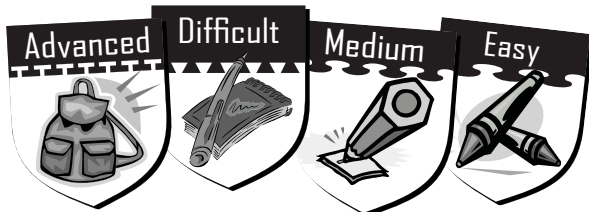
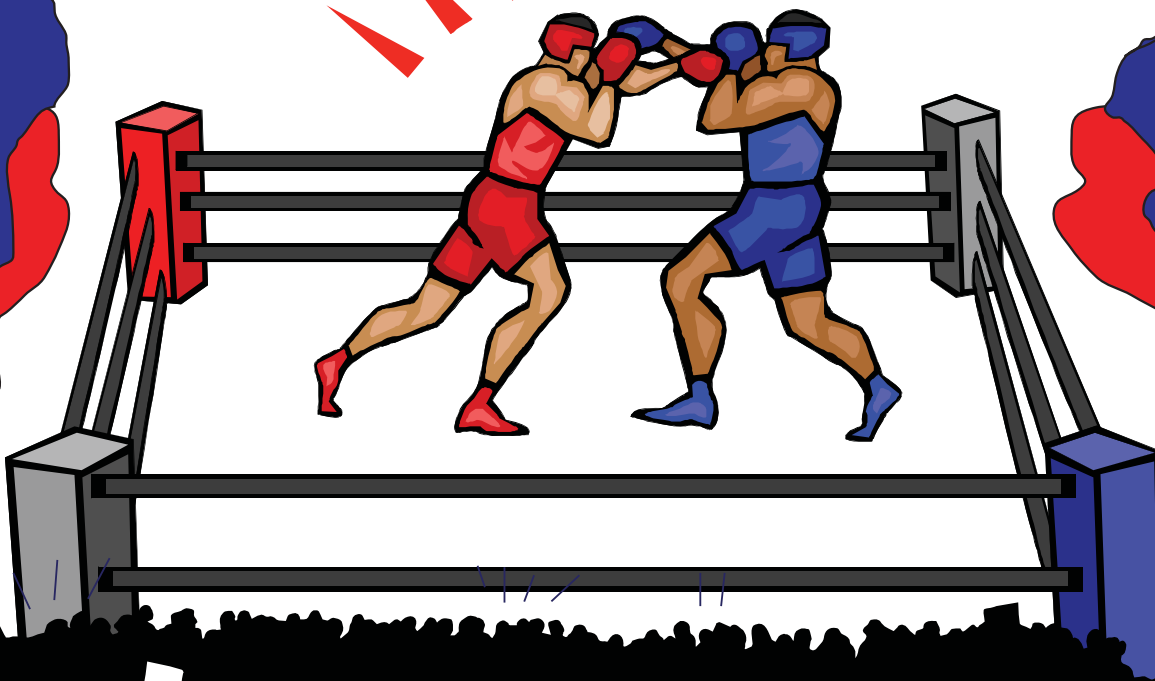


UNIT 1

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.

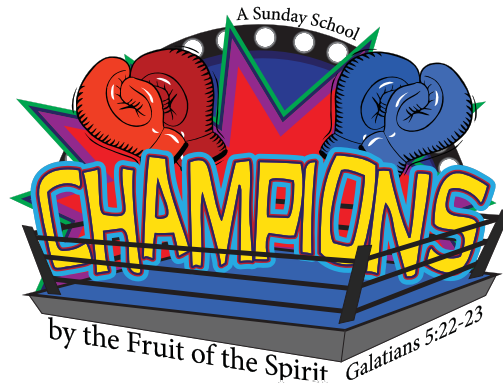
Your final job as their coach is to reward them and encourage them when they succeed. Prepare some awards to be able to hand out. Give them a hug or a special shout of encouragement for each "punch," round, or match won. The behavior you reward will be the behavior you receive as your students strive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



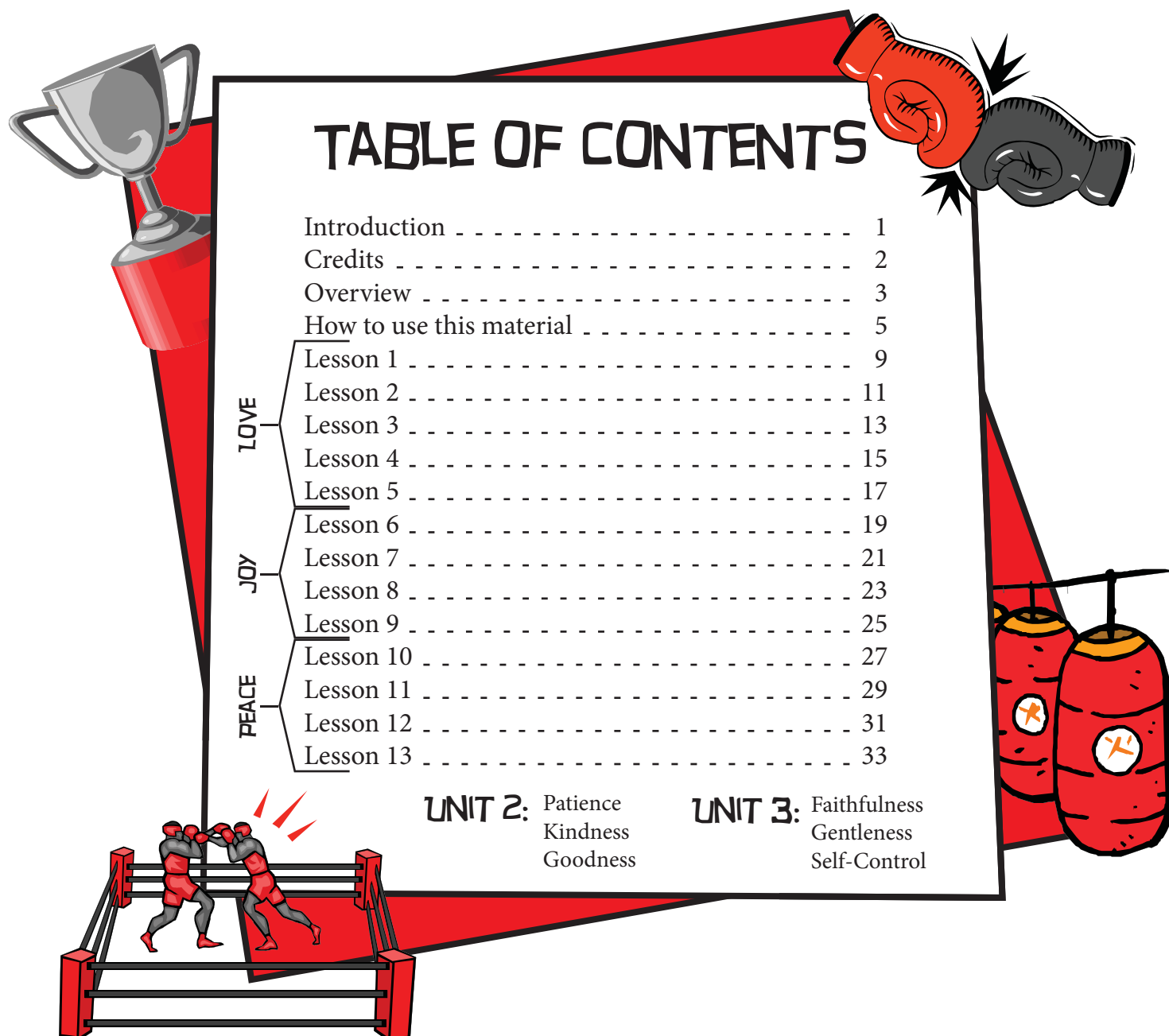


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	Goodness		Self-Control

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For more information, contact us at:
info@childrenareimportant.com or 52-592-924-9041

All Scripture is taken from NIV.

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UNIT 1

CHAMPIONS

1 LOVE VS. SELFISHNESS

Bible story: Jesus dies on the cross
Mathew 27:27-56



MEMORY VERSE

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters." 1 John 3:16

2 LOVE VS. JUDGMENTAL ATTITUDE

Bible story: Speck of dust and plank
Matthew 7:1-5



MEMORY VERSE

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Mt 7:1-2

3 LOVE VS. HATRED

Bible story: Judas betrays Jesus
Matthew 26:14-16



MEMORY VERSE

"Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen." 1 John 4:20

4 LOVE VS. SELF-JUSTIFICATION

Bible story: Parable of the Good Samaritan
Luke 10:25-37



MEMORY VERSE

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Luke 10:27

5 LOVE VS. SPIRITUAL VANITY

Bible story: David chosen as king
1 Samuel 16:1-13



MEMORY VERSE

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." 1 Cor 13:4-7

UNIT 1: 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 JOY VS. JEALOUSY

Bible story: Religious leaders are jealous
Acts 5:12-33



MEMORY VERSE

"You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?" 1 Corinthians 3:3

7 JOY VS. GREED

Bible story: The rich young man
Matthew 19:16-30



MEMORY VERSE

"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."
Luke 12:15

8 JOY VS. SELF-PITY

Bible story: Jonah and the worm
Jonah 4:1-10



MEMORY VERSE

"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 2 Cor 4:17-18

9 JOY VS. UNGRATEFULNESS

Bible story: Jesus heals 10 lepers
Luke 17:11-19



MEMORY VERSE

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."
Psalm 100:4

10 PEACE VS. WORRY

Bible story: Elijah fed by ravens
1 Kings 17:1-6



MEMORY VERSE

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
Matthew 6:33

11 PEACE VS. FEAR

Bible story: Peter walks on water
Matthew 14:22-33



MEMORY VERSE

"Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Mt 17:20-21

12 PEACE VS. DISCORD

Bible story: Turn the other cheek
Matthew 5:38-42



MEMORY VERSE

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."
Romans 12:18

13 PEACE VS. SELF-TRUST

Bible story: Jesus feeds the 5000
Luke 9:10-17



MEMORY VERSE

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." 2 Cor 12:9

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 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.

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?



