between their herdsmen. Abraham and Lot found themselves in a problem where people under them were fighting, and it was their responsibility to do something about it.

They decided to live farther apart, so that the land could sustain them both. They didn't fight about it, but Abraham let Lot choose first where to live. Once Lot chose, Abraham went the other direction. They separated a distance, and each man was able to live on enough land for their large family and herds.

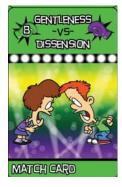
What Abraham did is not easy to do. He let the other person have their way. If we are going to win against the sin of dissensions, we need to let others have their way, and avoid getting into fights. Can you be like Abraham, and let others choose their way?

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.





F	R	U	I	Т	S	D	S	W	D
G	Н	J	S	Р	I	R	Ι	T	F
Е	R	Е	S	Р	Е	С	T	R	I
A	F	D	D	Н	Е	R	D	S	M
C	Н	R	Ι	Т	I	Â	N	S	P
Т	R	G	S	V	В	В	S	F	O
Ι	Е	O	Т	Н	Е	R	S	L	R
О	F	D	A	S	Е	A	W	О	Т
N	U	T	N	Ι	L	Н	О	С	A
S	S	G	С	N	O	A	R	K	N
X	E	С	Е	В	T	M	K	S	${f T}$
F	I	G	Н	Т	I	N	G	D	R

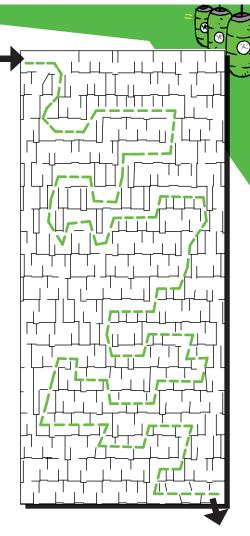
FRUITS SPIRIT ACTIONS CHRISTIANS SIN **FIGHTING** RESPECT **OTHERS REFUSE** WORK **IMPORTANT GOD ABRAHAM** LOT **FLOCKS HERDS DISTANCE**

(For older students)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Name a disagreement you had this week. When was it and with whom? Give some time in your class for students to share about disagreements they may have had this week. Have your own ready to share. Do not try to solve the disagreements, but instead talk about how common they are. Talk with your students about ways to disagree with someone without fighting. Can you remember an instance where you let someone else have their way? It is very difficult for us humans to let others win. Allow your students to share even old stories where they let another person have their own way. Unfortunately, some people have never let others win. Discuss how terrible it is when we do not allow others to win, and how God wants us to live at peace with others always.

Is it ok to always be right, if you were trying to help? NO! God wants us to not have dissensions amongst ourselves. This means, it does not matter how good our motives are, we must sometimes allow others to win, and stop fighting. It does not matter that you are fighting because you are trying to help. Just stop fighting!





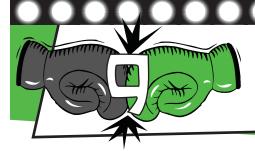
IN THE RING

Allow another person to win when you disagree over something. You can choose to disagree, but you must stop yourself from fighting with them over it. Allow them to have their opinion.

I am better than you are!! Ha ha ha!!



24



GENTLENESS VS TRADITIONS

Bible story: Clean and unclean

Matthew 15:1-20

DRAMA

One Saturday night, Wise Willy and Foolish Fred were invited to a celebration in the church. Willy was dressed very elegantly but Fred showed up in pajamas. Willy asked him, "Why are you dressed like that?" Fred responded that they had told him to come dressed in evening wear. He was embarrassed to find out it was an elegant festival and he should have come with a suit and tie.

MEMORY VERSE

"Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God— even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved."

1 Corinthians 10:32-33

MAIN LESSON

This week's battle is Gentleness against traditions. Gentleness can be a difficult fruit of the spirit to desire, because in many cultures it is considered a weakness. It is usually understood as kindness, consideration, humility, and restrained behavior. But for many, restraint isn't good! However, for God, restraint is good, and something He requires of us. God thought it was important enough to list as a fruit of the Spirit in the Scriptures, and Jesus showed gentleness when He was here on earth.

