



## **Encouraging Church Leadership in Upper Elementary Students**

**By Anne Bosarge**

## Small Kids - Big Influence

***1 Timothy 4:12, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity."***

Imagine what would happen if you had a team of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders who were ready to step up to the next level in their spiritual journey. Instead of just sitting in children's ministry on Sunday mornings, they want to serve. Instead of simply being poured into, they want to begin giving back.

I'm fortunate to have the pleasure of spending time I spend with my Elementary Leadership Team twice a month and it's simply one of my favorite things to do. It's true- they're immature, they act like kids, from time to time they laugh when it may not be appropriate, and after playing games they have a distinct "5<sup>th</sup> grade boy smell." BUT these kids are striving to be world changers in their homes, neighborhoods, and community. We have memorized 1 Timothy 4:12 and constantly have check-ups to make sure that they are living out the five areas of influence mentioned in the verse. They really believe their actions and lives can make a difference. They truly believe that they can set an example not only for those who are younger, but also adults who cross their paths. Know why they believe it? Because God says they can and our adult leaders tell them they can. These are the ways my elementary leadership team sets an example for ALL believers:

### Speech

I will listen and will not interrupt.  
I will use encouraging words that show honor and respect.

### Life

My life will reflect God's love for me.  
I will be a leader who cares about others more than myself.

### Love

I will be kind.  
I will reach out to others who don't have friends.

### Faith

I will share my faith with others.  
I will live out my faith every day as I put actions to my words.

### Purity

I will make wise choices in what I watch, see, and hear.  
I will fill my mind with God's Word.

They live it out in their lives at home, at school and in our elementary worship service. On a Sunday morning, our ELT can be seen running tech, adjusting the sound volume, assisting adult small group leaders, running our reward store, leading worship on the stage, distributing supplies, and more.

The lessons that follow are the first step in developing leadership characteristics in your 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Below are some implementation suggestions for beginning your own ELT program.

- 1 Scheduling- Our ELT (Elementary Leadership Team) is an optional group that meets twice a month outside our regularly scheduled Sunday programming. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month from 4:30-6:00. Please note that making this a mandatory program for your 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will dilute its effectiveness. Not all kids are ready for this type of responsibility! Because of the nature of this group and its level of responsibility, kids who are not ready, usually weed themselves out during the first couple of months.
- 2 Programming- The lessons that follow are meant to challenge kids in their faith and teach basic leadership characteristics in fun, exciting ways. You'll play gross, crazy games that make parents cringe and get kids digging into their Bibles. In addition to the lessons, make sure you allow kids time to hang out and develop a sense of community. Our ELT meetings usually include 15 minutes of "hang out" time, 45 minutes for the lesson, and we use the rest of the time to practice music and motions for the following week's elementary worship experience. Any leftover time is spent with more team-building and fun.
- 3 Expectations- It's important to make your behavior expectations very clear from the beginning. In the third meeting, kids and parents will sign a commitment form and pledge stating what is expected of them so they know up-front what is expected of them. State your expectations of how your leadership team should behave during your Sunday experiences. Their behavior and actions should set the example for the rest of the kids in the room.
- 4 Responsibilities- My ELT kids are responsible for running the media and tech during our Sunday elementary and preschool environments, giving out points for games, running our rewards store, leading music and motions on the stage, and so much more! Decide what areas of responsibility you are comfortable entrusting in the hands of your trained ELT. Don't sell their abilities short! They are far more capable than you can imagine!
- 5 Rewards- Reward your leadership team for a job well done! A reward can be more free time to hang out, a piece of candy during the lesson, a game of kickball where you participate, allowing kids to choose their favorite songs to do for fun, etc. Simple

rewards like a special name badge and t-shirt for all the kids in your leadership team go along way and mean a lot to kids. It gives them a sense of identify and makes them feel important.

- 6 Instill Ownership- Give kids a sense of ownership in your Sunday morning experiences. When you have a successful Sunday morning, give them props! Allow them to see that their hard work makes your environment a better place.
- 7 Send it Home- Encourage parents to continue to reinforce the concepts they're learning at your ELT meetings when they get home. In the first week, kids will be given two homework cards held together with a circle ring binder. They will be asked to complete the two cards at home before the next ELT meeting. These homework cards provide kids with the opportunity to extend what they've learned at their meetings and let parents see what the kids have been learning. Ask kids to return the completed cards the following week. Consider implementing a points system that gives kids the chance to earn rewards for completed cards.

## Lesson 1- Getting in Shape to Serve

**Materials:** five poster boards with leadership characteristics as described below, Bibles, rope that has been tied together to make a loop, homework cards

**Leaders Are...**- What does it mean to be a leader? Let's play a game that will help us think about what leadership looks like. I'm going to call out five descriptions of a leader. If you think the first description I say describes a leader, you'll stand on the right side of the room. If you think the second description I say describes a leader, you'll stand on the left side. Please listen to the whole description before you move!

A leader is...	in front	behind
A leader...	helps	gives directions
A leader...	sets the example	follows others
A leader...	puts others first	takes the lead
A leader...	speaks	listens

Did you have a hard time choosing from these two options? Lots of people think that leaders are out in front, telling people what to do and leading the way. We're going to learn that God wants you to be a servant leader. That means that you lead others by serving- not by being served. Let's look at those descriptions again and talk about them.

A leader is often out in front showing others the way, but sometimes must walk behind and give others the freedom to experience leadership.

A leader often needs to give directions and guide people, but also needs to be willing to help others.

A leader should set the example for others to follow, but also be willing to follow the ideas and suggestions of others.

A leader should take the lead when necessary, but be willing to put others needs first at all times.

A leader should speak up when needed, but know that it's more important to listen to others.

**Look It Up-** 1 Timothy 4:12 tells us what it means to be a Christian leader. Look up 1 Timothy 4:12 in the Bible and see if you can identify the five areas that Timothy calls us to be leaders. (Life, Love, Speech, Faith, Purity)

I've got five posters hung up around the room. They have the five areas of leadership written on them along with a definition of each one. I'm going to give each pair of you five post-it notes and I want you to work with a partner to write one thing on each post-it note that a leader would do to demonstrate

leadership in each of these categories. Here is an example: If I write on my post-it note, “speak encouraging words” which poster should it go on? What about if I write, “only watch G and PG movies?”

Definitions-

- Speech- Allow your words to speak life to others.
- Life- Live a life that reflects God.
- Love- Love God and Love Others.
- Faith- Grow and Learn.
- Purity- Allow only Godly influences in your life.

**Make a Shape-** We’re going to see if you can put to use what you’ve learned today about being a leader. We’re going to play, “Make a Shape.” I’m going to give you a piece of string that has been tied together to create a loop. Everyone needs to spread out along the edge of the circle and grab the string. I’ll call out a shape and you will need to work together to make the shape that I call out. Because we have lots of leaders in this group, you’ll have to know when to speak and when to listen. You’ll need to use your words to encourage others and demonstrate a loving attitude to others.

Shapes to call out:

- Triangle
- Rectangle
- Flower
- Tree
- Star
- Heart

**Talk It Over-** Why is it important for Christian leaders to be an example for others? How can you be a servant and a leader at the same time?

Each week you’re going to be given two take-home cards that we’ll store on a circle ring binder. You’ll need to complete the assignments and bring them back the next time we meet. Each week we’ll add the next week’s homework cards to the ring binder. At the end of our leadership series, you’ll have a collection of cards that demonstrate what Christian leadership is all about.

## Lesson 2- Got a Gift

**Materials-** Bibles, Timothy's Gifts reproducible- one per child, My Gifts reproducible- one per child, pledge ceremony letter- one per child, homework cards

**As kids come in-** Ask kids to recite 1 Timothy 4:12 to a leader. Collect their homework cards from last week and initial them.

**Hidden Talents Show-** Do you have any special talents? What are they? Today we're going to have a surprise talent show! You're going to work with a group to come up with something to perform in our talent show. You can do a dance, sing a song, read a poem you write, perform a one minute skit, anything you want! I'll give you 10 minutes to prepare with your group. You can use anything in the room in your performance!

After 10 minutes have passed, allow kids to perform their special talent.

What are some things you're good at? Why do you think God gave you the ability to do these things?

**Timothy's Gifts-** Last week we learned 1 Timothy 4:12. Can you recite that verse with me? "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity." Paul, one of the greatest missionaries of all times, wrote this in a letter to Timothy. Let's see if we can learn a little bit more about Timothy to see if we can understand this verse a little better.

You'll need to work with a partner and look up the verses on the following worksheet. Write down facts that you learn about Timothy from these verses.

Who is he? (Paul's son in the faith)

What was his job? (to teach truths to the other Christians)

How was he to teach them? (by his actions- speech, life, love, faith, purity)

What kind of weaknesses did he have? (frequent illnesses- possibly brought on by contaminated water)

What did Paul tell Timothy to be instead of timid? (full of God's power, love, and self-discipline)

What kind of family did Timothy come from? (His faith was taught to him by his mother and grandmother)

So we know that Timothy was a young pastor, not in the best of health, and probably kind of timid- not really brave when standing up to people who might be doing the wrong thing. Does he sound like a natural leader? He doesn't, does he? Did you know that God can take all your strengths and your weaknesses and turn you into an amazing leader who will bring Him glory!

**Your Gifts-** Let's see if we can identify some of the things that you already do well that God can use to help you lead others and bring them closer to Him. I want you to work quietly by yourself to take a quiz. If you need help with the words or reading, please let me know and I'll help you. When you are done, circle the category that you have the most check marks.