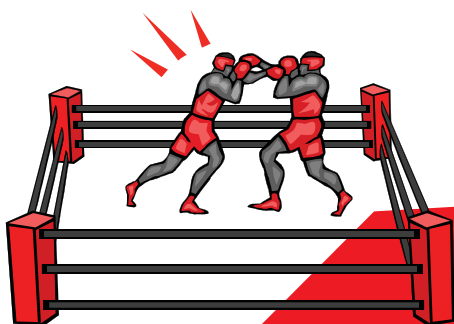
AWARD CEREMONIES

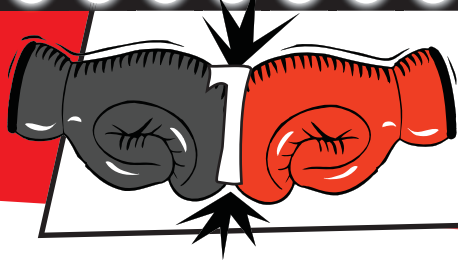


A very important part of being a coach is helping your students feel like winners. This means you need to define what behavior you are looking for, and reward that behavior. We recommend rewarding the students when they have done the homework assignments, where they put the lesson into action during 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!





LOVE VS. SELFISHNESS

Bible story: Jesus dies on the cross
Mathew 27:27-56

DRAMA

Wise Willie and Foolish Fred start selfishly fighting about who gets to play with a ball. End with them sharing and playing together with the ball.

MEMORY VERSE

"This is how we know what love is:
Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.
And we ought to lay down our lives
for our brothers and sisters."
1 John 3:16

MAIN LESSON

Welcome to CHAMPIONS, a program where we will learn about the "Fruit of the Spirit" and how to fight sin. In order to become "champions" we need to actually put the fruit of the spirit into action in our everyday lives. The problem is that we all can easily memorize the "Fruit of the Spirit," but they are much harder to live.

Why is that? This is because our own sinful flesh is constantly fighting against us.

This month we will be working on showing the fruit of "LOVE" in our lives. One of the worst dangers that comes against love is "SELFISHNESS." This is where we put our own desires ahead of the desires of others. For example, your brother wants to play on a tree near your home, but you want to go down the street to play with some friends. Which will you choose? If you go down the street to play with friends, would you invite your brother?

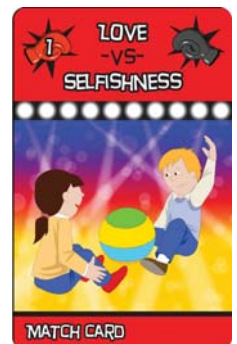
God has given us the ultimate example of NOT being selfish when he sent His son Jesus Christ to earth to die on the cross. He did this to pay for our sins and save us from hell. Now, you and I can accept this gift, and know that we will go to heaven. Do you think it was easy for Jesus to let people spit in His face and laugh at Him? No! It would have been very difficult for Jesus to let the Pharisees hang him on a cross.

If I LOVE others, I will put them first like Jesus's example. He put our interest ahead of His own. However, if I am selfish, I will do what is best for me. What will you choose?

MEMORY VERSE GAME

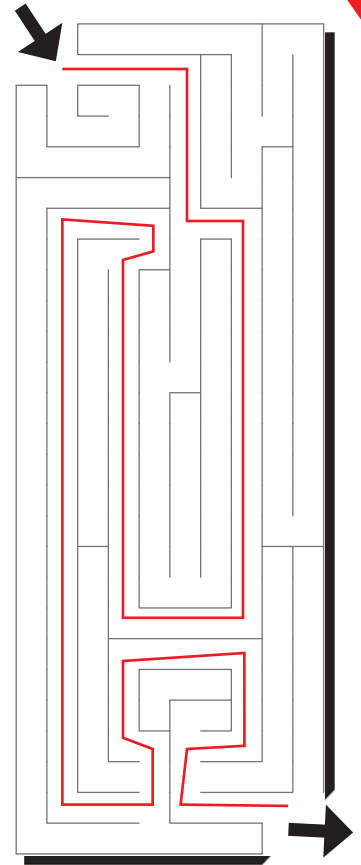
Running Relay

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.



PUZZLE ANSWERS

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



LOVE
SELFISHNESS
FRIENDLY
ENEMY
BROTHERS

SISTERS
ACTIONS
VISIBLE
FRUIT
WORRY

LEARN
BECOME
MEMORIZE
SPIRIT
JESUS

(For older students)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

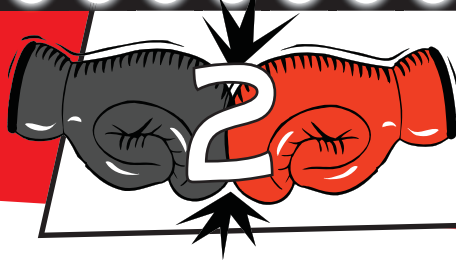
1. How can I become a more spiritual person? The Bible clearly shows that the fruit of the Spirit in action is what will make us spiritual not memorizing the Bible, attending church, or donations.
2. How can such a big God be a best friend to me? God actually wants to know us personally, and to participate in our lives. We can talk to Him just as we would a best friend.
3. Do I really have to put others first? If we want to be champions, YES, we must put others first. In addition, if we want to live as Jesus did, we must put others first.

IN THE RING

Play a game that your friends suggest, play at the time they want (if you have permission) and play it for as long as they want. Do not mention to them what you desire to play. This time, your desires do not matter, because you are showing real LOVE with no thought for yourself.



Look!
I can do
this on
only one
blob!
Your
turn!



LOVE VS. JUDGMENTAL ATTITUDE

Bible story: Speck of dust and plank
Matthew 7:1-5

DRAMA

Foolish Fred mocks Wise Willie because of a little smear on his nose. All the while, Foolish Fred has a very dirty face, but offers to use his wet washcloth to clean the little spot off Wise Willie's nose.

MEMORY VERSE

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."
Matthew 7:1-2

MAIN LESSON

Welcome to lesson two of CHAMPIONS, where we will continue to look at ways to show LOVE as a spiritual fruit. Knowing about love will NOT win you any matches, but actively showing love is what matters. Today's fight is against "judgmental attitudes". This is having critical and disapproving thoughts towards others. This attitude is everywhere, even in churches, and sometimes it is encouraged! However, being judgmental is a sin. Jesus warns us NOT to judge.

Jesus faced this problem and covered it in His teachings. The reason we should not judge others is that we all have sinned. To point out the faults of others is similar to saying that you do not have any faults. This is where judging is very wrong because who is without sin? None of us!

In Jesus's story, there is a man with a speck of dust in his eye. Another person comes along and offers to help him take the speck of dust out of his eye. It sounds wonderful. It sounds like this person is being kind, helping someone with a problem.

However, Jesus says, "NO, you hypocrite!" It was because he had a speck in his own eye! Only it was not a speck, but a HUGE piece of wood! It is hard to imagine that. In fact, it might be impossible to have a whole plank of wood in the eye. Maybe Jesus was using an extreme example to make His point.

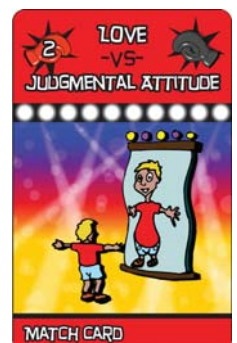
We should not judge people's problems, because all the while we have larger problems than they do. Being judgmental is one of the sins that might be "in our eye" making it impossible for us to see. We think we have life all figured out, but we are walking around with a huge plank of wood in our eye.

This is not a hard lesson to understand, but it is a VERY hard lesson to live. We do not get any knockouts or win any matches for understanding not to judge others. We win when we LIVE it. Let us stop judging one another!

MEMORY VERSE GAME

Passing Relay

Children sit around a table. Someone writes the first word or phrase of a verse (or the reference) on a sheet of paper and passes it to the next person who writes the next word or phrase, and so forth until the verse is completed. The next person starts another verse, and so forth. By timing the children to see if they can "beat" their previous time, you can liven up the activity. Timing the activity may help you determine which verses and how many to include (e.g., see how many verses they can they write in 10 minutes).



PUZZLE ANSWERS

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

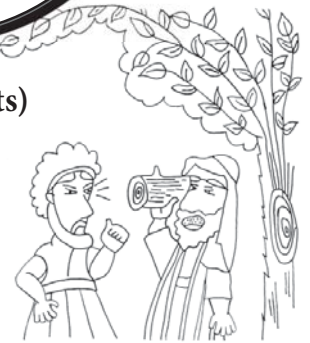
MEMORY
VERSE
JUDGE
OTHER
MEASURE
MOCKING
LOVE
PROBLEM
TEACHING
WRONG
FAULT
REASON
JESUS
ALIVE
INTENTION



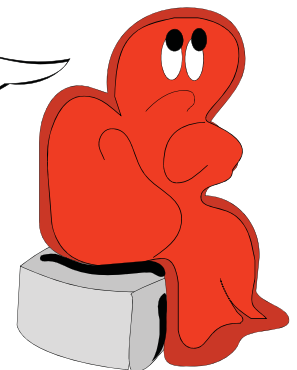
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(For older students)

1. How many second chances should I give? We should just keep giving more chances to people. (Jesus commanded us to forgive 490 times.) We should love others, put them first, and forgive. However, we do not need to allow others to continue hurting us. We can choose to remove ourselves from their lives.
2. What does it mean to be a hypocrite? Feeling that you are better than someone else is, when you are not. Judging others in areas of life that you do not dominate. Trying to remove the speck, while you have a plank in your eye.
3. When is it ok to judge others? It is ok to judge others AFTER we have removed the plank from our own eye, and when we are confronting the other person in LOVE. God does not want us to "mind our own business" but to love and care for those around us.

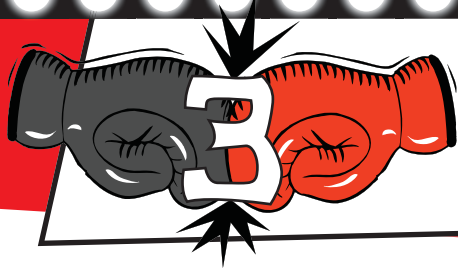


It's not
easy to
forgive
sometimes.
But I'm
working
on it.