In churches all around the world, religious traditions become so important to us, that we forget to restrain our behavior. We totally forget that God wants us to be gentle with others and kind. Our traditions become more important than people!

Today's Bible story is an important one, as Jesus Christ is showing us to be careful with our traditions. One day, the leaders of the church came to Jesus and asked him why He allowed the disciples to break the tradition by eating with unwashed hands. But Jesus asked the leaders why they dishonored their own families for the sake of tradition. Jesus called them hypocrites! You may not have this tradition in your country where it is a sin to eat with unwashed hands. But you do have traditions that are very important. Pretend you do not know that the tradition was "eating with unwashed hands" and insert one of the traditions of your country into Jesus's sentence.

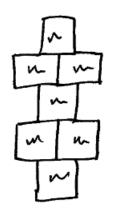
What if Jesus was talking about one of your traditions? Would you be able to show restraint and love others who broke the tradition? Or would you be like the Pharisees, who put the tradition first at all costs?

Jesus then told the leaders that whatever goes into the body on the outside does not make them unclean, instead what comes out of the mouth makes him unclean. This is because whatever comes out of our mouths comes from our hearts. God will always be more concerned with our hearts than our traditions. Can you observe your traditions without condemning those who do not? Can you be kind and gentle to those who break your traditions? Although it is very difficult, that is how to live like Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE GAME

Hopscotch

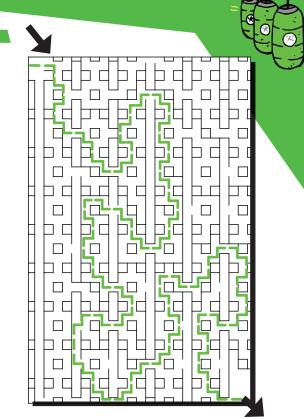
Use masking tape to make the hop scotch pattern on the floor. Write memory verse words on paper and tape them to the top of each hopscotch square (put masking tape completely across the edges of the paper so the children's toes are not caught on the words). Have the class line up on each side of the hopscotch area so they can see the words as the children take turns jumping. As the children hop in each square, the class recites the verse as they go.





G	E	N	Т	L	Е	N	Е	S	S	U	U
H	A	N	D	S	Н	U	L	О	V	E	N
Т	Т	0	Т	Н	Е	R	S	G	0	D	W
D	Ι	S	С	Ι	P	L	Е	S	G	U	A
D	N	Т	R	A	D	Ι	Т	I	0	N	S
R	G	В	R	Е	A	K	Е	D	J	С	Н
Н	U	M	Ι	L	Ι	Т	Y	S	Е	L	Е
Y	U	K	I	N	D	N	Е	S	S	Е	D
Т	Н	Е	A	R	T	S	Е	W	U	A	M
S	С	R	Ι	P	Т	U	R	Е	S	N	N

GENTLENESS TRADITIONS KINDNESS HUMILITY **SCRIPTURES IESUS DISCIPLES BREAK EATING UNWASHED HANDS** LOVE **OTHERS GOD HEARTS UNCLEAN**



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(For older students)

What rules does your denomination have? Discuss with your students the expectations required of the members of your church

or denomination. Be ready to also talk about other rules that other denominations may have. This could include: no movie watching, using or not using certain words, head coverings, church attendance, giving, clothing worn, times to be home, styles for praying, and more.

How can you show love to someone who is breaking one of your traditions? Do your students talk to others who break their traditions? Can they hang out with them? Can they be good friends with someone who does not follow the same rules? Discuss ways to show love to others.

What if being gentle to the rule-breakers makes you unpopular? Should you still show gentleness? Talk about the pain that is caused when we become unpopular, either at church or at school. How can we show gentleness to those who are unpopular? What would Jesus do if He were at your school?

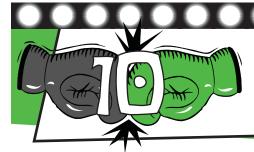


IN THE RING

Choose kindness to someone over one of your traditions. This could mean understanding when they break your tradition, and not making a comment about it. Make sure not to hurt anyone else, or bring attention to yourself with this assignment.