Compare the results from the tests and discuss each child's strengths. As you review each area, have them stand up if they circled that area as one of their strengths.

Prophecy- Someone with the gift of prophecy is able to understand God's truths and help guide others in the right way. They are sensitive to the difference between right and wrong.

Serving- This person sees what needs to be done and does it without whining, moaning, or complaining. He puts the needs of others first and is on the lookout for ways to help.

Teaching- Someone with the gift of teaching loves to learn about God through study and is able to explain what he has learned to others.

Encouragement- An encourager is a person who is able to lift others up when they feel down and is enjoyable to be around because they have a positive outlook on life.

Giving- This person sees a need and fills it- regardless of what it costs. Givers are generous and sharing- and they go out of their way to make sure others have what they need.

Leadership- Someone with the gift of Leadership is organized and responsible. They will not put off doing something- you can count on them to do it on time and do it correctly the first time.

Compassion- A compassionate person is one who demonstrates mercy to others, who can see someone else's point of view, and is extremely loving and caring.

**Talk It Over-** Why is it helpful to know your spiritual gifts? How can you use these gifts to serve others at church? At home? At school?

Remember! Next time we meet, please make sure your parents make plans to attend the pledge signing ceremony. We'll go over the five important areas of leadership for ELT and hear from our pastors about what it means to be a servant leader in the church. This is a dress-up event! Wear something nice and bring your parents. I'm asking everyone to bring some finger foods and we'll enjoy some good munchies after the ceremony.

This week in your homework, you'll explore your strengths and weaknesses and think about how you can use your gifts in leadership at home, school, and church. (Distribute the Pledge Ceremony letter to parents as the kids are picked up.)



## **Timothy's Gifts**

Who is he? Read 1 Timothy 1:1-2.

What was his job? Read 1 Timothy 4:11.

How was he to teach them? Read 1 Timothy 4:12.

What kind of weaknesses did he have? Read 1 Timothy 5:23.

What did Paul tell Timothy to be instead of timid? Read 2 Timothy 1:7.

What kind of family did Timothy come from? Read 2 Timothy 1:5.



## **Your Gifts**

**Put a check mark in front of the lines that best describe you.**

### **Prophecy-**

- ☐ I can tell the difference between right or wrong, good or evil.
- ☐ I am not afraid to speak my mind.
- ☐ I tend to think about the negative first.
- ☐ I feel that I'm right most of the time.
- ☐ I get angry when people break the rules and get away with it.
- ☐ I can be stubborn.
- ☐ I want to be obedient and feel guilty when I don't obey.

### **Serving-**

- ☐ I like working with my hands.
- ☐ I enjoy helping others.
- ☐ I am usually shy and get embarrassed easily.
- ☐ I put others' needs before my own.
- ☐ I keep my room clean and organized.
- ☐ It's hard to say no when people ask for my help.
- ☐ I like doing projects for other people.

### **Teaching-**

- ☐ I love to learn new things.
- ☐ I like teaching people what I've learned.
- ☐ It's easy for me to explain things to others.
- ☐ I have strong opinions about things.
- ☐ I like telling stories.
- ☐ I am independent and do things on my own.
- ☐ I think I know more than many of my friends.

**Encouragement-**

- ☐ I love to talk all the time.
- ☐ I am happy most of the time.
- ☐ I like to tell people when they've done a good job.
- ☐ I have a positive outlook on life.
- ☐ I notice when someone does something good and I tell them.
- ☐ I like helping people solve their problems.
- ☐ I get along with lots of different types of people.

**Giving-**

- ☐ Giving to others makes me happy.
- ☐ I do everything with all my heart.
- ☐ I enjoy using my imagination.
- ☐ I don't have lots of friends, just a few best friends.
- ☐ I like to save money rather than spend it.
- ☐ I am good at making money.
- ☐ I'm quick to help others when I see they have a need.

**Leadership-**

- ☐ I feel very satisfied when I accomplish something.
- ☐ I love competition. I like to be the first or the best.
- ☐ It's important to me that my friends are loyal.
- ☐ I enjoy showing others what to do.
- ☐ I'm good at speaking up in class.
- ☐ I feel good about myself and the things I can do.
- ☐ I'm usually in charge when I'm in a group.

**Compassion-**

- ☐ I get upset when bad things happen to people.
- ☐ I look for the good things about people.
- ☐ I enjoy showing love to someone who is hurting.
- ☐ I am eager to please other people.
- ☐ I enjoy peace and try to avoid arguing with others.
- ☐ I find it hard to stand up for myself.
- ☐ I like playing sports and games that don't have a winner.

## **ELT Pledge Signing Event!**

### **Date, Time**



Dear Parents,

We have been learning basic leadership principles outlined in 1 Timothy 4:12. This year in ELT, your kids will be held accountable for their choices and behavior as they strive to be the leaders that God is calling them to be. On (date), we'll have a special Pledge signing ceremony at (place). Kids will sign a pledge committing to be held accountable in five areas: speech, life, love, faith, and purity. In order to make this a special and meaningful event, we've asked that kids get a little dressed up. After the ceremony we'll celebrate with a reception. Thanks for helping your child grow in faith and character this year by being a part of ELT!

Sincerely,

### **Lesson 3- ELT Pledge Signing Ceremony**

**Setting the Stage-** This ceremony needs to be special- something different than what kids expect in children's ministry. Hold the ceremony in "big church" if possible and ask your pastor to speak to the kids about what it means to be a leader in your church. Have kids sit together on the front row and allow parents to sit behind them. You will need printed copies of the ELT pledge for each child to sign. Below is a sample service outline but feel free to add anything that would make the ceremony more meaningful for your kids.

Welcome- ELT Leader

Message on Church Leadership- Pastor

Reading of the Pledge- ELT leader and kids read together

Signing of Pledge Cards- ELT leader calls kids up one at a time with their parents to sign the card. There is a space for both parents and kids to sign.

Closing Prayer and Blessing- Pastor

Feel free to follow your ceremony with a celebration! This is a great time for families to build relationships with each other and get to know the other kids who have taken on leadership roles alongside their kids. The reception can be as elaborate as a potluck meal or simply juice and cookies- whatever works best in your situation.

Display the pledges in your elementary worship environment as a reminder to your kids of the commitment that they've made.

## **Lesson 4- Be an Example in Speech- Sweet Smelling Attitudes**

**Materials-** Bibles, Ziploc bags that contain cotton balls soaked in the following liquids: gasoline, vanilla, cinnamon, strawberry extract or essential oil, vinegar, smoke, floral essential oil; rotten bananas- one per child, white paper, markers, tape, homework cards

**As kids come in-** Collect their homework cards from last week and initial them.

**Look It Up-** Today we're going to spend some time talking about how to be a leader in our speech. One of the ways that we do that is to watch our attitude when speaking to others. What does it mean when your mom says, "Your attitude stinks"?

The way we speak to others and the attitude with which we communicate is often more important than what we actually say. Good leaders realize that how they say what they say is more important than what they say. Look up Philippians 2:5 in your Bibles and tell me what it tells us about our attitudes. ("Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.") What do you think that means?

**That Stinks-** Your attitude can either stink or be a good smell to others around you. Let's take a look at some Ziploc bags that I have prepared. I want you to get with a partner and take out each Ziploc bag. One at a time, open the bag and smell inside. Guess what the smell is and write your guess on the outside of the bag with a permanent maker.

Bags- fill a snack bag with several cotton balls soaked in the following liquids:

- Gasoline
- Vanilla
- Cinnamon
- Strawberry extract or essential oil
- Vinegar
- Smoke (let them sit near a charcoal grill or something smoky and bag them up)
- Floral essential oil

**Rotten Fruit-** What are some examples of stinky attitudes? What are some examples of sweet smelling attitudes? You're going to work with a group to write these things down on a piece of paper- one sheet per example. For instance- "Rolling my eyes when I talk to my parents" might be on one piece of paper. "Speaking encouraging words to my brother," might be on another sheet. See how many you can come up with.

Bad attitudes are kind of like rotten fruit. Have you ever heard the saying, "One bad apple spoils the whole bunch?" A bad attitude spreads! As a leader, people will be looking to you to set the tone. They will follow your lead. If you have a bad attitude, they'll follow you and soon not only your attitude will be rotten, but your attitude will ruin the people around you too!

Let's read what you have written down on the paper and see if we can determine if it's a good attitude or bad attitude. As you read, mark over the words on the paper with a large red marker- draw a big star on top of those that describe good attitudes, draw a big X on top of those that describe bad attitudes.

We're going to take these and have some target practice with them. I'm going to tape them to a flat surface outside the church and you'll each have a rotten, stinky banana. You're going to carefully open your banana and take it out of the peel. Then you'll tear it apart into pieces, stand back and take aim at the rotten attitudes on the wall. Don't hit the good attitudes with the stars- just the rotten ones! See how long you can make your banana last and how many rotten signs you can hit!

**Check Your Smell-** Christian leaders must realize the power of words and how we say them. Because others will be looking to you as the example, it's very important that you speak with a good attitude instead of a bad!

When you smell a bad attitude creeping up on you, what should you do?

1. Admit it. Don't deny that you have a bad attitude- just admit it and try and make it better.
2. Find the problem. Often what you think is causing you to have a bad attitude, really isn't the problem at all. Sometimes we have a bad attitude because we're tired, lonely, angry, worried or sad.
3. Recognize how your bad attitude is affecting others. Look at the people around you- what is your bad attitude doing to them?
4. Have an Attitude of Gratitude. Instead of looking at the things that are wrong, flip your point of view. Look for the things that are good in your life and focus on them.