IN THE RING

Tell someone "Good job" and compliment them for something good that you see. Bring a small pocket mirror around with you all day. When you are tempted to judge someone, take out the pocket mirror and look at yourself. Remind yourself that you do not need to help others fix their faults today.



LOVE VS. HATRED

Bible story: Judas betrays Jesus

Matthew 26:14-16

DRAMA

Foolish Fred has a long candy like a licorice rope or sugar stick. He says mean, hateful things to it and then bites it to make it smaller. He is happy he has shortened it. Foolish Fred wants to pull it down further so he will feel more important, so he eats more of it. Wise Willie enters. Fred gets a great idea and offers to sell the remaining candy to Willie for money.

MEMORY VERSE

"Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen." 1 John 4:20

MAIN LESSON

Hate is such a strong word, a feeling that is the opposite of love, but sometimes it just means disliking someone. Have you met people that you disliked?

Hate can be just a feeling, or it can include actions against someone. For example, it could be tattling to the teacher at school about someone who was cheating. What were the motives for telling the teacher? Was it because they were ahead of you, and you wanted to pull them down? On the other hand, maybe you just wanted to embarrass or hurt them.

People step on other people in order to raise themselves up. Most animals take care of their own species, but humans sometimes do not. We get jealous, or angry, or sometimes for no reason at all, we hurt others. There are times when someone hurts us, and instead of forgiving him or her, we wait for a chance to hurt them for revenge.

Today's Bible story is about a man who decided to get a friend in trouble. Judas Iscariot was a disciple of Jesus who went to the church leaders and offered to betray Jesus. Maybe he was jealous of Jesus, or was angry with Him. We do not know his motives, except the Bible mentions that he wanted money. The church leaders did not go to Judas, but he went to them, and asked them what they were willing to pay for the betrayal.

Just like Judas, money can be another motive that we have to hate someone. Maybe we just do not like them, so we do not care about them. When an opportunity arises to profit from someone, we do not hesitate, even when

we know it will hurt them. Why are humans from all around the world like this?

People have those they like and those they dislike. We should expect to be hated, but we are not to hate back. God asks us to love everyone. In fact, the Bible says that we cannot love God if we do not first love others. (1 John 4:19-21)

MEMORY VERSE GAME

Paper Basketball

Write each word of your memory verse onto a piece of paper and wad it up into a mini-basketball. Divide your class into two teams, and make enough so that each team has their own set of memory verse "basketballs". Place a child-sized basketball hoop at the front of the class. If you do not have a basketball hoop available, you can

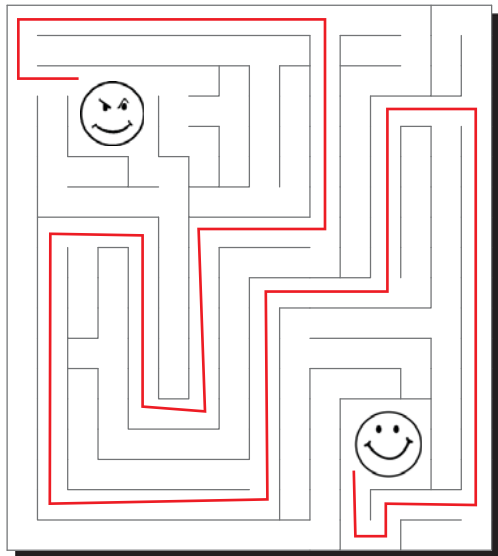
also use a wastebasket or some other type of basket. Have the

kids take turns making "baskets". When they make a basket, the team opens up

the basketball to reveal a word from the memory verse. The first team to complete their memory verse and place it in the correct order wins.



PUZZLE ANSWERS



LOVE
ANGER
BROTHER
SISTER
AGREE
LIKE
FASTENER
EMBARRASS
MISTOOK
JEALOUS
JESUS
FORGET
BETRAY
LEADERS
MONEY

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(For older students)

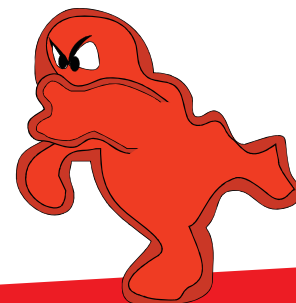
1. What happens when you use the word "hate"? The Bible shows us that God cares more about our actions than our words. The ground is not going to open up and eat us. Words are important, and so it is not good to say we hate someone. However actually hating someone is much worse.
2. Is hell real? Will people really go there? The Bible informs us that hell is real, and will be a place for souls to go where there will be flames, crying, and pain. It is eternal, and is where all those who do not go to heaven will go with they die.
3. What makes you not want to be friends with someone? Sometimes kids can be rude to us, exclude us, or laugh at us in front of others. These actions make us not want to be their friend. We should always be kind to others, but we do not have to be their friends.

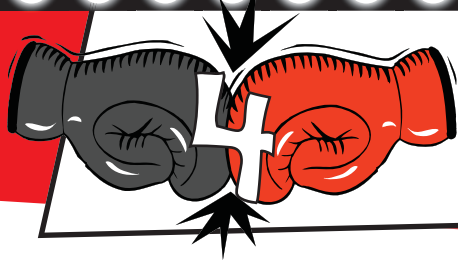


IN THE RING

Do something nice for someone you dislike. Hold your tongue when you see someone else cheating or about to mess up. Do not tell on them or get them in trouble.

I get so mad at other people sometimes, I just take off running!





LOVE VS. SELF-JUSTIFICATION

Bible story: Parable of the Good Samaritan
Luke 10:25-37

DRAMA

Wise Willie and foolish Fred participate in a game show. The name of the game is, "Who is my neighbor?" Willie and Fred as contestants pose as "neighbors." They promote their reasons to qualify as the "neighbor" and the audience claps to vote on whom they want as a "neighbor."

MEMORY VERSE

"'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Luke 10:27

MAIN LESSON

This month we are learning about love, and ways to show love to others. This is such an important topic that Jesus often taught it. In fact, Jesus summed up the whole law in today's memory verse by saying Christianity is all about loving God and loving our neighbor as we would ourselves.

Self-Justification means thinking of a good reason why it is a bad time or a bad idea to help someone.

One day a Christian expert was talking with Jesus about this very topic. The Bible says that the man wanted to justify himself, and so He asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

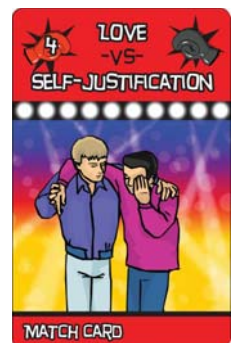
Jesus answered him by telling the story of the Good Samaritan.

One day a man walked along a road and was beat up by some robbers. A highly religious man walked by, let us say he was a Christian pastor. He did not stop to help the injured man. Why wouldn't the pastor stop to help? Maybe he was on his way to a conference where he would be speaking, and he did not have time to stop. Maybe he did not have any extra money to share, and he knew if he stopped, he would have to spend money to help the man. Maybe his father was waiting for him at home, and he did not want to be yelled at. Whatever justification he had in his mind, his actions did not show love.

Again, another man walked by, without stopping to help. The Bible says he

was another kind of religious man. Let us say he was a Hindu priest. He also walked by without helping. Now we have two religious men who did not stop to help. The truth is we all do this. We all have justifications in our minds as to why we cannot stop to help someone else in need.

Then in Jesus's story, a third man walked by. This man was of a lower level of society. In fact, the Jews were not supposed to talk to them. The lower man stopped and took good care of the man. He brought him to safety, and paid for his doctor bill. Jesus then asked the crowd, "Which one of these three men was a "neighbor" to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" Everyone knew right away that it was the man of the lower society who really showed love. This is much harder to do than to talk about. It is much easier for us to have Bible studies, and worship meetings and talk about love, than it is to actually treat others as we would treat ourselves. Jesus knew this would be difficult, and that is why he told them this story. Who will you be? Will you be a religious person, who always goes to church, but does not stop to help others? On the other hand, will you be like the Good Samaritan, who did not care what level of society the man was in, but was willing to stop and help. Reasons to justify ourselves as to why we cannot help are NOT good. Jesus wants us to show our love with actions: no excuses!



PUZZLE ANSWERS

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



LOVE
SCENE
SPIRIT
STRENGTH

HEART
FEARS
FORGIVE
NEIGHBOR

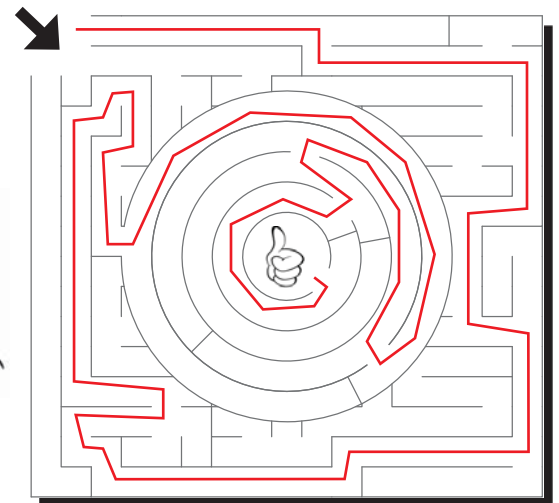
YOURSELF
BIBLE
SAMARITAN
ROBBERS

RELIGION
PASTORS
EXPERTS
JUSTIFY

MEMORY VERSE GAME

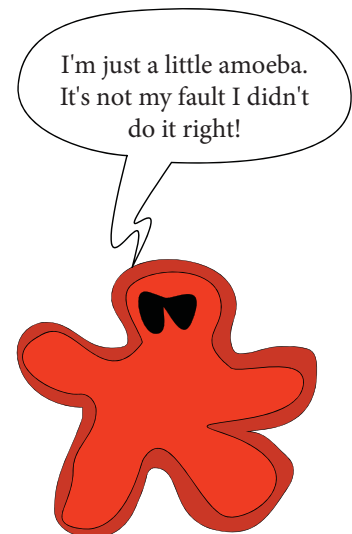
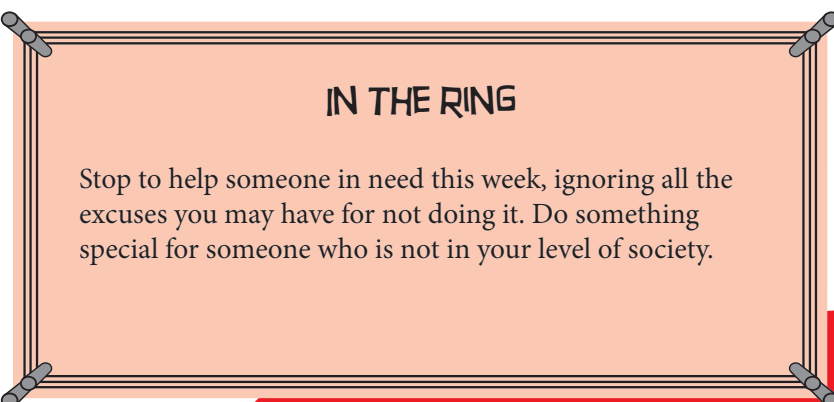
Erase a Word