GENTLENESS VS BITTERNESS

Bible story: Cain and Abel

Genesis 4:1-16

DRAMA

Wise Willy and Foolish Fred are selling lemonade. Fred decided to put bitter chocolate in one of the pitchers of lemonade. Then he said, "I don't know why they don't like the flavor of that, I only put in some bitter chocolate."

MEMORY VERSE "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice." Ephesians 4:31

MAIN LESSON

Today's battle is gentleness verses bitterness. Bitterness is like a jail cell! We think we have put the bad person in jail, when really we are the ones locked up! The truth is, people will hurt us. Sometimes we have done something wrong to deserve the treatment, and sometimes we are completely innocent. Either way, we are responsible for our own hearts.

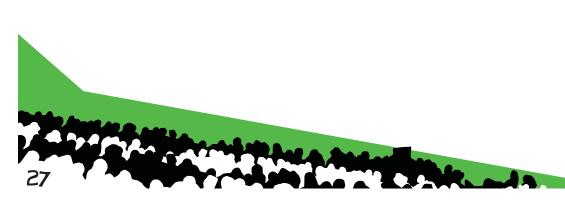
Bitterness starts out as a hurt. A common reaction to the pain is to get angry, and that can lead to resentment. If left to fester, the anger eventually becomes like a corrosive ulcer that is bitterness! One definition of bitterness is "a chronic and pervasive state of smoldering resentment."

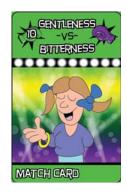
The wonderful thing about the gospel of Jesus Christ is that nothing can touch Christians! They may burn my body, but they cannot touch my soul. They may slander me to people, but Jesus knows I am innocent. In the end, each man will pay for their own actions. In heaven, I will be rewarded for my own behavior, and there is nothing that anyone can do to steal my joy. People can steal my possessions here on earth, but no one can steal the treasures that I have put away in heaven. This is all true, UNLESS, I allow bitterness into my heart over sins that others have done to me. If I repeatedly think about the wrongs done to me and how I am a victim, it can enter my soul and take hold of my personality. I can become distrustful, doubtful, depressed, cynical, and

unhappy. The person who wronged me cannot steal my joy, unless I give it to them.

Today's Bible story is about Cain and Abel, two brothers who were trying to sacrifice to God. Cain brought some fruits and vegetables to God as an offering, and Abel brought a lamb to sacrifice. God liked Abel's offering, but did not like Cain's. In this story, God was not sinning against Cain. God always has favored animal sacrifices throughout the whole Bible. Cain would not have known that, but he could have asked. When he saw that God was displeased with his fruits and vegetables, he could have sold them to buy a lamb. Instead, he allowed anger to grow in his heart. God spoke to Cain to encourage him, but Cain did not want to listen. Instead, he allowed that anger to burn and turn into bitterness. In anger, Cain attacked his brother Abel.

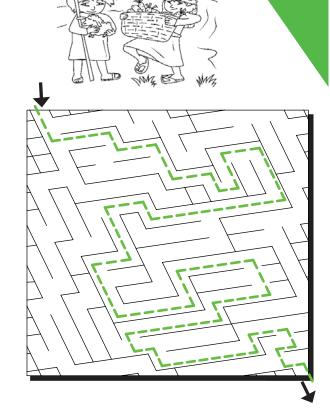
Honestly, it is very difficult to forgive others who sin against us. It is also difficult to receive discipline from our authorities when we have done something wrong. It requires gentleness in our hearts to be able to accept and change. Cain thought he was putting Abel into a jail cell for being God's favorite, but instead, he put himself into jail, for the rest of his life! Can you choose gentleness instead of bitterness for your life? Will you refuse to allow others to steal your heart? It is completely up to you how much you allow others to take.