**Talk It Over-** Why is it important for a leader to have a good smelling attitude? What is a warning sign that you have a bad attitude? How can you flip your attitude around?

This week as you complete your homework cards, make sure you take time to smell your attitude periodically throughout the day. Is it pleasing to others? Are you setting a good example in the way you speak?

## **Lesson 5- Be an Example in Speech- “Bee Encouraging”**

**Materials-** black trash bag- one per child, yellow duct tape, scissors, blocks, bibles, yellow crepe paper- one per team, printed copy “Bee-Encouraging” verses- one per child, yellow highlighters, printed copy of encouragement cards- one per team, honey- one container per team, homework cards

**As kids come in-** Collect their homework cards from last week and initial them.

**Busy Bees-** This week we’re going to talk some more about how to be an example in speech. Let’s first look at what 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says about encouraging speech. “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” We can build each other up by “bee-ing” encouraging. Did you know that bees work together to build up their hive and produce honey? Today you’re going to become bees. I’m going to divide you into small groups and give each of you a black trash bag and some yellow duct tape. Poke holes for your arms and your head and pull the trash bag over your head. Then use the duct tape to help each other make bee stripes on your trash bag. (Give them 5 minutes to work.)

Next you’ll get some blocks to use to build honeycomb. You’ll take turns adding blocks to the honeycomb and each time you add a block, you need to say something encouraging to someone in your group. For instance, “You have a nice voice” or “I like the way you dress.” I’m going to give you 5 minutes to work together to build your honeycomb of encouragement.

How do you feel about your honeycomb? How did it feel to hear some encouragement from your friends? What would happen if I came up to your honeycomb and said something discouraging and pulled away the foundation? (Go to a group’s honeycomb and make a discouraging statement- “You aren’t very smart” and pull away one of their foundation blocks. Continue with a few more until their honeycomb falls down. ) Did it take many discouraging statements to knock your honeycomb down? It takes a lot of encouraging statements to counteract the effects of one hurtful statement. As leaders we need to remember to build each other up with encouraging words.

**Bee Encouraging-** Let’s look up another verse. Open your Bibles to Proverbs 16:24. “Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.” How can your encouraging words be sweet to someone’s soul?

We’re going to “Bee Encouraging” in this next game. You’ll stay in your small groups. I want one person from your group to take off your bee outfit and agree to be the honeycomb. You’ll take a roll of yellow crepe paper and wrap it around the person who will be the honeycomb.

Next, I’m going to give you some statements. I want you to work with your small group and sort through the statements- decide if they are encouraging or discouraging. If they are encouraging, I want you to use honey to stick the paper to your “honeycomb’s” body. If it falls off, use more honey! Throw the discouraging statements away and keep them out of your hive!!

**Consequences-** Throw away your costumes and let’s dig into the Bible. I’m going to give you a worksheet with some more Bible verses. Highlight the words that talk about kind speech and circle the



words that talk about the consequences of encouraging words. For instance in Proverbs 16:24, I would highlight the words “pleasant words” and circle “sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”

**Talk It Over-** Why is it important for you to use your words to be encouraging when you are a leader? How can you encourage others at home, school, and church? Who are some other leaders who have encouraged you in the past?

This week I want you to consider the power of your words to build people up or tear them down. Make an effort to build up as many people as you can this week by speaking words of encouragement into their lives. Complete both of your cards and bring them back with you next week!

## **“Bee” an Example in Speech with Encouraging Words**

### **Proverbs 16:24**

Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

### **Proverbs 12:25**

Worry is a heavy burden, but a kind word always brings cheer.

### **Proverbs 15:4**

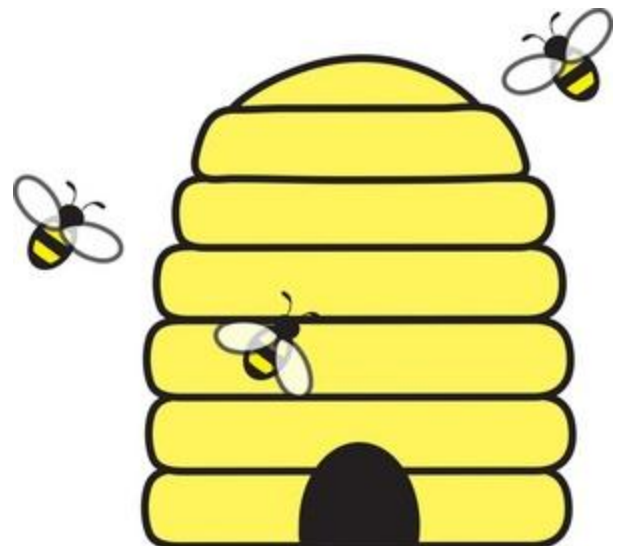
Kind words are good medicine, but deceitful words can really hurt.

### **Proverbs 22:11**

The king is the friend of all who are sincere and speak with kindness.

### **Proverbs 25:11**

The right word at the right time is like precious gold set in silver.



“You’d forget your head if it wasn’t attached!”	“That was dumb.”
“Thanks for listening to me.”	“Stop bugging me.”
“You are getting on my last nerve!”	“Look how much you’ve improved!”
“Way to go!”	“Awesome job!”
“I have faith in you.”	“You better do it right next time.”
“That’s just not good enough.”	“You can do it!”
“I can tell you did your best.”	“I’m so proud of you.”
“You look great today!”	“What do you want?”
“You made my day!”	“Thanks for making me smile.”

## **Lesson 6- Be an Example in Speech- Control Your Tongue!**

**Materials-** Bibles, poster board- one per group, raw egg- one per group, building materials (Popsicle sticks, toothpicks, marshmallows of different sizes, packing peanuts, playing cards, cotton balls, etc.), marbles, plastic spoons, cube reproducible- one per child, scissors, markers, tape, homework cards

**As kids come in-** Collect their homework cards from last week and initial them.

**Introduction-** We've been talking the last few weeks about how to be an example to others in our speech. We've learned that we need to have a sweet attitude in our words and that we need to be encouraging to others. Today we're going to learn that it's important to have self-control in our words. Look up Proverbs 25:28 in your Bible and read it together with your small group. Proverbs 25:28, "Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control." I'm going to divide you into small groups and I'll give each group a poster board. I want you to illustrate the verse without writing any words.

Why do you think city walls were so important in Bible times? How did the city's walls protect the people and homes? How does having self-control over what you say protect you? Think of self-control as your personal city wall. When gossip tries to get in, your wall of self-control protects you and keeps it out. When anger tries to get in, your wall of self-control keeps it out. Let's see if you can build a protective wall of self-control.

**A fort of self-control-** I'm going to give each of you a raw egg and some assorted materials. I want you to build a fort of self-control that will protect your egg. In a little bit we're going to test your wall and see if it's strong enough to keep your egg safe- so do your very best!

Put some materials on a table and let kids get as much as they need of each material. Some suggestions: Popsicle sticks, toothpicks, marshmallows of different sizes, packing peanuts, playing cards, cotton balls, etc.

After kids have had time to build walls around their egg, pull out some marbles. Put all the forts together in one area and tell kids that you're going to test the integrity of their structure. Using a plastic spoon, catapult a marble into the area where the forts are. Before you launch each marble give the following descriptions:

- People will try and get you to gossip, but you need to have self-control and keep the gossip out.
- People will test your patience and you'll be tempted to respond in anger. You need to use self-control to stay cool under pressure.
- People will say hurtful things and you'll be tempted to take revenge. You need to use self-control to be kind even though it hurts.
- You'll be tempted to make fun of other people who are different than you. You need to use self-control to prevent yourself from hurting others.

- There will be times that you'll be tempted to use words that you shouldn't because you think it makes you look cool. You need to have self-control to stay away from bad language.