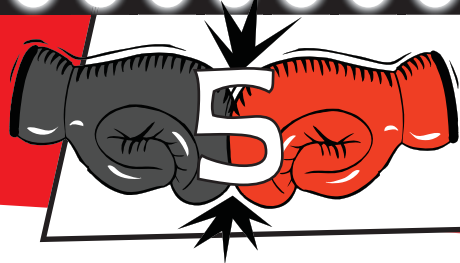
Write the memory verse on the board. Erase the verse a word at a time, each time asking the children to say the verse.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (For older students)

1. What if someone needs something from me? This parable shows that Jesus wants us to stop and help others.
2. Will the end really come? The Bible tells us that someday Jesus will return and this world as we know it will end. We do not know when, but it is certain that one day the end will come.
3. What are your normal excuses for not stopping to help? Our normal excuses are money, time, permission from our parents, what others would say, or getting into trouble.





LOVE VS. SPIRITUAL VANITY

Bible story: David chosen as king

1 Samuel 16:1-13

DRAMA

Bring to class a mirror to see and admire the outside appearance and a stethoscope (or paper tube to be a stethoscope) to see inside the heart. Wise Willie and Foolish Fred compare the differences between the outside and the inside.

MEMORY VERSE

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

MAIN LESSON

On this last week to study the fruit of the Spirit LOVE, we will look at various talents or abilities that can steal our focus and cause us to have spiritual vanity. We know that love is important in our spiritual walk, but often we may think that faith is more important. Maybe prayer or worship, attending church or preaching eloquently are more important than love. What do you think about giving? Is it more important than love? The truth is, all these spiritual things are good, but they are not as important as LOVE. 1 Corinthians chapter 13 mentions these spiritual things: speaking eloquently, prophesy, faith, giving, and sacrifice, but says they do not compare to love. LOVE is more important!

We are often impressed with talents and abilities. However, the truth is, if someone has a voice like an angel, but does not show love in their daily lives, to God their voice is like a clanging symbol. There is no beauty in abilities or other spiritual practices when they are without love.

In today's Bible story, God sent the prophet Samuel to Bethlehem to choose a new king. When he arrived, the whole town trembled in fear of this great man of God. He prayed for the people, and chose the family of Jesse. When Jesse's family arrived, he saw the first-born son Eliab and thought, "This must be God's new king!" However, God said NO! "But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'" 1 Samuel 16:7

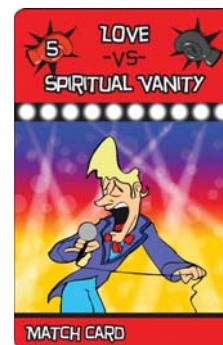
Vanity is a pride in one's outward appearance, even looking spiritual on the outside, rather than giving attention to your heart. Samuel continued looking at all the sons until they finally brought in the youngest son who had been attending the sheep in the field. David was the youngest and the least expected among men to be the next king. However, that is who God chose. Our love of talents and abilities can distract us from what God really wants. We can spend time praying and singing, worshiping and giving, but if all the while we are not showing love, God will not be pleased. We can end up with a spiritual vanity. This is a difficult lesson, because worshipping God is NOT a sin. Sacrificing to give to the poor is NOT a sin. Preaching in a way to change people's hearts is NOT a sin. However, God says those things are actually worthless if we do not have love. So what should we be focusing on instead of praying, preaching and singing? Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Let us focus on LOVE.

MEMORY VERSE GAME



Slips of Paper

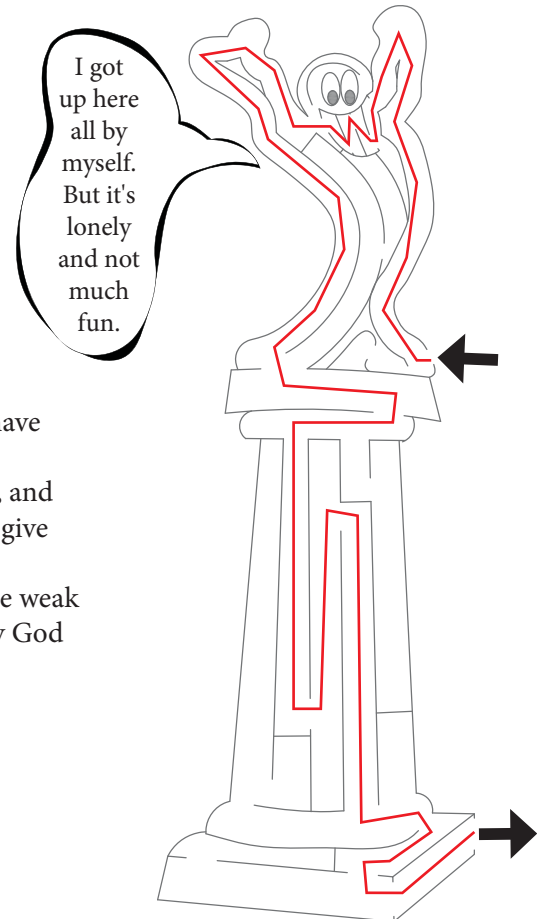
Write each word of the memory verse on a slip of paper. Children must place the slips in the correct order. You can also tape each piece of paper on the front of each child and have them line up in order.



PUZZLE ANSWERS

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

LOVE
 PATIENT
 EAGERNESS
 ENVOIOUS
 BOAST
 PROUD
 DISHONOR
 SELFSEEKING
 ANGERED
 RECORD
 WRONGS
 DELIGHT
 OTHERS
 REJOICES
 TRUTH

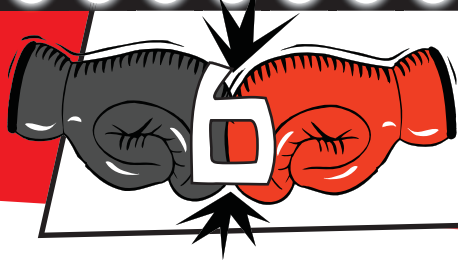


QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (For older students)

1. What is wrong with being the best? It can go to our heads and cause us to have spiritual vanity, which can contaminate our love toward others.
2. What can spiritual vanity look like? It can look like pride, vanity, hypocrisy, and an overall idea that you are good. It can make us look down on others, or not give opportunities for ministry to others.
3. Does God like to use strong people or weak people? God usually likes to use weak people, to show His strength. The more spiritual vanity we have, the less likely God will use us.

IN THE RING

Ask God if there is a spiritual practice you should stop, as you move your focus onto LOVE. Do more actions this week to show love: do not boast, do what is best for others and not yourself, and do not hold people accountable for the wrongs they do.

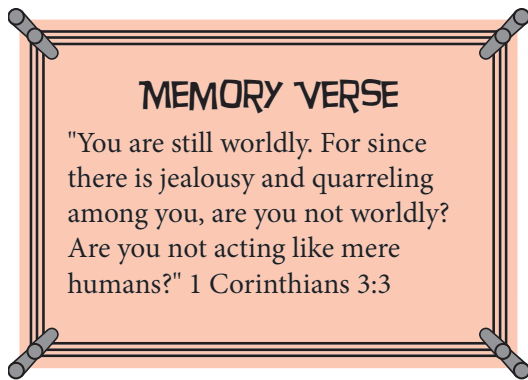


JOY VS. JEALOUSY

Bible story: Religious leaders are jealous
Acts 5:12-33

DRAMA

Foolish Fred has happy faces stuck onto himself (with sticky notes or small pieces of paper taped on body). Wise Willie wears a thief mask. As Foolish Fred complains about what others have, Willie sneakily rips off a happy face. When all happy faces are stolen, Foolish Fred is crying, feeling completely sorry for himself and angry with Wise Willie.



MEMORY VERSE

"You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?" 1 Corinthians 3:3

MAIN LESSON

It is time to learn about JOY! This week we are looking at jealousy and how it steals our joy. We can be overcome with jealousy when we are envious of someone's achievements or advantages. Jealousy can happen when looking at other's possessions like toys or jewelry. It can also arise in us over things that no one but God can control. We can be jealous over someone's great looks, their wonderful parents, or talents they were born with. We can also become jealous of each other in church, for the gifts of the Holy Spirit, or talents we use in church. That is what happened in today's Bible story.

Peter and other apostles were performing many miracles, gathering often at the temple in Jerusalem. The crowds continued to grow and they continued to perform miracles, healing the sick and driving out evil demons. However, some religious leaders and the high priest became jealous of their successes. In anger, they threw Peter and other apostles into jail. The Bible says that their motives were jealousy. Peter had not done anything wrong. Has this happened to you? Have you ever been punished for no reason, except that someone was jealous of you? Have you ever punished someone else for no reason, except that you were jealous of them? Jealousy is everywhere today and in the Bible. People are constantly comparing themselves with others, and wanting what they have. We step on others in order to lift ourselves up.

The spiritual leaders in Jerusalem probably were jealous of the apostle's

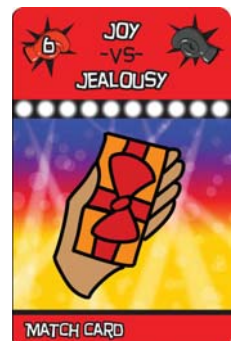
spiritual gifts. They probably dreamt at night wishing they could heal people too. The apostles would have been very popular at that time, especially with many healings. I bet the religious leaders were jealous that the apostles had large crowds listening to them. Jealousy steals our joy, and makes us angry. It makes us think about what we lack instead of content with what we have.