C	A	I	N	В	H	Е	A	R	T	S
S	G	F	D	G	О	S	P	Е		X
A	R	Е	S	Е	N	Т	M	Е	N	T
С	P	A	I	N	F	R	U	Ι	Т	S
R	В	I	Т	Т	Е	R	N	Е	S	S
Ι	J	A	I	L	С	Е	L	L	С	L
F	A	S	Н	Е	Е	P	Н	F	S	О
Ι	В		N	N	О	С	Е	N	T	С
С	Е	R	P	Е	О	P	L	E	Е	K
E	L	Е	S	S	G	0	D	D	A	Е
A	S		Е	S	U	S	G	F	L	D

GENTLENESS SHEEP BITTERNESS STEAL JAILCELL HEART **LOCKED PAIN PEOPLE INNOCENT** RESENTMENT **GOSPEL IESUS CAIN** ABEL **SACRIFICE** GOD



MEMORY VERSE GAME

Ask Questions

Write each word of the memory verse on a slip of paper. Tape each piece on the back of each child. Have them ask questions of each other to find out which word is on their back, and then line up in order.



FRUITS

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(For older students)

What does it look like when we are bitter? Do you know someone bitter? Do not mention the names of people, but only discuss their actions that demonstrate their bitterness. This could be yelling at others, refusing service to someone in their store, talking bad about someone else behind their backs, etc.

Has someone wronged you? Have you been able to forgive them? Discuss the idea from the lesson that if we do not forgive, we are allowing that person to also steal our joy, hope, and trust. How much do we want those bad people to be able to steal from us?

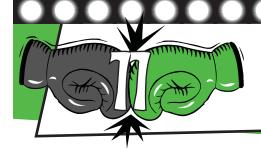
Can the person who wronged me, also hurt me in heaven? The Bible says that we will be rewarded in heaven for our actions here on earth. If someone causes us to stop doing good things for others here on earth, then effectively, our rewards in heaven will be less! So, YES, people on earth can affect your life in eternity.

IN THE RING

Choose something or someone that you are angry with, and forgive them. Take a moment in prayer, and actually say out loud, "I forgive you."



28



SELF-CONTROL VS TEMPTATIONS

Bible story: Jesus is tempted

Matthew 4:1-11

DRAMA

Wise Willy and Foolish Fred had to take a test at school. Fred remembered that, instead of studying he could play, and then look at Willy's test. He thought, "Nobody will notice if I copy Willy's test, and if they do I will just promise I won't do it again.

MEMORY VERSE

"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."

1 Corinthians 10:13

MAIN LESSON

The real fight in the spiritual world is for our hearts. God is after our hearts, and the devil knows it. He was given permission to roam the earth, and along with his demons, and he is trying to steal our hearts away from God. One of the ways the enemy attacks us is with temptations to sin. We fight temptation with self-control.

Today's Bible story is about Jesus Christ as He faced temptations from the devil before he started His ministry. The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert where he was tempted by the devil. He fasted 40 days and was very hungry. The devil first tempted Him with by suggesting that He should just make bread out of the stones! But Jesus withstood the temptation, and quoted scripture at the devil, saying that we do not live by only bread. The devil then took Jesus to the highest point of the temple, and suggested that He throw himself down because the angels would save him! Jesus rebuked the devil with scripture again, saying that we shouldn't test God. The devil tested Jesus a third time from a high mountain. Basically the devil said, worship me, and I will give you all these kingdoms and their splendor. Again Jesus withstood the temptation by quoting scripture and saying that we should only worship the one true God. After the third temptation, the devil left Jesus, and angels came and attended to him.

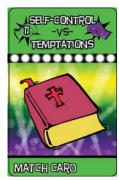
Resisting temptations can be very difficult, and requires self-control. We are all born with selfishness in our hearts. It is normal for us to defend ourselves, take more food for ourselves, or strive for personal fame. However, with self-control, and a knowledge of the scriptures, we can fight these temptations and win, just as Jesus did. He did not allow his personal desires to enter His mind. Instead, Jesus maintained complete self-control as he fought the devil with scriptures. Unfortunately, the enemy can figure out exactly what we want, and tempt us with that. Jesus understands because He was fully human, and resisted strong temptations! However, He succeeded and did not sin! Are you willing to maintain control of your own desires and fight the temptations that come your way?