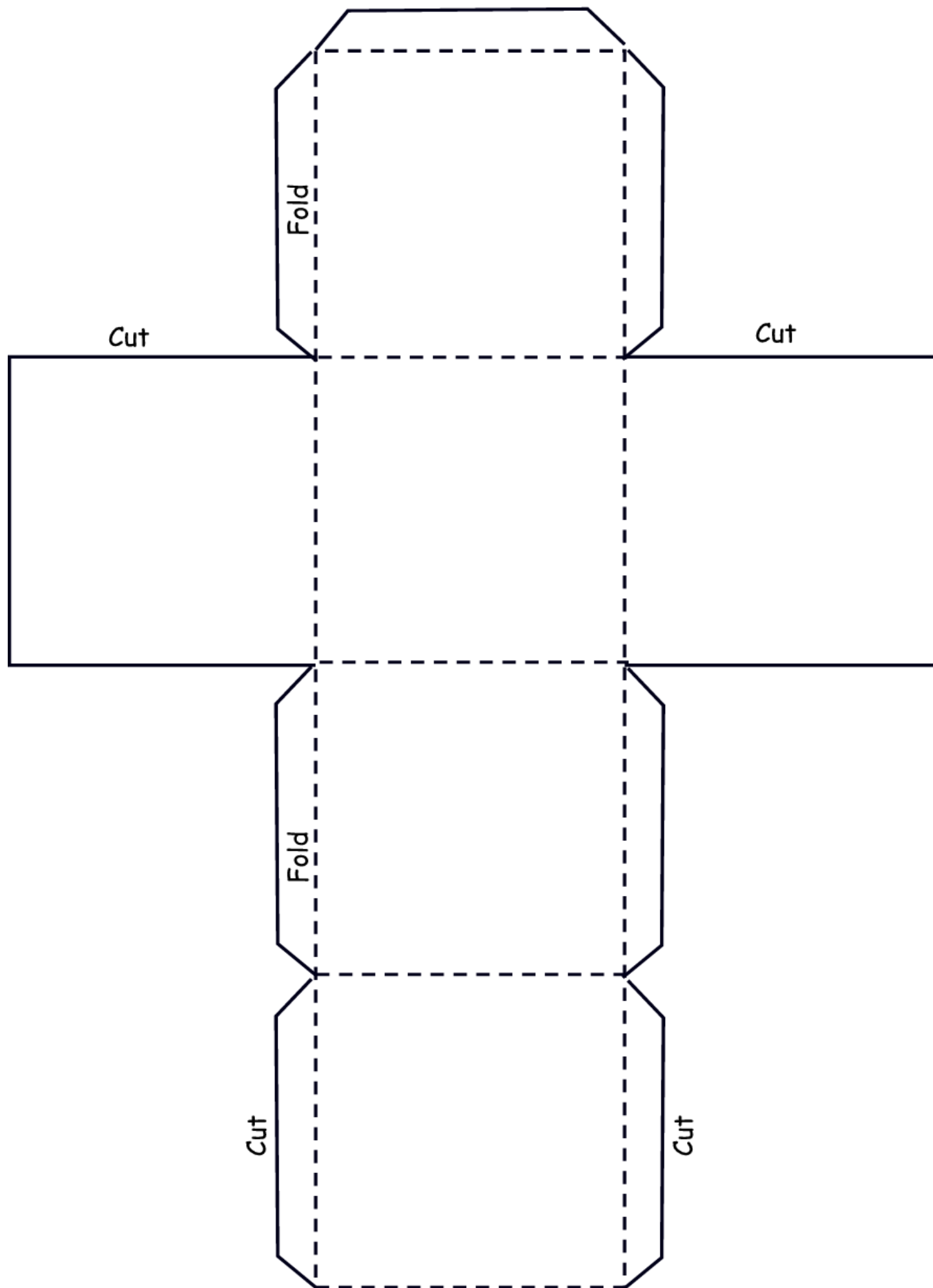
How did your forts hold up? When temptation tries to knock down your wall of self-control, what do you do to build it back up?

**Building Blocks for Self-Control-** Let's see how we can build more self-control in our lives. I'm going to give you a piece of paper that has directions for building a cube. We're going to learn six strategies you can do to build your self-control and you'll need to write one strategy in each square. Then you'll cut it out, fold the tabs, and secure them with tape.

1. Choose good friends- Surround yourself with other people who make good choices and use self-control
2. Pray- Ask God to help you control your mouth!
3. Leave- Get out of the situation before you lose control!
4. Avoid - Figure out where you are most tempted to lose control. Don't put yourself in those situations if you can help it.
5. Breathe! Take deep breaths- the extra oxygen will help clear your head
6. Stop and Think- Before you say something you'll regret, you need to stop yourself and think about the consequences of what you're about to say.

**Talk It Over-** Why is it important for a leader to have self-control? In what situations is it easiest for you to show self-control? When is it hardest?

Your homework this week will be to journal two times that you lose self-control. Each time you'll write down what happened and which of the six building blocks to self-control you stumbled on. Then you'll record how you can learn from your mistakes and make a different choice next time.



## **Lesson 7- Be an Example in Life- Christian Leaders Cooperate!**

**Materials-** Bibles, hula hoops- two per team, potatoes- two per team, craft sticks, glue, scissors, construction paper, markers, body part cards, inflated balloons, homework cards

**As kids come in-** Collect their homework cards from last week and initial them.

**Body Machine-** We're going to play a game called, "Body Machine." You're going to work with a small group to move your body like a machine from one side of the room to the other. Your group will begin in a hula hoop on one side of the room and move to an open hoop on the other side of the room. The catch is that I will tell you what body parts can be touching the floor as you move from place to place. When I divide you up into groups, you'll need to stand inside the hula hoop and stay still until I give you directions. (Divide the group into teams of about four kids each.)

See if you can cross to the other hula hoop on the other side using only...

- 6 feet
- 5 feet and 2 elbows
- 5 feet and 1 hand
- 4 feet and 3 hands
- 4 feet and 1 nose

That took some cooperation, didn't it? Did any of you feel more important or less important than the other team members?

**Look It Up-** Leaders typically like to give directions and take charge, but the Bible tells us that leaders also know how to cooperate and work with others. Let's read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. (Have kids look up the verses in their Bibles and follow as you read and explain the passage). These verses remind us that just like no body part is more important than another, no one in the church is more important than anyone else. God created us all to cooperate and work together to accomplish His mission on earth. Leaders don't just lead from the front; they lead from behind by cooperating and working well with others.

**Potato Heads-** I'm going to give each group two potatoes, some popsicle sticks, glue, scissors, and paper. I want you to use the materials to make a potato head- one that is well balanced and has all its parts.

What would happen if all the eyes somehow wanted to be hands instead? Would your potato's body be balanced? What would happen in the church if everyone wanted to be the person who gives directions and tells people what to do? Would anyone get things done? A good leader values all the parts that people play in the church and tries to get along and cooperate with everyone.

**Everyone is Important-** Give each child a card with the name of a body part written on it. (hand, foot, leg, arm, head, chest, neck, mouth, nose, ear, eye, ankle, wrist, etc.) In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul reminds us that all the parts of the body of Christ (the church) are very important. Everyone plays a different

role, but they are all important. Some people study and teach- maybe they would be the brains! Some people like to help in children's ministry- maybe they are the hands! Some people like to serve out in the community- they might be the feet! Some people are good listeners when others have a problem- they might be the ears! I've given you guys a card with a body part written on it. When I give the signal, you'll get connected with someone who would be next to you on a body. For instance, who would go next to the hand? The wrist! Who would go next to the wrist? The arm! I'll give you three minutes to get in order... go!

What would happen if we took out the hands? We wouldn't have people who served anymore. What if we took out the ears? We wouldn't have people who listened to problems anymore. Christian leaders realize that everyone's role is important and they work together with others.

**Body Balloons-** In this next game, you'll practice working together as a team. You're still going to be your assigned body part from your card- this time you'll only be able to use that body part in the game. I'll toss out some inflated balloons and it's your job to keep them all in the air. The catch is that you can only use your assigned body part to hit the balloon in the air. For example- if you have "nose" you can only use your nose to hit the balloon. If you have "wrist", you can only use your wrist. We'll start easy with just one balloon, then I'll continue to add more and more balloons to make it more challenging. We need everyone to help- everyone is important!

#### **Cooperation Tips-**

So now that you've discovered that you are an important part of the team and that everyone has a role to play, let's talk about how to be a cooperative leader.

1. Compromise- You won't always be right and you won't always get your way when working with others. Be ready to compromise for the sake of the team.
2. Learn to follow directions- Good leaders know how to give directions, but they also know how to follow others' directions.
3. Don't get offended. If someone in the group doesn't like your idea, don't take it personally. They aren't saying they don't like you, just your idea!
4. Ask for help- Someone else in the group might have the answer you're looking for.
5. Make friends! It's much easier to get along with people who are your friends.
6. Point of View- Try and see things from the other person's point of view- it will help you to understand them better.

**Talk It Over-** Why is it important to value everyone's unique roles and personalities in the church? When is it hardest for you to cooperate with others? What do you do when you can't work well with someone else? How does this affect your ability to be an example for others?

This week you're going to think some more about cooperation. After reading some scriptures about cooperation, you'll think about who God is calling you to cooperate with to accomplish big things.



## **Lesson 8- Be an Example in Life- Determined Leaders Bounce Back!**

**Materials-** Bibles, high bounce ball- one per child, masking tape, marble- one per child, white glue, food coloring, craft sticks, cups, borax, resealable plastic bag, homework cards

**As kids come in-** Collect their homework cards from last week and initial them.

**Introduction-** Today we're going to talk about Determination. Determination is not giving up- continuing to try again and again until you get it right. Why do you think it takes determination to be a Christian leader? Determination is important because without it, we'd never learn anything new! Without determination, we would give up and fail to accomplish big things.

**Determination Test-** We're going to test your determination today. I'll give everyone a small high bounce ball. These balls are fun to play with but hard hold onto, aren't they? You'll have some assignments to complete with your ball. Once you complete the first one, move to the second. See how far down the list you can get in five minutes!

1. Throw the ball up in the air, spin around and catch it before it falls.
2. Bounce the ball under your leg, two times in a row.
3. Bounce the ball, then hit it down to the ground three times before catching it.
4. Throw the ball up, let it bounce, then catch it four times in a row.
5. Bounce the ball on the ground five times but let it bounce over your head and catch it on the way down.
6. Throw the ball up in the air 6 times in a row, catching it each time (no bounces).
7. Bounce the ball against the ground seven times in a row.

How far did you get? Was there one step that you wanted to give up on? Did it take determination to complete these tasks? Just like your ball always bounced back, we need to be the type of leaders who can bounce back- even after things go wrong!

**Lost My Marbles-** Let's try another determination game. I've marked two identical paths on the floor with masking tape. I'll divide you into groups and give each group a marble. You're going to line up at one end of the path and grab the marble with your toes. You have to walk on the masking tape path to the end (while holding the marble in your toes), then turn around and "run" back to the starting line and pass the marble to the next person in your group. You cannot use your hands to position the marble or to get it back if it rolls away- everything has to be done with your toes! You have to walk the path with the marble between your toes the whole way- you can't kick it from one end to the other.