Even though the Priest had Peter and others thrown into jail, an angel showed up in the night and set them free. They quickly returned to the temple and continued to preach and heal people. Therefore, in the end, putting the apostles into jail did not help the religious leaders at all! It only made the apostles even more popular and showed the people even more miracles.

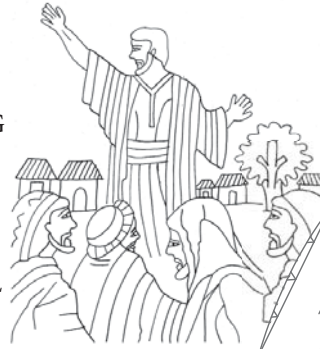
MEMORY VERSE GAME

Ask Questions

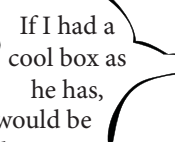
Write each word of the memory verse on a slip of paper. Tape each piece on the back of each child. Have them ask questions of each other to find out which word is on their back, and then line up in order.



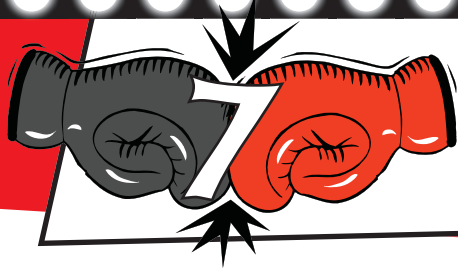
WORLD
JEALOUSY
QUARRELING
ACTING
CRYSTAL
OTHER
FIGHTS
WONDERFUL
PARENTS
TALENTS
ABILITY
CHURCH
SPIRIT
JESUS



(For older students)

- 
- If I had a cool box as he has, I would be happy.

Thank God for the spiritual gifts, 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.)



JOY VS. GREED

Bible story: The rich young man
Matthew 19:16-30

DRAMA

Foolish Fred is tied-up with rope (representing greed) and cannot move. Wise Willie arrives and invites him to go play, but Fred cannot move because of all the ropes. He is not free to go where he wants to go. Wise Willie mentions greed to the class and how it can keep us from being able to move.

MEMORY VERSE

"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." Luke 12:15

MAIN LESSON

It is time for us to talk about money. Money gives power, lust, and greed, and can steal our joy. If we could have a little more money, we think we would be happy. We look around and see other boys and girls laughing, and can imagine it is because of all the toys they have, the beautiful clothes they have, or the friends that hang around them because of their money. But the Bible says in Ecclesiastes that "Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income." It is true in our lives as well. When you love money, there is never enough of it. However, joy is one thing that money cannot buy, and usually money steals our joy.

It is interesting that those who have won the lottery are NOT happy years later. In fact, there is a higher rate of suicide in lottery winners! People will gather around you when you have money, but not because they love you. They will gather because they want to take as much from you as possible. Greed for money can grab our hearts very quickly. Greed is having a strong desire to possess more things for ourselves, beyond our basic needs for survival and comfort.

Jesus warns us in the Sermon on the Mount that money can consume us until it becomes our master. "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and

despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." Matthew 6:24

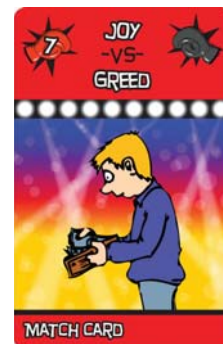
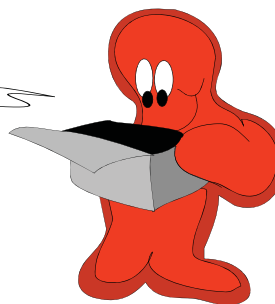
In today's Bible story, we meet a rich young man. This man was a Christian and was interested in serving God with his life. Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

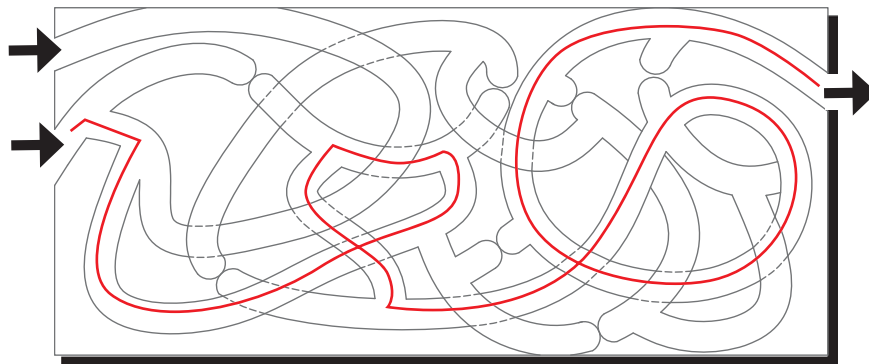
This made the rich man very sad. He had a lot of money, and he did not want to give it away!

Greed is a killer of joy. Children will often look around at what others have and want it. You know children at school who have things you want. Other children want things you have. However, possessions will not bring happiness. Freedom from greed will bring real joy and happiness. Ask God to help you break greed in your life, because on our own, it is impossible to do. As Jesus said to the rich young man, "Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

Let us ask God to do the impossible in our lives, disconnecting us from money and greed, and giving us real joy and happiness!

I wish there was more stuff in my box.





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

LOTTERY
STEALS
LOVES
APPEAR
SERVES



Hot Potato

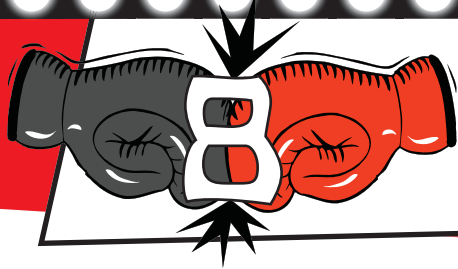
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(For older students)

1. Is it ok if I am not caught? Talk with your students about different sins and whether or not they are sins if the person is caught or not. God sees everything, so the reality is that all sins are wrong, regardless if we are caught or not. However, adults rarely see life this way. Talk about the difference between what God says in the Bible and what we normally live.
2. What does it mean to try to serve God and money? Serving money could be spending on school studies or work-studies in order to make more money when you are older. Serving money could also show up in lies and hiding truths so that you could have more money, as well as stealing.
3. What is wrong with taking something from someone if they do not need it as much as I do? God wants us to trust Him

with all our needs. When we steal from others, we are trying to meet our own needs and trying to make life fair. Life on this planet is never going to be fair.

Give some of your own personal money to God in the offering plate at church, not knowing to whom it will go. Use some of your money to serve someone else. If you do not have any money, take a possession you have and give it away.



JOY VS. SELF-PITY

Bible story: Jonah and the worm
Jonah 4:1-10

DRAMA

Foolish Fred brings a picture of his extended family. He focuses only on himself and complains about his hair, clothes, height, etc. Wise Willie tells him how lucky he is to grow up surrounded by a loving, large family.

MEMORY VERSE

"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

MAIN LESSON

One of the things that can steal our joy is when we focus too much on ourselves, and allow our emotions to get us down. Self-pity is focusing on our own troubles and letting that make us unhappy. It is the feeling that your situation is worse than what other people face and that they should feel sad for you. It can be plain sadness, but often leads to manipulating others into feeling sorry for us and giving us attention. When we are stuck in self-pity, we hope someone says to us, "Oh, you poor thing."

You might have heard about Jonah and the whale, but today's Bible story is Jonah and the worm!

After Jonah's encounter with the whale, he arrived in Nineveh and preached the gospel to the city. The people in Nineveh repented of their sins, and turned from their evil ways. Therefore, God had compassion on the city, and did not destroy them as He had planned.

This made Jonah angry, so he left the city, and went outside to mope. God provided a vine to give him shade. On the next day, God sent a worm who nibbled on the vine, and it withered. Then the sun scorched Jonah's head. He again became angry, this time over the withered vine.

God said to Jonah, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight.

And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there

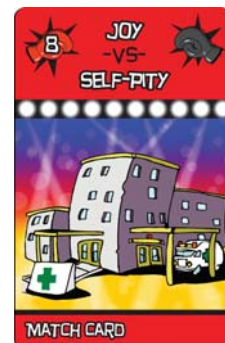
are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people...?" Jonah 4:10-11

When we are stuck in the mud of self-pity, we can do what God did with Jonah: take a step back and look at the big picture. There were more than 120,000 people in that city. It was wonderful that God saved them. What is the big picture of your situation? If you are sick, think about how many others are also sick, but have something that is worse than what you have. If you feel poor, and unable to improve your situation, think about the many thousands of people who are even poorer than you are, with no way out. If you are having trouble seeing the bigger picture, ask God to open your eyes to see it. Stop thinking about your own troubles, and focus instead on the troubles that others have. When you step back and look at the bigger picture, you can be free from self-pity, and experience joy in your life.

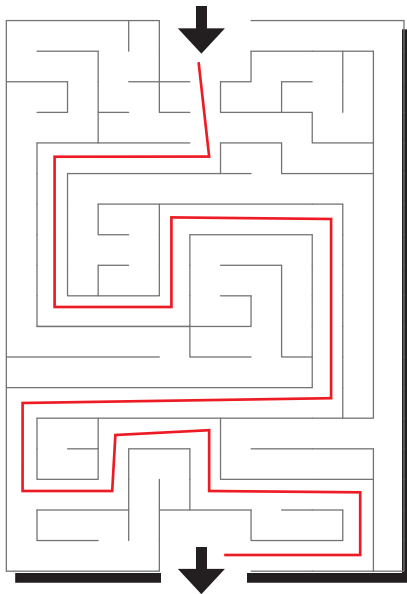
MEMORY VERSE GAME

Straw relay

Cut drinking straws in half (approximately 4" pieces), one for each child. (Wide straws are best.) Write each word of the verse on a separate piece of paper, making a verse for each team. Divide class into teams. Place the words on a table for each team. As a relay race, each team member must pick up one word of the memory verse with their straw, and carry it to their team's table on the other side of the room. The first team to assemble and recite the verse wins.