MEMORY VERSE GAME

Hot Potato

Use any bag as the "hot potato" and place inside slips of paper with the individual words to the memory verse written on them. Have the kids sit in one large circle and start the music. When the music stops, that child pulls out one slip of paper from the paper bag. They can either tape it up to the board or just place it on the floor in the middle of the circle. Have the kids work together to put the memory verse in the correct order.







Н	D	Е	V	I	L	R	Т	R	Е	S	I	S	T	W	Е	Н
T	Е	M	P	Т	A	Т	Ι	0	N	S	U	Ι	О	J	W	F
T	Е	S	Т	Е	D	D	Е	S	J	W	О	R	L	D	О	Н
Н	U	M	A	N	U	Ι	О	Н	A	N	G	Е	L	S	R	Е
J	Е	S	U	S	P	Е	R	M	I	S	S	I	O	N	S	A
Н	U	N	G	R	Y	G	О	D	F	A	S	Т	Е	D	Н	R
F	T	Е	M	P	L	E	Н	O	L	Y	S	P	I	R	I	T
V	S	Е	L	F	С	О	N	Т	R	0	L	F	J	K	P	S

(For older students)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is so bad about giving in to temptations? The Bible says that we will be rewarded in heaven some day for our actions here on earth. When we give in to the enemy who tempts us to sin, we are allowing him to steal rewards that would someday be ours. Giving into temptations is similar to allowing a thief to enter our home and steal our things. Thieves may enter our home to steal, but we usually do not knowingly allow them to! What if someone hates me? Some temptations are difficult to overcome because it goes against all our friends at school. When others are going to laugh at us or make fun of us because we are different, the temptations become very hard. The important thing to remember is that those friends will not be by our side, here on earth, or in heaven. However, we alone are accountable to God for our actions, and will one day stand before His throne to answer for everything we have done or said.

What takes God so long? Jesus must have wondered why He had to wait so long for God to save Him in the desert. Why did he have to face the enemy all alone? The truth is that we will become stronger as we learn to wait. Also, God wants us to learn to fight the enemy on our own. God is not going to always send angels to defend us. God wants us strong enough to be able to defend ourselves, and to be able to defend others.



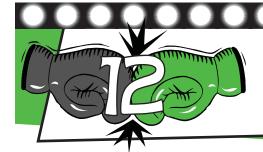
FASTED WORLD **HUNGRY** DEVIL **TEMPLE PERMISSION ANGELS GOD TESTED HEARTS** WORSHIP **IESUS RESIST** TEMPTATIONS **HUMAN** HOLY SPIRIT SELF CONTROL

IN THE RING

Resist a temptation, and if you can, use scripture like Jesus did. Maintain control of your desires, and do not allow yourself to give into that temptation.



30



SELF-CONTROL VS LYING

Bible story: Jacob steals Esau's blessing

Genesis 27:1-36

DRAMA

Wise Willy and Foolish Fred were ready to go to Sunday school, but Fred didn't want to go because they passed by a football game. So he said he had a stomach ache. Then his dad got out some very bad tasting medicine and gave him a big spoonful of it.

MEMORY VERSE

"A lying tongue hates those it hurts, and a flattering mouth works ruin." Proverbs 26:28

MAIN LESSON

Our fight this week is Self-Control against lying. Unfortunately, we have all battled with lying at some time in our lives. God wants us to be honest and truthful with Him, ourselves, and others. Many times we lie to our parents or school teachers because we want to avoid punishment for our actions. Maybe we were caught cheating or playing on the way home from school. We do not want to be punished, so we make up a story that isn't true, so that we do not get into trouble.

In today's Bible story, Jacob lied to his dad in order to steal the blessing from his brother. Their dad was getting old, and wanted to pass down the traditional blessing before he died. At that time, Isaac could no longer see well. He called his oldest son Esau to him, and told him to go hunting and prepare him a great meal, because it was time for him to pass down the inheritance blessing.