Was it uncomfortable? Why does God allow us to go through difficult times? God lets us go through tough times to help build our character and to help us remember that we can't do life without Him!

**Look It Up-** Let's see what the Bible says about determination. Read Philippians 3:14 and 4:13 from your Bible. Phil. 3:14 says, "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Notice that it doesn't say that we should "press on as long as it's easy"- we need to press on and keep

going even during the hard times! We have to keep bouncing back and relying on God's strength to get us through. What is an area you need to have more determination? What things are difficult for you? How can you rely on God's strength?

**Make a Bouncy Ball-** To help us remember to be determined and bounce back when we go through tough times, we're going to make a bouncy ball.

1. Pour 1 tablespoon of white glue into a small plastic cup. Add a few drops of food coloring to the glue and mix it with a craft stick.
2. In another small cup, combine 2 tablespoons of warm water and ½ tsp. borax. Mix it with the craft stick until the borax has dissolved.
3. Add 1 tablespoon cornstarch and a ½ tsp of the borax solution (from step 2) to the cup with the glue and let it stand for 5 seconds.
4. Stir with a craft stick until it is fully mixed together and becomes hard to stir.
5. Mold it into a ball with your hands. It will be sticky at first, but be determined! It will become more solid as you roll it in your hands.
6. Try bouncing it! How high does it go? Store it in an airtight container so it doesn't dry out and crumble.

**Talk About It-** Why is it important for Christian leaders to bounce back after failure? How can you be a determined leader at home? At school? At church?

This week on your homework cards, you'll discover Noah's determination and learn how to keep pressing on when things get tough.

## **Lesson 9- Be an Example in Life- Burning with Generosity!**

**Materials-** Bibles, bonfire, slips of paper, markers, sugar cones- one per child, toppings (chocolate chips, butterscotch morsels, peanut butter pieces, white chocolate morsels, walnuts, peanuts, almonds, toffee pieces, mini marshmallows, brown sugar, coconut, dried banana chips, dried fruit, M&Ms), aluminum foil, homework cards

**As kids come in-** Collect their homework cards from last week and initial them.

**Setting the Stage:** This lesson needs to take place outside around a campfire or a fire pit. Before beginning the lesson, please review safety rules so everyone will have a good time and learn a lot!

**Introduction-** Today we're going to talk about generosity while we enjoy a bonfire! Who can tell me some good things that fire is used for? (cooking, heat, energy, etc.) What are some bad things that fire is used for? (burning trees, houses, etc.) Today we're going to talk about what we do with our money and our things. We'll see that we can either use our things for good or for bad purposes.

**Never Enough-** Think about the answer to this question- If you had \$1,000 right now, what would you buy? I'm going to give you some small slips of paper and I want you to write one thing you'd buy on each of these slips of paper. You can use as many or as few as you'd like but you can only spend \$1,000!

Let's go around the circle and listen to the things that everyone would buy with \$1,000. As you state each item, ball up the papers and throw them into the fire.

Did you notice something? Every time you threw in another paper, the fire just consumed it. If we kept listing things one at a time and throwing the paper into the fire, do you think the fire would ever have enough and stop burning? No- a fire is greedy! It consumes everything in its path and still wants more. Did you know that people can be like that? Even with a gift of \$1,000, we still want more. There would still be things that we didn't buy that we want. Greed is the opposite of generosity and it can consume our hearts and our minds- it is never satisfied.

**Circle Story-** We're going to begin to tell a story of greed, repentance, and generosity around our campfire. I'm going to start the story and then pass it around the circle. Each person will add something to the story as it goes around. Here's our starter...

"Once there was a girl named Maxine. Maxine was never satisfied with the things that she had. She got..."

Point to the child sitting next to you and ask them to fill in something ridiculous that Maxine got. Then after each child takes a turn, have the whole group repeat the phrase, "But that was not enough. Then she got..."

When it comes back around to you say, "Then she got tired of it all. She realized that greed will never be satisfied. Instead of getting more and more, she found that if she was generous and gave things away, it was much more satisfying. So she gave away..."

Point to the child sitting next to you and ask them to fill in the same ridiculous thing, only this time they will say that she gave it away. After each item is stated, repeat the phrase, "But that was not enough. Then she gave away..."

When the story comes back around to you again say, "That that's how Maxine learned that generosity is much more satisfying than greed."

**Living Water-** So if we have a greedy heart, how do we control it? First we focus on all the things that we do have. We begin to look around at the blessings that God has given us and we realize that He's given us much more than we ever asked for or deserve. Then we realize that the only way to truly stop a greedy heart is with living water. Read John 4:14 with a partner. "But whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." Jesus is the only water that will satisfy the greedy nature of our hearts. Nothing else will come close to dousing the fire of greed in our lives. Once we realize that God is the one who truly makes us joyful and fulfilled, then we will recognize that we are blessed beyond what we need! We will start to burn with generosity instead of greed!

**Campfire Cones-** Proverbs 11:24 says, "Sometimes you can become rich by being generous or poor by being greedy." What do you think that verse means? How can you become rich by being generous? How can you become poor by being greedy?

Lots of people don't give to others because they think they don't have enough themselves. Let's sit back for a moment and think about how much we have. Turn to your partner and begin to list all of your blessings. In what areas of your life has God blessed you? How can you be generous?

We're going to make campfire cones. I'm going to give each of you a sugar cone and the chance to choose some fun toppings to put inside it. We're going to wrap them up in tinfoil and set them on the fire to heat up and make a gooey and delicious snack! Because our verse says that we can become rich by being generous, I want to give you the chance to get toppings for your cone. You pick as many toppings as you want, but for each topping, you will need to tell me how you can be generous this week... and by saying it, that means you commit to do it! For instance, maybe you can be generous with your time by reading a book to a little brother or sister. Maybe you can be generous by donating some toys to a thrift store. Think of how you can be generous this week, then choose your toppings and add them to your cone. Wrap it in aluminum foil and I'll use a long tongs to place it on the edge of the fire so it will heat up and melt.

Suggested toppings: Chocolate chips, Butterscotch morsels, peanut butter pieces, White chocolate morsels, walnuts, peanuts, almonds, toffee pieces, mini marshmallows, brown sugar, coconut, dried banana chips, dried fruit, M&Ms, etc.

**Talk It Over-** Why is it important for a leader to be generous? What are the ways that you should be generous as a leader? This week in your homework, you'll be looking at two more verses in the Bible that talk about the importance of generosity.

## **Lesson 10- Be an Example in Love- Planting Seeds of Honor**

**Materials-** Bibles, assorted potatoes- one per child, poster board, markers, foam flower stickers, chocolate pudding cups-one per child, crushed oreos, M&Ms, spoons, homework cards

**As kids come in-** Collect their homework cards from last week and initial them.

**My Potato-** Today we're going to talk about honoring others in the way we treat them. Honor means treating people as special, doing more than what's expected, and having a good attitude. Honor gets right to the heart of how you treat and love other people- not because you have to, but because you value the way God created them. I'm going to give you the chance to learn to value the differences in potatoes. I want you to choose a potato from this bag and really study it. There are all different types of potatoes in my bag- fingerlings, red potatoes, baking potatoes, sweet potatoes, etc. Think about the following questions as you look at your potato and talk about them with a partner.

How would you describe your potato?

What do you like about your potato?

What makes your potato different from your partner's potato?

Do both potatoes have value?

If we put the potatoes back together again and mixed them up, do you think you would be able to recognize your potato and pick it out of the bag? Let's try that- everyone bring your potato back up to the front and place it in the bag. I'll mix them around and then you'll see if you can recognize your potato. God created us all to be different and unique. Even in a sea of millions of people, He never loses sight of us. He expects us to value those differences in others and treat them with honor and respect.

**Look It Up-** When we honor others, we recognize others' differences and realize that God created each of us with a special purpose. God loves each of us the same- He doesn't play favorites! We need to appreciate the way God created us and value our differences by showing honor to others. Let's read what God says about honor in Romans 12:10, "Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor."

What are some ways you can show honor to others? Let's make a list of 10 ways and write them on a piece of poster board.

Why would we want to "outdo" each other in showing honor? If we're constantly trying to show honor toward others, we won't focus on ourselves. When we honor others, we put their needs above our own and focus on them.

**Honor Tag-** Romans 12:10 said that we should outdo others in showing honor. We sow seeds of honor and respect each time we put aside our own wants and focus on someone else's needs. I'm going to give

you some foam flower stickers. I want you to do your best to plant seeds of honor in others- you're going to try and put as many stickers on someone else as you can. We're going to see who can give away the most honor!

Allow them 3-4 minutes of playing tag in order to give away all their stickers.

What did you guys notice about what happened while you were planting seeds of honor in others? They were giving it back to you! When we focus on showing honor to others in the way we treat them, it often comes back around to us and we are treated with honor as well.

**Getting Dirty-** So how do we show honor to others? How can you treat others with respect? How can you put others needs before your own? How can you show people that you value the way God created them? I want you to work with a partner to come up with examples of ways you can honor others. You will be rewarded for the number of different ways you write down, so I encourage you to think of as many examples of showing honor as you can in the next few minutes.

We're going to make some dirt pudding. I'm going to give you a chocolate pudding cup and some crushed Oreos to go on top for dirt. Then for every example of showing honor, you'll get an M&M seed to plant in your pudding.

Have the pairs read aloud their examples and give M&M seeds for each appropriate answer. Allow kids time to eat their pudding cups while you talk about the next questions.