PUZZLE ANSWERS



ARGUMENT
MOMENTARY
TROUBLES
ACHIEVERS
ETERNAL
GLORY
OUTWEIGH
UNCLEAR
TEMPORARY
SPIRIT
NINEVAH
JONAH
WHALE
WORM
COMPASSION

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



(For older students)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

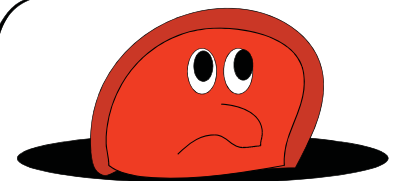
1. What is the bigger picture? Our lives are but a breath, and we live a very short time on this planet. Soon we will die and go to either heaven or hell. Eternity is what matters, not life on earth.
2. What do people do who are feeling sorry for themselves? They may complain a lot, talking about all their troubles. They may quit on their responsibilities, not doing their normal work. They usually try to pull others down with them.
3. Why do so many people boss me around? The whole earth is structured to be under authority, from our parents to our bosses at work, there will usually be a boss over you. However, there are different seasons in life, and you may end up being the boss some day!

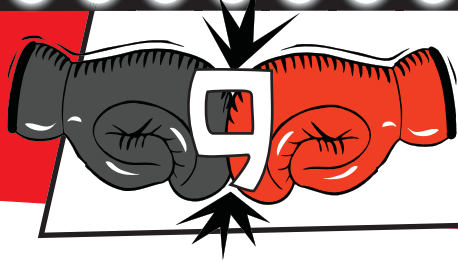


IN THE RING

Help at a homeless shelter, or a ministry that feeds the poor. Alternatively, visit the sick in a hospital. Pray and ask God to open your eyes to the bigger picture, and help you take your eyes off yourself.

Why does he get all the luck and I have to stay in this hole?





JOY VS. UNGRATEFULNESS

Bible story: Jesus heals 10 lepers
Luke 17:11-19

DRAMA

Have a wrapped gift ready. Wise Willie and Foolish Fred find the wrapped present, and get all excited. They talk about all the gifts God has given us in talents, abilities, family, love, etc. Have wise Willie and Foolish Fred demonstrate different reactions to the gift from gratefulness to rejection.

MEMORY VERSE

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise; give
thanks to him and praise his name."
Psalm 100:4

MAIN LESSON

We have looked at various sins that can steal our joy this month, but the most aggressive thief of our joy is a simple thing: ungratefulness. Simply, it is the attitude of not showing appreciation for the things we have received. These could be objects like food and clothing, relationships like our families, or even opportunities.

We do not deserve anything. However, we can sometimes act entitled, as though we are owed something. We may feel we are owed respect, or we may feel that we are owed a happy life. However, we are not. God never said that life would be easy; in fact, He said quite the opposite!

In today's Bible story, 10 men were sick with leprosy. One day Jesus was traveling and as he was going into a village, these 10 men shouted out to Him, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

Jesus told them to go show themselves to the priest, and as they went, they were healed! One of the men returned and threw himself at Jesus's feet, and thanked Him.

Then Jesus wondered what happened with the other 9 men who were healed that day. Why did they not return to thank Jesus? Do you think they felt entitled to their healing? Do you suppose they actually felt like Jesus owed them this healing? Maybe they just quickly forgot the pain of the leprosy, and moved quickly into their new lives.

However, true joy can only come when we can fully realize that no one owes us anything at all. God does not owe us healings, or money, or fame, or opportunities, or relationships. Each wonderful thing that we have is a gift, and something for which we should be thankful.

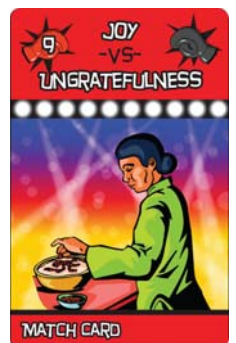
What things do you feel you should always receive? How about your lunch every day. Do you always expect your mother to provide that? What if she could not provide your lunch every day? Can you take a moment to thank God and your mother for the lunches you have received?

The more we expect everything good in our lives, the more angry and bitter we will become. However, the more we can be grateful for the things we have, the more joy we will have.

MEMORY VERSE GAME

Guess who

Select a volunteer who must go stand by a teacher with his back to the group and the memory verse on display. Whoever is teaching the verse quietly points to a word in the verse and instructs the group to read the verse inserting a *clap* for the appointed word. The volunteer then has to guess what the missing word was.



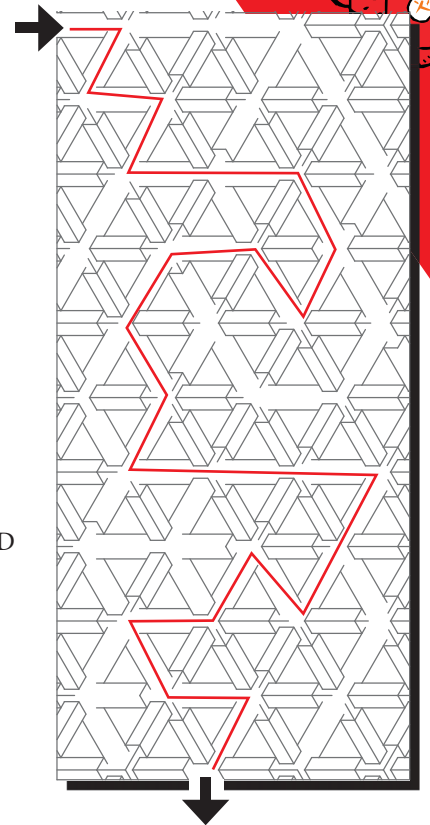
PUZZLE ANSWERS

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



ENTER
DOORS
THANKS
COURT
PRAISE
UNGRATEFUL
GRATEFUL

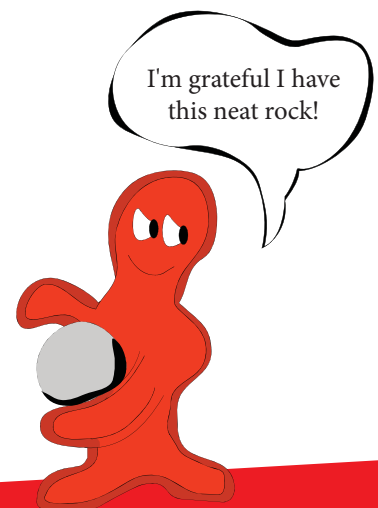
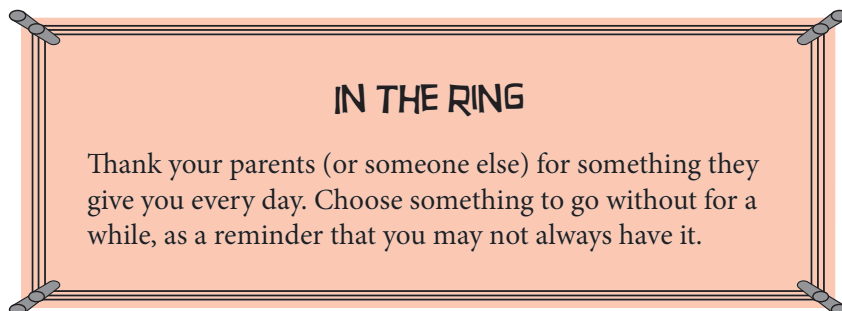
SPIRIT
COVETS
RESPECT
HAPPY
WONDERED
JESUS
HOLY

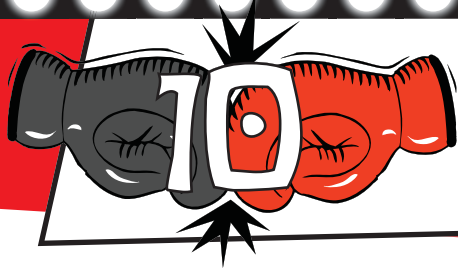


(For older students)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What things can we do to show we are grateful? We can say, "thank you," give a gift, tell others about the good thing, thank God in prayer, or do something as a return gift.
2. What is so great about heaven? The Bible says that heaven will be better than anything we can imagine. Go ahead and imagine the best with your students; from financial things to family fun and love, to beautiful scenery and a perfect temperature. Then tell your students that heaven will be even better.
3. How can we be thankful when life is so bad? It is easy for us to focus on the parts of life that are bad, and take our eyes off the parts of life that are good. Part of being grateful is the practice of looking at your life and finding the good things. Do you have a good friend, a mother who takes care of you, did you have a meal this morning, or have you had some fun this week?





PEACE VS. WORRY

Bible story: Elijah fed by ravens
1 Kings 17:1-6

DRAMA

Label a clear jar, "Trust" and another clear jar, "Worry." Wise Willie describes his trust in God as he pours some oil into the "Trust" jar. Foolish Fred expresses all of his worries and pours colored water into his "worry" jar. Can we have worries and trust in God at the same time? They pour their jars together. The two mix slightly at first but will separate. As worries are said, they pour more colored water into the jar. The "worries" water will push the "trust" oil right out of the jar until it is completely full of worry, just as happens in our lives.

MEMORY VERSE

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
Matthew 6:33

MAIN LESSON

This month we are learning about peace as one of the fruits of the Spirit. One type of peace is a quietness inside our souls. It comes from a trust in God to take care of all our needs. When we start to worry about what we will eat, or what we will wear, we lose our peace. Jesus encouraged us in Matthew chapter 6 not to worry about our own lives, but to trust him for our needs. He told us that we are much more important to Him than the birds in the sky, yet they have all they need. Jesus used the analogy of flowers in the fields, which are clothed so beautifully, yet we are much more important than the flowers.

God asks us not to worry about ourselves. We are to seek God first, and all our needs will be added as well. He wants us to trust Him.

It sounds wonderful, but it can be very difficult to do. This is why Jesus says in this same passage, "O you of little faith." It requires faith to be able to trust God for our needs and stop worrying. We will have God's peace inside our hearts and souls if we trust Him.

In today's Bible story, Elijah had to have a lot of faith to trust God because God sent him to the desert for a long time and asked him not to worry about his food and water!

God sent birds (ravens) to bring him food, both bread and meat every morning and evening. He survived because birds brought him food. He had drinking water from a brook.