Rebekah was listening to her husband. She liked their son Jacob more than Esau. So she planned with Jacob to lie to Isaac, in order to steal the blessing from Esau. Jacob quickly grabbed two goats, killed them, and handed them to his mother to prepare the fabulous meal. Since Esau was a harry man, and Jacob had smooth skin, they covered Jacobs arms and neck with goat skin, in order to appear like Esau. Remember that their father, Isaac could not see well anymore. So he only touched the arms of Jacob, and when he felt

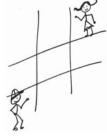
the harry arm, he assumed it must be Esau! Jacob also wore Esau's clothes so that he would also smell like his brother. The lie worked, and Isaac believed he was talking to his eldest son, Esau. However, after everything was over, Esau was so angry with Jacob, that he began making plans to kill him!

Jacob had to flee his home and go live far away with his uncle. He was unable to return home for years! The truth is that there will always be trouble ahead for us if we start lying. Many of us will be tempted to lie to parents, teachers, other authorities, or even God. But God can see all things. He knows when we are lying and when we are telling the truth. Will you use self-control in your life, and tell the truth?

MEMORY VERSE GAME

Tic-Tac-Toe

Memory Verse Tic-Tac-Toe is super-easy to play and requires absolutely no advance planning. To play, line up 3 rows of 3 chairs in the center of your classroom to use as your Tic-Tac-Toe board. If you do not use chairs in your classroom, you can place paper plates or paper on the floor to use as your Tic-Tac-Toe board. As each team member repeats their memory verse correctly, have them choose a space on the Tic-Tac-Toe board and sit or stand there. The first team to get Tic-Tac-Toe wins.



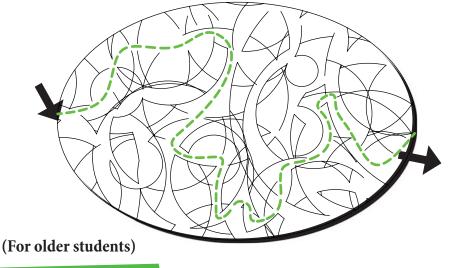


О	S	Е	L	F	С	О	N	Т	R	O	L	E	S	A	U	M
F	R	I	Е	N	D	S	U	T	R	U	Т	Н	F	U	I	Е
P	5	A	С	О	В	Y	Н	О	N	Е	S	T	F	Y	Ι	A
В	L	Е	S	S	I	N	G	Ι	S	Т	О	R	Y	Т	E	L
Н	A	Ι	R	Y	Т	U	О	M	G	P	A	R	Е	N	T	S
C	L	О	Т	Н	Е	S	D	Н	P	U	N	I	S	Н	Е	D



SELF CONTROL **JACOB HONEST ESAU** TRUTHFUL **BLESSING MEAL** LIE **PARENTS** HAIRY **FRIENDS CLOTHES PUNISHED** GOD

STORY



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Do we really have to be honest all the time? Honesty is the

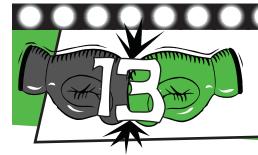
best. If we try to blame others, then we will not grow and become the strong Christians that God wants us to be. If we say we have done something when we have not, we only get into more trouble. Being honest with God and others keeps us growing and maturing when we need to be disciplined, and also keeps us from getting into more trouble. Is being right what matters? If you are getting someone else into trouble, honesty is not always good. God does not need us to tell on others, getting them into trouble. Sometimes it doesn't matter that we are right. We also need self-control to be kind to others, even when they do not deserve it.

What trouble have you seen from lying? Jacob had to leave his home for years because of his lie. Have you been in trouble from a lie you told? Have the students share personal stories, and remind everyone that they are not to talk about other students anywhere else. What is shared in class should be kept in secret.

IN THE RING

Everyone lies, even if only a little. Remember back to a lie that you have told this year. Go to that person, tell them the truth, and tell them you are sorry for lying.





SELF-CONTROL VS LAZINESS

Bible story: The wise and foolish builders

Matthew 7:24-27

DRAMA

Wise Willy and Foolish Fred were building with some plastic blocks which they had received as a gift. Willy read all the instructions, but Fred decided to build without following them. Later, Willy played with his other friends and Fred was still trying to figure out how to use the blocks.