**Talk It Over-** Why is it important for Christian leaders to show honor to others? Who should you show honor to? How can you show honor while serving at church?

On your homework cards this week, you'll look at a woman named Ruth in the Bible who was a leader in showing honor. You'll also explore some verses that talk about who deserves our honor.

## **Lesson 11- Be an Example in Love- Learning to “Egg-ercise” Compassion**

**Materials:** bibles, five plastic eggs with paper slips inside (sensitivity, gentleness, understanding, patience, love), raw eggs- three per person and one extra, permanent markers, boiled eggs- two per person, several pairs of thrift store shoes that can be ruined, index card for each child, microwave, homework cards

**As kids come in-** Collect their homework cards from last week and initial them.

**Finding Compassion-** Today we’re going to be discussing the importance of compassion. In Colossians 3:12 the Bible says, “Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.” God wants us to show compassion to those who are hurting- but what is compassion? I’ve hidden plastic eggs all around the room and in each one is an ingredient necessary for compassion. There are five different ingredients to find. I’ll divide you up into small groups and you’ll need to take turns finding an egg, bringing it back to your group, and reading the ingredient inside. The first group to get all five ingredients will be the winner!

Let’s review the ingredients for compassion:

Sensitivity- People all around us are in need. We have to be sensitive to what is going on in their lives so we know when they need some compassion. How can you tell if someone is hurting?

Gentleness- People are breakable! When people are going through difficult times, we need to be extra gentle in the way we speak to them and treat them.

Understanding- We need to imagine ourselves in their situation and try and understand how they are feeling.

Patience- Sometimes when people are hurting, they are not ready to ask for help or talk about it right away. As Christian leaders, we need to be patient with them and allow them to take their time. Then we need to be there when they are ready to reach out for help- don’t give up!

Love- Without love, it’s impossible to have compassion. 1 Corinthians 13: 7 says, “Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” When someone needs compassion, they need you to walk through their situation with lots of love- never giving up and always believing in them.

**Sensitivity Search-** We’ve said that in order to demonstrate compassion, you have to be sensitive to what is going on in someone else’s life- you need to be able to recognize when someone is hurting. I’m going to give you and your partner three eggs. I want you to very carefully draw faces on all three eggs but I want each one to have a different expression- one might be sad, another happy, another angry, etc. You come up with three different emotions you want to show on your eggs- and remember... these are raw eggs- you have to be gentle!

After kids have drawn their faces on the eggs, put them back in the egg carton and pass it around the group. See if kids can be sensitive to the faces on the eggs and guess how they are feeling.

**Walk a Mile in My Shoes-** When we talk about having compassion, it's important for us to understand what people are going through. Have you ever heard the phrase, "Walk a mile in my shoes?" When people are going through a hard time, it's easier to demonstrate compassion when we try to put ourselves in their place. I'll divide you into two or three teams and I want you to take off your shoes. I've purchased some shoes from a thrift store and you will have the chance to walk in them! We'll place a boiled egg in each shoe and put them in front of your group's starting point. When I give the signal, the first person from your team will put the shoes on his feet and race down to the end of the area and back. When you get back to your team, you'll place another egg in each shoe and the next person will take a turn. Continue until everyone has had a turn to compete.

How did it feel to be in someone else's shoes? How does "putting yourself in someone else's shoes" help you have compassion for them? As leaders, we need to understand what other people are going through before we judge their behavior and try to help them.

**Counting on Patience-** Sometimes it's necessary for us to show lots of patience before we can help someone who is hurting. We're going to do a patience experiment with another egg. What do you think will happen if we put an egg in the microwave? (explode) How long will it take? I'm going to give each of you a blank index card. Every 10 seconds, I'll say "record" and each time I do, you'll make a check mark on your card to indicate no progress. When something happens to the egg, I want you to quickly draw a star on the card.

How many check marks did you draw? How did this require patience? Why is it important to have patience with someone who needs your compassion?

**Talk It Over-** Why is it important for leaders to have compassion for others? How do you know when God is calling you to show compassion toward someone? When you show compassion for someone, what do you do?

On your homework cards this week, you'll spend some time identifying people who need your compassion. You'll each have two compassion journal cards where you'll record an example of a time you showed compassion. Then you'll circle the area of compassion that was easiest for you, and underline the area that was difficult for you. You'll also explore an example of compassion in the story of the Good Samaritan and see what you can learn about compassion from his actions.



## **Lesson 12- Be an Example in Love- A Humble King**

**Materials:** bibles, paper crowns- one per child, dot stickers, clean plunger for each team, homework cards

**As kids come in-** Collect their homework cards from last week and initial them.

**King of the Land-** Let's close our eyes and spend a few minutes pretending. First- imagine you were king of the land. Everyone did what you wanted and they showed you honor and respect. You get whatever you want to eat, anytime you want it. Your palace is amazing! You have hundreds of servants waiting on your every need.

If that was you, what kind of king would you be? What adjectives would you use to describe yourself and your actions? Would you be fair? Would you be selfish? Would you be greedy? Would you be giving?

Today we're going to look at one of the most powerful kings that ever ruled the world. His name was Solomon and the scenario that I described earlier was his life! We're going to see how Solomon treated his people and see that he was an example in humility.

**Solomon's Story:** Today we're going to learn that a good leader is humble. What is humility? Humility is the opposite of pride- it's not thinking more of yourself than you should and not thinking less of others. Solomon was David's son and a very successful King. God blessed Solomon and gave him a great kingdom. Because Solomon had been given so much, he offered sacrifices, prayers, and thanks to God. Let's see what happens to Solomon in 2 Chronicles 1:7-12. Read it with a partner and find out how Solomon demonstrated humility.

Instead of asking for something for himself, he asked for wisdom to rule his people wisely. He was thinking of the people he was responsible for instead of thinking about the riches and wealth that he'd like to have. That's showing humility.

**Crown Jewels:** Psalm 149:4 says, "For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory." How do humble people behave? People who are humble seek to praise others over themselves. Instead of bragging, humble people talk about how good others are. Today I'm going to crown you with victory crowns and give you the opportunity to give away jewels (round dot stickers) to put on each other's crowns. You'll have four minutes to walk around and give away as many jewels as you can. You're practicing being humble, so you should not ask for jewels for yourself, just give away as many as you can so other's crowns will be beautiful and fully decorated.

**Humility Race-** Matthew 19:30 says, "But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first." People who are humble don't ask to be first. They allow others to go first, to get the best, and to have the seat of honor. I'll assign you into two teams and give the last person in each team a "royal scepter" (an unused, clean plunger). Each team will need to stand in a line behind a cone and put your hands on the shoulders of the person in front of you. The goal is for all of your team to get to the other

end of the marked area by moving one person at a time. The last person in your team will run the scepter to the front of the line and stand in front of the first person in line. The scepter will then be passed back to the last person who will run back up to the front. Each time someone moves, everyone in the group must be holding onto the shoulders of the person in front of them. If you forget to hold onto their shoulders, you'll have to start over. As you continue to move the last person to the front of the line, your line will begin to move forward until your whole team makes it to the other end.

**Chariot Races-** Since we're talking about kings and kingdoms today, we're going to have a chariot race! You'll need to get in groups of three. One person in your group will be the king and the other two will be horses. The horses will kneel down on all fours side-by-side so you are as close as you can be. The King will then sit cross legged on top of the two horses' backs. The two horses will transport the king from one side of the room to the other without letting the king fall off. If the king falls off, you have to go back home and start again.

Look up Matthew 23:12 and read it with your group. "For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." Talk about these questions: Who was exalted in this game? Who was humbled? Why do you think God will humble those who think too highly of themselves?

**Talk It Over-** Why is it important for a leader to be humble? How can you demonstrate humility in your life at school? At home? At church?

In our homework this week, we'll learn some more about Solomon's life and reflect on some pitfalls of pride in our lives.

## Lesson 13- Be an Example in Faith- A Foundation of Trust

**Materials:** bibles, deck of cards- one for each group, plastic cups- 6 per team, permanent markers, marshmallows, plates, watering cans- one per team, round aluminum tins- one per child, quick-set concrete, rocks & pebbles, homework cards

**As kids come in-** Collect their homework cards from last week and initial them.

**A House of Cards-** Today we'll be talking about building a foundation of trust. You'll be working with a small group and each group will have a deck of playing cards. You can do anything you want to the cards, but you'll need to build some sort of building or structure with your cards. You can fold them or tear them, you just can't use anything else in your structure but cards. You'll have about 5 minutes to complete your structure.

Do you trust that the bottom card will hold up the structure? Trust is the foundation of our faith. Trust is believing that God is who He says He is and will do what He says He will do. As Christians, trust is the foundation of our faith. Take out a few of your foundation cards. What happens to your structure? Without trust in God, our lives will collapse too.

**Truth Tower-** If trust is the foundation of our faith, how do we build our trust in God? The best way to build a stronger foundation of trust is to learn truth about God found in the Bible. I want you to work with a partner and look up verses that state truths about God. I'll give you six plastic solo cups. On each cup, I want you to write one of the truths that you read in the Bible. After you're done, we'll have a speed stack contest and compete against each other as we build a tower of truth.