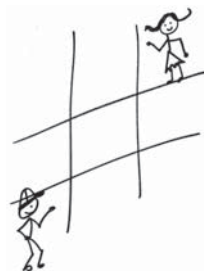
Can you imagine how difficult it must have been for him? He probably worried about how he would survive in the wilderness. You and I have worries all the time, too. We may be worrying about our food just like the prophet Elijah. On the other hand, we might worry about clothes, bus fare, or other needs.

Peace in our souls can only come when we are fully trusting God for everything we need. That way, when troubles arise, we do not have to worry. In good times and bad times, God will provide for our needs.

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.

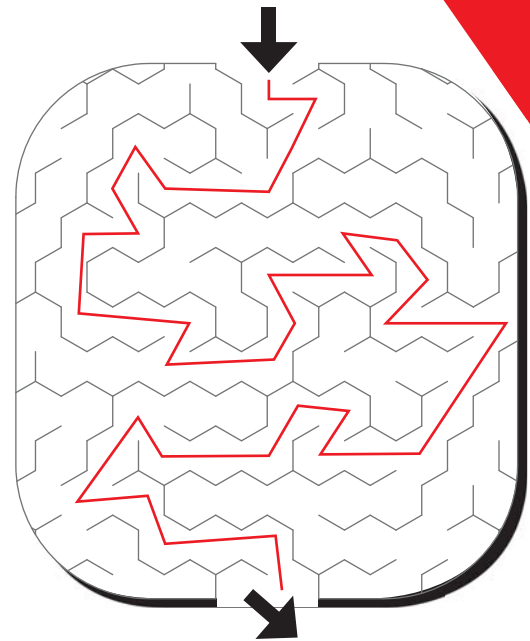


PUZZLE ANSWERS

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

SEEK
FIRST
KINGDOM
RIGHTEOUSNESS
IMPORTANT
THINGS
GIVER

PEACE
WORRY
START
VALUES
TRUST
JESUS
SPIRIT



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

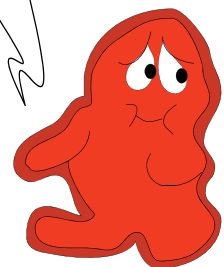
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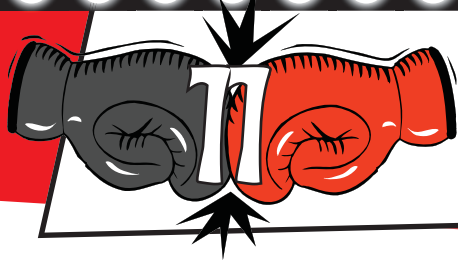
1. Is there anything God cannot do? No. God is all-powerful.
2. Why does God let bad things happen? For our spiritual growth or in order to help others with their problems, (we cannot help if we have not gone thru the same thing.) When sin entered the world, it affected everyone. God will not just put a big wall around all the Christians. We are to live in this world, the same as everyone else on the planet, and be available to help others.
3. What about when God feels far away? It requires faith to believe in God when we cannot see Him or feel Him. However, regardless of our feelings, God is there. He loves us and cares for us.

IN THE RING

Share something you have with someone else, even if it means you will have to go without. Either food, clothing, bus fare, or something else that costs you money. Ask God to meet your needs.

How can I do well in school? I can't even hold a pencil!





PEACE VS. FEAR

Bible story: Peter walks on water
Matthew 14:22-33

DRAMA

Wise Willie floats a small disposable cup in water. Foolish Fred uses rocks to represent fears and worries and drops them one at a time into the cup until it sinks.

MEMORY VERSE

"Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 17:20-21

MAIN LESSON

When we become Christians, we are giving our lives to God. We are no longer our own bosses, but try to follow God with our hearts and actions. It is a wonderful way to live; however, it can be a little scary. God does not just ask us to do things that we know how to do. He also asks us to do things that are impossible for us to do.

In today's Bible story, the disciples were in a boat, out at sea. A large storm arose, but they were too far from land to turn back. They became afraid for their lives. Jesus came to them, walking on the water!

This terrified them even more, but Jesus told them to take courage and not be afraid.

By this point, they have faced their fears multiple times, but now it gets much harder. Peter actually asks Jesus to tell him to go out on the water!

Jesus responds with a simple answer, "come."

Peter got out of the boat, and began to walk on the water!

This is the amazing part, because Peter was a normal man, but he found himself doing something completely impossible.

This is going to happen with all followers of Jesus. We might not walk on

water, but there will be times that we find ourselves doing impossible things. In fact, if you only do things that are possible, you might be working in your own strength! However, Jesus wants us to work and live in HIS strength. One way to know that you are using the strength of God, and not your own, is to do something that you know would be impossible for you to do! This is like walking on water.

Are there students in school where speaking to them about God feels impossible to you? Is there something you could do for your parents that seems impossible to you now? What is it that God is putting on your heart to do? Ask Jesus if you can "go to Him out on the water." If He says, "Come," start walking into the impossible. You will see God do miracles in your own daily life.

This is not easy. After he walked on water, Peter became afraid of the waves, took his eyes off Jesus, and began to sink. This can happen to you and me as well. However, have no fear, Jesus took Peter's hand, and saved him from drowning. Set aside your fears and take courage. This is the way the Christian life is to be lived: "walking on the water."

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!

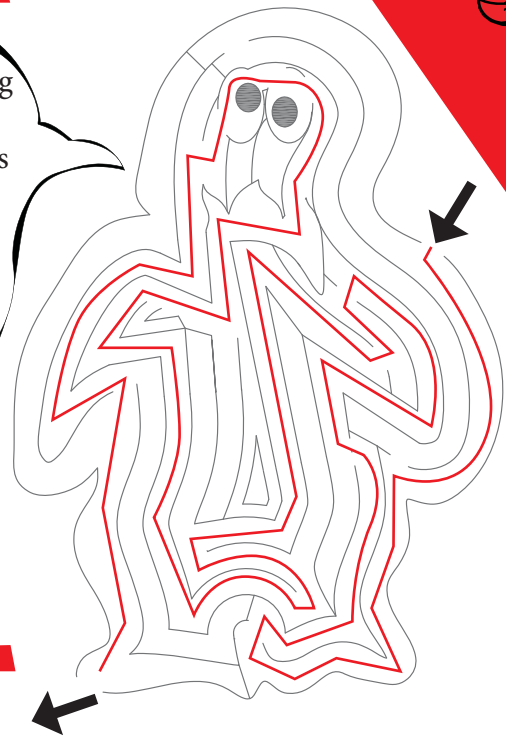


PUZZLE ANSWERS

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

TRULY
FAITH
SMALL
LIVING
MOUNTAIN
NOTHING
IMPOSSIBLE
CHRISTIANS
GIVING
BOTH
AGREE
ACTION
GOD
JESUS

Walking
on
water is
cool.
I can't
even
swim!



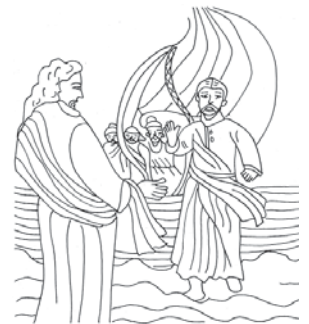
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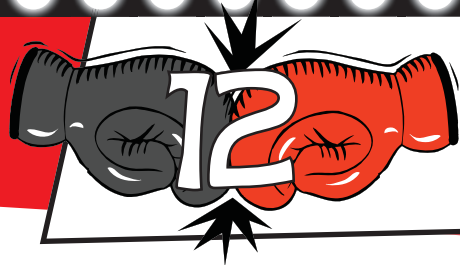
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What impossible thing is God asking you to do this week?
Discuss different examples from the lesson, and talk about possible assignments God may have given them. Share your own testimony.
2. What about when my parents are unfair? Life is unfair, including many times in our own homes. Would there be a way to honor our parents, even if they ask us to do something wrong? We can trust God to see everything, even if our parents do not.
3. What things make you afraid? Talk about various things, from spiders to being beaten by parents. Tell your students that what they share in class will not be talked about elsewhere. Try to make them comfortable so that they can share their fears. Do not try to have an answer for each fear, but just listen and let them share.

IN THE RING

Choose something that feels impossible to do, and set aside your fear. Ask Jesus to help you do it. Then start taking steps into it. (It is a success for you to start, even if you sink as Peter did. The task is to choose something that feels impossible and try it.)





PEACE VS. DISCORD

Bible story: Turn the other cheek
Matthew 5:38-42

DRAMA

Wise Willie leads the students to rub their hands together, fast and hard, each time Foolish Fred says something argumentative or upsetting. The heat from rubbing our hands is just like what happens in our souls. When hands rest in pockets or quietly in laps, it brings peace. Wise Willie shares that to have peace, stop rubbing against other people!

MEMORY VERSE

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." Romans 12:18

MAIN LESSON

As we are looking at how to have peace in our lives this month, we cannot avoid the topic of discord. When people disagree or argue it is discord. The New Testament church had fighting, just as we have discord in churches all around the world today. However, God asks us to live at peace with one another. This is very difficult to do. As humans, we are constantly getting into fights and having discord amongst ourselves. Maybe it is because we all have strong opinions. We know what God wants of us. We often judge each other, and fight to get our own way. However, our fight should be against the devil and sin, not against our brothers in Christ.

In today's Bible story, Jesus gives us instructions for how to avoid discord. Jesus tells us that if someone strikes you on one cheek, we should turn and offer the other cheek! This means that we do not defend ourselves from those who are hitting us, but that we also do not worry about future offenses from them! This is so contrary to how we live today, even in our Christian churches. We always want to defend ourselves from others, and if someone strikes us on one cheek, we make sure it does not happen again.

Jesus instructs us that if someone wants to take us to court for something, we should just let him or her do it. In addition, Paul has given us the same advice that Jesus did.

In 1 Corinthians 3, Paul talks about maturity. When we are baby Christians, we are not mature. In this passage, he says the quarreling amongst the brothers is what is causing them to stay immature. Later in chapter 6, Paul says the Christians needed public lawsuits to settle their disputes. How embarrassing that would have been for everyone!

What are we supposed to do when someone wrongs us? What if we have done nothing wrong, but someone is judging us and accusing us of wrong in front of others? Paul gives us the answer we would rather not hear in 1 Corinthians 6:7-8: "The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers and sisters."