MEMORY VERSE

"If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them." James 4:17

MAIN LESSON

We are now coming to the end of this year's study on the fruit of the spirit! We have only one lesson remaining: Self-Control against Laziness. It is very exciting to think that if we treat the fruit of the spirit as something very important to have in our lives, and we work hard on each fruit, as if we were learning a sport, we can achieve "Knock-outs" and win competitions! Our prayer is that each one of you has won many times during the year! To win against laziness, we must gain control of our own desires and not give up when we get tired. Laziness is when we do not act or exert ourselves, even though we have the ability. Is there an area in your life where you have the ability to succeed, but you are not? Is it possible that you have been lazy in that area? It may seem to us that laziness is a lesser sin, and that it is not all that bad. However, if we do not do what we know God wants of us, because we do not have the self-control to fight our own laziness, then we have not obeyed. If we disobey because we are against God, or if we disobey because we were too lazy to obey Him, the result is the same. Not doing what God asks, will leave us building with a foundation of sand. Today's Bible story is about the wise and foolish builders that Jesus talks about at the end of the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus says that everyone who hears His words, and PUTS THEM INTO

PRACTICE is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. When the storms come, the house stands firm. But those of us who DO NOT DO what Jesus says, are like foolish people who have built their house on the sand. When the storm comes, their house falls with a great crash. We may want this parable to be a warning for those who don't believe in God. We may want it to say that those of us who attend a Christian church are building on the rock. But that is not what Jesus says. Jesus tells us that this parable is about those who actually DO what He asked. For those of us who believe Jesus Christ is the son of God and attend Christian churches, this is very important. We must not allow our laziness to stop us from obeying the commands of Jesus. Because even laziness can keep us from having our foundation built on the rock! Will you choose to fight against your own laziness so that you can have your life built on the rock? Do you want your life to stand firm and not collapse when the storms and hard times come at you? If you answered "YES", then you must DO what Jesus commands.

MEMORY VERSE GAME

Make a rap

Find or create a beat and have the verse written out where the students can see it. Have the students create a rap to the music using the words from the verse. You can start as a group, do just the boys, just the girls, and finally allow one student at a time if they would like to. The children will love it!





D	I	S	О	В	Е	Y	T	I	R	Е	D	Ι	F	L	A	В
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S	Е	L	F	С	О	N	Т	R	0	L	U	F	U	О	Ι	Ι
Е	N	F	0	0	L	I	S	Н	W	I	S	E	Ι	S	L	L
R	О	С	K	V	W	Ι	N	S	P	Ι	R	I	T	A	Ι	D
M	C	R	A	S	H	F	I	M	P	О	R	Т	A	N	T	Е
O	Т	C	0	M	Р	Ι	Т	I	Т	I	0	N	S	D	Y	R
N		A	Z	Ι	N	Е	S	S	M	K	L	О	U	G	F	S



FRUIT	DESIRES	SERMON
SPIRIT	TIRED	ROCK
SELF CONTROL	ABILITY	SAND
LAZINESS	DISOBEY	CRASH
IMPORTANT	FOOLISH	

WIN WISE
COMPITITIONS BUILDERS

(For older students)

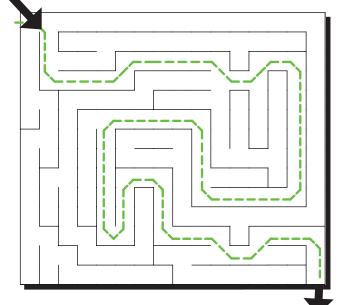
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Will memorizing the sermon on the mount keep you from building on the sand? NO. This passage of the Bible clearly states that the way to build on the rock is to DO what Jesus commands, not memorize what He commands.

How can you build your foundation on the rock? You may believe that you should love your enemies, but that is not enough. You may memorize that you should love your

enemies, but that is not enough either. Actually doing something to show that you love your enemies would be actually building on the rock.

How many match fights have you won this year? Take some time with your students to review the whole years' worth of lessons and "match fights." Look at how many of them did their homework assignments. Encourage your students for each homework assignment completed, and for how many times they did it. Cheer loudly for each student.



here.

IN THE RING

Fight against your laziness this week, by choosing something to do that you do not want to do. Make sure to complete it, and share your testimony with a friend.



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