God created the earth.	Genesis 1:1
God loves us.	John 3:16
I can talk to Jesus in prayer.	Psalms 17:6
God will supply all my needs.	Phil. 4:19
God gives me strength.	Phil. 4:13
The Bible is God's Word.	2 Timothy 3:16

**Strong Structures-** Many people put their trust in things that don't last. 1 Corinthians 3:10 says, "God treated me with undeserved grace and let me become an expert builder. I laid a foundation on which others have built. But we must each be careful how we build, because Christ is the only foundation." Many people put their trust in things other than God. Let's think about a few of the other things that people put their trust in. I'm going to give you a sharpie marker and some large marshmallows. You'll work with a partner and write on your marshmallows examples of other places people put their trust. One example might be "money." Another might be "friends." I'll give you three minutes to work.

Now you'll stack your marshmallows on a plate and we'll take them outside. I'll give each of you a watering can. When storms enter our lives, and trouble comes, our faith is tested. If we've put our trust in things other than God, this is what happens. Let's begin to "rain" on our towers and see what happens to the marshmallows. How do they feel? Are they solid and firm? Any time we place our trust and faith in something other than God, trials of life will destroy our foundation.

**Trust Stone-** To help us remember to place our trust in God and His truths, we'll make concrete stepping stones.

Supply kids with a variety of stones and pebbles and a round disposable aluminum tin. Mix quick-set concrete in a bucket and have kids scoop it into their tins until it is level with the edge of the tin. Allow them to use the rocks and pebbles to create a design on the concrete while it is wet. Let it dry for at least 4 days.

**Talk It Over-** Why is it important for a Christian leader to have a strong foundation of trust? How will other people know you trust God?

In our homework this week, we'll examine some more verses that teach us about trusting God. Take time to think about what you put your trust in.

## **Lesson 14- Be an Example in Faith- Obedience Boot Camp**

**Materials:** bibles, commandment worksheet- one per group, crepe paper- one roll per group, tape, chairs, homework cards

**As kids come in-** Collect their homework cards from last week and initial them.

**Obedience Boot Camp-** Today we're going to talk about obedience. When I think of obedience, I think of a drill sergeant. So to start things off today, we're going to do a little work out. Are you ready? (a little louder) I said, Are you ready? (feel free to use any of the following in your exercise sequence)

Jog in place

Triangle Toe Touches

Lunges

Alternating Front punch and kick

Hop on one foot

Sit-Ups

Pretend to Jump Rope

Squats

Side leg lifts

Jumping Jacks

**Look It Up-** Do you think God is like a drill sergeant in the sky, giving us orders and expecting us to obey Him? Let's see what John 15:14 says. "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." Jesus said that we should obey him not "because I said so" but because we love Him. Our obedience should come out of our love for what He's done for us, not out of the fact that we have to follow orders or we'll get in trouble. Let's look at the 10 commandments in the Bible and see if we can understand why He wants us to obey them. The first commandment says, "Do not put anything else before me." Why would that be important for us to follow? God knows more than we do! He's so much wiser and smarter than we are so it makes sense that He should be first in our lives. I'm going to give you a list of all 10 commandments. I want you to work with a partner to write an explanation of why we should follow that commandment- not just because God said to, but think about why He gave the commandment.

## **Obeying the 10 Commandments**

1. Do not put anything else before me.

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do not worship anything else but me.

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Use my name with respect.

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Dedicate one day a week to rest and worship.

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Respect your parents.

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Do not kill or hurt other people.

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Be faithful to your husband or wife.

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Do not steal.

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Do not lie.

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Do not be jealous of others.

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

**Obstacles to Obedience-** There are lots of things that try to throw us off course when it comes to obedience. People try to distract us and get us to disobey. Our own wants and desires often draw us off course, but we need to stand firm and continue on the right path no matter what. Proverbs 13:13 says, “If you reject God’s teaching, you will pay the price; if you obey his commands, you will be rewarded.” I’ll divide you into two groups. Each group will have a roll of crepe paper, tape, and a bunch of chairs. I want you to line the chairs up in two lines across from each other so you create a path down the middle. Then you need to use the crepe paper to create an obstacle course for the other team to pass through by using the tape to secure the paper to the chairs so it creates a series of obstacles in the center of the path. Make it as hard as you can, but someone from your team will need to get through it first without breaking the paper so make sure it is possible to navigate.

What are some things that get in the way of your obedience to God? How can you step around those distractions and focus on God?

**Red Light, Green Light-** God isn’t a drill sergeant in Heaven who wants us to obey Him “just because.” He wants us to obey Him because He has a special plan and purpose for our lives. He knows the best way for us to get to those blessings is through following His commands. Why does a drill sergeant want soldiers to obey? He wants to prepare them for battle, so they will be victorious on the battle field. If our end goal is God’s blessing and accomplishing His purpose, let’s see how obedience helps us get there faster. We’re going to play a game of red light, green light. Instead of taking big, huge steps to get to me, your steps are going to be one foot in front of the other always with your heel touching your toe as you make a step. I’ll divide you into two teams and we’ll see which team reaches me first. Before each turn, I’ll flip a coin and ask one person from your team to pick heads or tails. If you have chosen the right option, you’ll move forward two steps. If you chose the wrong option, your team will move back one step. (Play until one team reaches you at the front.)

When we choose to obey God, we get closer to reaching His purpose and goal for our lives. When we make a wrong choice and go against His will for us, we move farther away from His purpose.

**Talk It Over-** Why is it important for Christian leaders to be an example in the way they obey God? How can an example of disobedience affect others who look up to us?

This week at home, you’re going to read a story of obedience and disobedience from the Bible. You’ll discover that there are natural consequences for disobedience, but that God loves us even when we make the wrong choice and will accept our apology when we ask for forgiveness.

## Lesson 15- Be an Example in Faith- An Explosion of Worship!

**Materials:** bibles, Mentos Geyser Tube (available at [www.stevespanglerscience.com](http://www.stevespanglerscience.com)), 2 liter of Diet Coke, Mentos candies, poster signs, washable markers- one per child, several bar of Ivory soap (must be Ivory brand), empty plastic water bottles- one per child, hydrogen peroxide (1/2 per child), liquid dish soap (2 tbsp per child), packet of yeast- one per child, warm water, cups- one per child, craft stick- one per child, food coloring (red, blue, yellow, green), homework cards

**As kids come in-** Collect their homework cards from last week and initial them.

**Exploding with Worship-** Today we're going to talk about how our lives should be exploding with worship for God. When you come to church to worship, do you feel explosive? Do you feel like you are just about to bust because you can't wait to worship God? Well, you should! Today we're going to do some exploding. Before we do, however, we're going to go outside and I'm going to attach this geyser tube to this 2 liter of Diet Coke. I want us to think about all the things we have to be grateful for. Our worship should be a thankful response to what God has done in our lives and it should explode out of us from every angle because He has blessed us so richly!

When you get outside, ask kids to name one way God has blessed their lives. As they name each one, drop a mentos candy in the tube (making sure the safety pin is in place.) When you have used all the candies, have kids step back and pull the pin.

Would the bottle have been able to contain the explosion of soda? If we are truly thankful for the things God has done in our lives, should we be able to contain our worship of Him? How does your life explode in worship?

**Why Worship?** - Are we just supposed to worship out of thanks? Let's see what Psalm 146: 6-10 says. "God made heaven and earth; He created the sea and everything else. God always keeps His word. He gives justice to the poor and food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free and heals blind eyes. He gives a helping hand to everyone who falls. The Lord loves good people and looks after strangers. He defends the rights of orphans and widows, but destroys the wicked. The God of Zion will rule forever! Shout praises to the Lord!" God deserves our worship because of who He is and what He has done. We're going to worship Him in an unconventional way today as we explode with shouts of praise. I'm going to divide you up into small groups and you will sit in a circle on the floor. When I hold up a poster with a category on it, you'll take turns shouting out something to praise God for in that category in your loudest, most explosive voice. For example, what can we praise God for in nature? You'll continue to move around the circle in praise shouts. Everyone can pass one time if you can't think of something, but you can't pass more than once. When I hold up a new sign, we'll start a new category of praise shouts.

Signs to hold up:

Nature	School	Home	Church	Animals	Weather
Summer Things	Fun Things	Adults	Friends		



**Clean Praise-** Another reason we should worship God is as a response to the way He forgives us of our sins. When Jesus came to earth, he died on the cross and took the punishment for every wrong choice we will make. What are some things that you've done wrong? I want you to take a moment and write those on your hands with a washable marker. That's how our lives look to God before we ask for His forgiveness- messed up and dirty. When we ask God to forgive our sins and accept that Jesus paid the punishment for us when He died on the cross, He washes away all those sins and cleanses us on the inside. We don't have to walk around with a dirty life- He makes us clean and pure again. Psalm 51:1-2 says, "You are kind, God! Please have pity on me. You are always merciful! Please wipe away my sins. Wash me clean from all of my sin and guilt." I want you to take a bar of Ivory soap and use it to wash the sin from your hands. That's exactly what God does when we ask for forgiveness.

Don't you think God deserves our worship for forgiving all our sins? To help us remember to explode with worship for His forgiveness of our sins, we're going to explode something else! I'm going to put a bar of ivory soap in the microwave for 2 minutes and I want you to watch what it explode! Then we'll give it just a few minutes to cool off and you'll each get a piece to mold into the shape of a heart. When you wash with your soap at home, you'll be reminded that God loves you so much that He died to forgive you of your sins. That deserves explosive worship!

(You may need to repeat the process with several bars of soap depending on the number of kids.)