If we want to be spiritually mature, demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit in our lives, we must live at peace with others. We must stop judging, criticizing, and arguing amongst ourselves. When we are wronged, like Paul said, we should just be wronged! There is no need to defend ourselves. Let others cheat you, slander you, and strike you. When we can accomplish this, we will have peace.

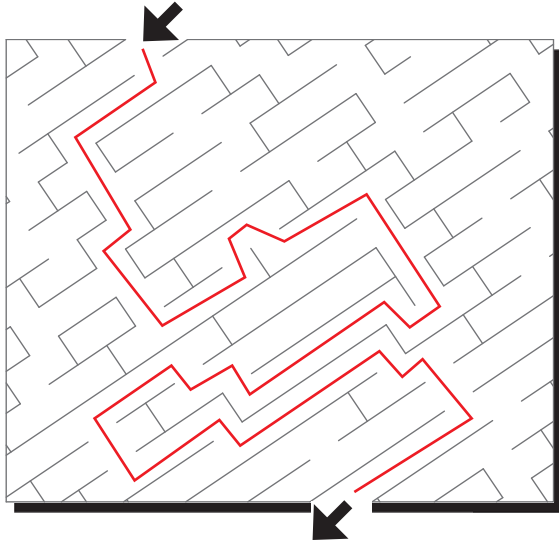
MEMORY VERSE GAME

Ping Pong

A child calls out the first phrase of a verse, and then another calls back the second phrase, and so forth. This can be played in pairs or in teams with the children facing each other in a line.



PUZZLE ANSWERS



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

POSSIBLE
DEPENDS
OTHER
PREACH
EVERYONE
ROMAN
PATTERN

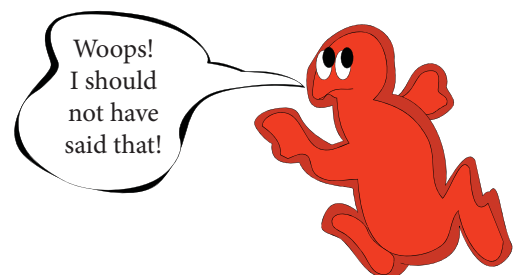
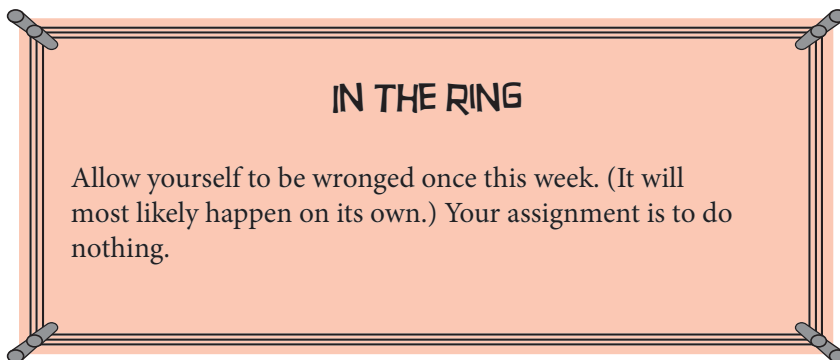
INSTRUCTIONS
DISCORD
CHURCH
DIFFICULT
AVOID
JESUS
SPIRIT

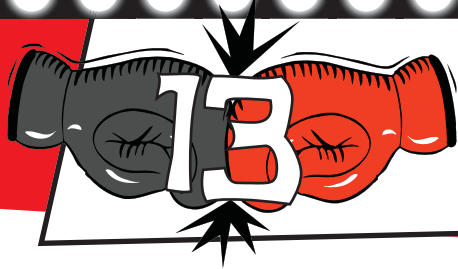


QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(For older students)

1. Do we have to be friends with everyone? We need to love everyone, be kind to him or her, and be friendly to them. However, if someone continues to be cruel, we do not have to be his or her friend. We have to show love to our enemies, but we do not always have to be their friend.
2. Can Christians go to court? This will change based on your denomination, so check with your pastor before giving an answer. Many churches do not enter into the secular worlds of their members. However, this passage points out that if and when Christians do fight in court, it is embarrassing to the church.
3. Do Christians get into fights? Yes, unfortunately all the time. The more mature we are as Christians, the less fighting we will do.





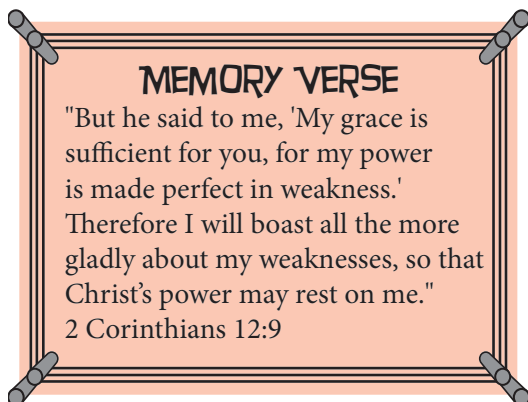
PEACE VS. SELF-TRUST

Bible story: Jesus feeds the 5000

Luke 9:10-17

DRAMA

Offer what you have and let God work the miracle. Wise Willie and Foolish Fred demonstrate this with a piece of paper where climbing through it would be impossible. However, when the paper is cut or torn in a specific way, it will become a large circle that is easy to climb through. (See tear lines for paper experiment below.)



are times God wants to do something miraculous, regardless of our skills. God even uses people who are weak, so that He can prove strong.

We can have more peace in our hearts when we can trust God instead of trusting ourselves. We do not have to have everything figured out. God already does.

MEMORY VERSE GAME

Hopscotch

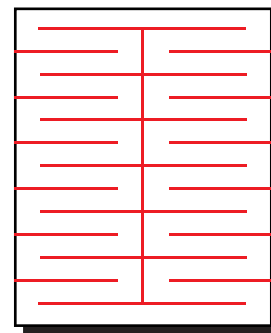
Use masking tape to make the hop scotch pattern on the floor. Write memory verse words on paper and tape them to the top of each hopscotch square (put masking tape completely across the edges of the paper so the children's toes are not caught on the words). Have the class line up on each side of the 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.



MAIN LESSON

One of the ways we can develop a real peace in our hearts is to trust God completely. This means to trust God with our food, our clothes, our marriage, our family, our school, our studies, our opportunities, and our whole lives. This goes against what the world says we should do. The world says we should have self-esteem and be confident in ourselves, which is true. However, there comes a time when God wants us to trust Him and not ourselves. When we only trust ourselves, we can lose our peace. This is because at some point, we are not enough. We will never be enough. In today's Bible story, the disciples ran into a huge problem. They found themselves with a large crowd of hungry people. They were going to have to send them all away to find food, or find a way to feed them. The Bible says there were about 5000 men there, so there may have been at least 20,000 people including all the women and children! That is a lot of people to feed! When the disciples brought up the problem to Jesus, Jesus said to them, "You give them something to eat." Once again, Jesus is challenging the disciples to do something impossible. However, they were looking at the five loaves of bread and two fish that they had in their own hands.

You and I can also turn to what is in our own hands. We can look to our own skills, talents, knowledge, or finances. We can look to what we know how to do or our own talents. God want us to trust in what HE can provide. There



Paper experiment
Tear along red lines.

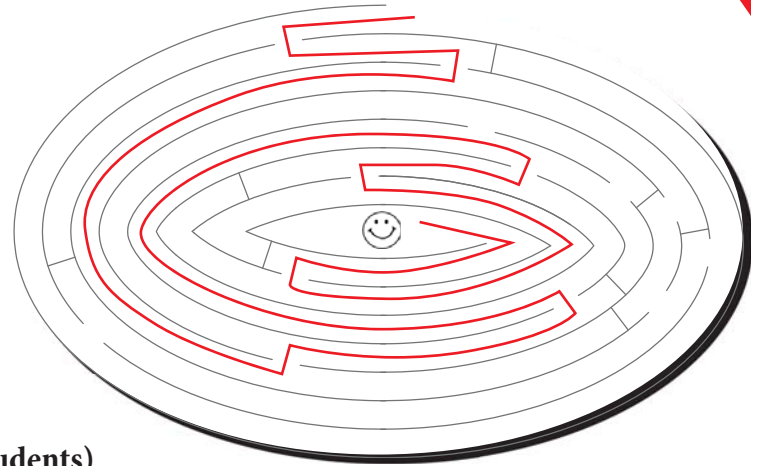


PUZZLE ANSWERS

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

GRACE
SUFFICIENT
POWER
PERFECT
WEAKNESS
BRAGS
BOAST

OPPORTUNITIES
PAUL
CHRIST
PEACE
JESUS



(For older students)

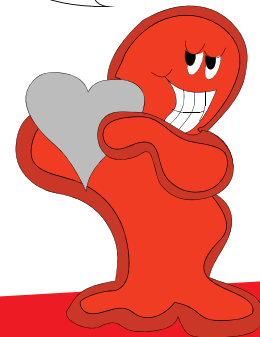
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Have you seen a miracle? Allow some time for your students to discuss different miracles that they have seen, large or small. Share a personal testimony if you have one. These miracles could be opportunities, someone opening up, healings, changes of attitude, or protection from God.
2. How can God be everywhere? God is not restricted as we are; He is all-knowing and all-present. This means that there is nowhere to hide from God. He sees everything!
3. What talents do you have with which you can serve God? Allow time for your students to discuss and share their different talents and abilities. Do not allow other students to laugh at others, or mock them for what they share. Try to encourage each student.

IN THE RING

Ask God for an opportunity to serve Him in an area where you are weak. Sign up in your church to serve in that area. If you are quiet, speak out more this week. If you are loud, be quiet more this week.

I am awesome!
I bet I can handle
this on my own.





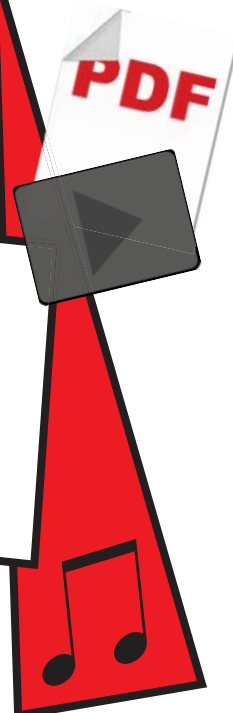
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