**How do you Worship?** – So how do we worship God? Do we all have to sing? Do we all have to raise our hands? Do we have to pray out loud? Do we have to pray silently? There are many different ways to worship. I'll give you an empty water bottle with a top that already has ½ cup of hydrogen peroxide and 1 tbsp liquid dish washing soap. I want you to think for a moment about your favorite way to worship. You might like all of these options, but choose just one or two favorites. Here are your choices: singing, praying, discovering nature, or reading the Bible. If you like to worship by singing, you'll come get a dropper of blue food coloring. If you like to worship by praying, get a dropper of red food coloring. If you like to worship by discovering nature, get a dropper of green food coloring. If you like to worship by reading the Bible, get a dropper of yellow food coloring. Now place three drops of color in your bottle. Our bottles look a little different, don't they? But no matter how we choose to express it, we can still explode in worship!

Next I'll give you a packet of dry yeast and a cup that has 3 tbsp of warm water in it. You're going to stir that around for 30 seconds, then go outside and pour your yeast mixture into the bottle. That's how you should explode in worship!

**Talk It Over-** Why is it important for a Christian leader to be an example in worship? What does our worship tell others about God?

In our homework this week, you're going to keep a worship journal. I want you to record how you worshipped and what you did. Then you will rate your worship on an exploding scale!

## **Lesson 16- Be an Example in Purity- A Healthy Serving of Discernment**

**Set Up Notes-** Before the lesson, you'll need to bake two batches of cupcakes that look identical. Add ½ cup of salt to one recipe but make the other according to the recipe. Decorate them with icing in an identical manner.

**Materials:** bibles, cupcakes, assorted junk food, alphabet soup, mouse traps, marshmallows, permanent marker, paper, plates, vegetables (potatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, baby carrots, etc.), craft sticks, toothpicks, homework cards

**As kids come in-** Collect their homework cards from last week and initial them.

**This Is a What?-** Everyone sit in a circle! We're going to get started today with a game called, "This Is a What?" I've got some junk food that we're going to pass around the circle. I'll start by telling the person sitting next to me, "This is a Poptart." He will ask, "A what?" and I will say, "a Poptart", then he'll ask again, "A What?" and I'll say again, "a Poptart" and he'll say, "Thank You." We'll repeat this pattern over and over again as we pass the food around the circle. I'll add more and more junk food to the circle and there will be lots of us talking at the same time. Let's see how many types of junk food we can pass around before it becomes too much to handle!

Today we'll talk about how to be an example in purity. Purity simply means keeping ourselves pure- staying away from unhealthy influences in our lives that cause us to sin. Today we're going to focus on discernment and how to know what influences are healthy and unhealthy for our lives.

**Discerning the Best-** Discernment is the ability to choose what's right. It's important for us to make good choices so we can keep our lives pure and stay away from things that would cause us to sin. I've got two different batches of cupcakes. You're going to work with a partner and to see if you can discern which one would be the best one to eat. Here are the rules, you can't taste it, you can look at it, feel it, and smell it. I'll give you each a pair of cupcakes and 2 minutes to decide which one you'd like to taste.

(After 2 minutes, let the kids sample the cupcake they have chosen) How did your cupcake taste? Some of you chose the right cupcake, but some of you chose the wrong one! When you are choosing what media influences like movies, games, music, books, and television to allow into your life, how do you know what is right? What would have helped you make the right decision on the cupcakes? Would it have helped to see the recipe for each one? Where can we find the recipe for living a healthy life? (the Bible)

**It's a trap!** Many times the world uses media to trap us into sin. Why is a mouse attracted to a mouse trap? (Because there is something in there he likes.) The world does the same thing. Many people who are not Christians have different beliefs and morals than we do and they think it's OK to do things that are against God's rules. They put those beliefs in the games they make, the movies and TV shows they produce, the books they write, and the music they make. Let's think of some traps they set for us and write one on each mouse trap.

Some examples: Good-looking people in inappropriate movies

Catchy tunes with bad lyrics

Advertise the movies to young audiences

Cartoon violence in games

Attractive covers on books

I'll set all our traps up in hula hoop in the center of the room and you'll stand a short distance from them. You'll have a bag of jumbo marshmallows. Let's see if you can toss all your marshmallows into the hula hoop without setting off the traps. Once all the traps are set the game will be over.

What is the best way to avoid these traps? (to recognize them!) Don't be a mouse who is attracted to junk food. Don't be caught by the world's lies and tricks!

**Alphabet Soup-** Instead of feeding on junk food and falling for the world's tricks, we need to be able to discern what's good for our eyes to watch and our ears to hear. What does Proverbs 4:23 say? "Carefully guard your thoughts because they are the source of true life." Whatever goes in through our eyes and ears, is what we think about in our minds. Our thoughts are very important to God- just as important as our actions! I'll dump a can of alphabet soup onto a tray and I'll give you a piece of paper. I want you to work with a partner to sort through the letters and create words on your paper that spell things that are good to watch and listen to. You'll have five minutes to work, then we'll share what you've found.

**Building Up & Tearing Down-** Once we know what to look for and the traps to avoid, it's up to us to discern the what things to allow into our lives. We can choose junk, or we can choose healthy movies, books, games, TV and music that build up our character. I'm going to give you some toothpicks, craft sticks and vegetables (potatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, baby carrots, etc.). You'll use them to create a tower that will withstand the marshmallow battle that is coming in a moment. I want you to think of these vegetables as things that build up your character and help you have healthy thoughts. You'll have about five minutes to create your vegetable fort.

Now I'm going to place our vegetable forts in the hula hoop that our traps were in earlier. You guys are going to stand back and I'll give you some mini marshmallows. I want you to throw the marshmallows at your forts and see if you can knock them down.

Were the vegetable forts easy to knock down? Why? How does a healthy dose of good media help build good character?

**Talk it Over-** Why is it important for a Christian leader to be an example in discerning what's right? How can you be a good example at home? At school? At church?

This week, you'll go through the media at your home and get rid of things that are not good for your mind. See if you can make time for more things that are spiritually healthy.

## **Lesson 17- Be an Example in Purity- Peer Pressure, Standing Firm in Stormy Seas**

**Materials:** bibles, cardboard box, broom, plastic baby pool, inflatable swim ring, pool noodle, “Funky Fish Party” song by David Chicken downloaded from iTunes, sound system, soft ball, tug of war rope, small plastic containers- one per child, craft sticks, construction paper, scissors, tape, play dough, hot glue gun, yarn rocks- one per child, permanent markers, homework cards

**As kids come in-** Collect their homework cards from last week and initial them.

**Setting Sail-** Today we’re going to sail on the stormy seas of Peer Pressure, but before we get started, I want to see if you are willing to stand up and do what’s asked of you, even if it makes you feel different. Raise your hand if you think you are willing to stand out and be different. (Call a volunteer to the front). You’ll have a cardboard box and a broom. I want you to sit in the box, pretend it’s a boat, and use the broom like a paddle while singing “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”

Call up more volunteers and have them do the following actions:

Sit in a plastic baby pool and pretend to drown.

Put on an inflatable swim ring, put it on, and do the twist.

“Ride” a pool noodle and pretend you’re riding on the back of a dolphin.

Now everyone will need to get a bit weird. Everyone get up and let’s have a “Funky Fish Party.” Have everyone dance and do the motions described in the song, “Funky Fish Party” by David Chicken (can download on iTunes.) Encourage everyone to participate!

How did it feel when you were the only one doing something crazy? How did it feel when everyone was doing something crazy together?

Sometimes the things God asks us to do seem pretty weird to people who don’t believe. When we do what God wants us to do instead of what others want us to do, it can be pretty embarrassing and uncomfortable.

Today we’re going to talk about peer pressure. What is peer pressure? Peer pressure is when a group of your friends try to get you to do something. If those friends are good, Christian friends, they can use peer pressure to get you to do the right thing. That’s when peer pressure is good! Most of the time, however, peer pressure works the other way- a group of kids try to get you to do the wrong thing. When that happens to you, it can be very hard to say no.

**Sinking Ships-** We’re going to pretend you are a crew on a ship and that this ball is a cannon from an enemy ship. I’ll divide you into small groups and you’ll hold hands. No matter what happens, you can’t let go of each other- if you do, you’re sunk! One person will take the cannon ball and throw it at your

feet. You'll need to dodge it, without letting go of the hand of the person next to you. If you get hit, you need to sit down right there on the spot.

How did it feel being connected to someone else? Were you free to move as you wanted to? What would have made this game easier? What can happen when you are so connected to a group of friends that you're afraid to stand by yourself? When we're so worried about what our friends think that we fail to make a good decision, we can get bombed by temptation and sink!

Let's play again, only this time you're free to do your own thing. You can go anywhere you want to avoid the cannon ball.

Was it easier to play this time? Why is it important to be able to stand alone? How can this help keep you from sinking under peer pressure?

**Pulled in Both Directions-** When we experience peer pressure we feel pulled in two directions. We want to fit in with our friends and we want them to like us, but we know that what God wants us to do is much different. To demonstrate that pull, let's play tug of war. I'll give you a "ship's rope" (tug of war rope) and I'll make a center line. If your group gets pulled over the center, you gave in to peer pressure! Stand firm!

**Anchored-** When faced with peer pressure, you need to rely on God who will be your anchor and help you stand firm. Read what Hebrews 6:19a says. "This hope is like a firm and steady anchor for our souls." The hope that we have in God as our Savior, helps us stay firm and steady in the midst of stormy seas. Let's see what happens to people who don't have an anchor in their lives.

You'll create a boat out of a small plastic container using a craft stick and paper to create a sail. Then you'll take a bit of play dough and place it in the center of your plastic container and press the end of the craft stick in so the sail stands up in the center of the boat. Decorate the boat with permanent markers to make it your own.

We'll put our boats in a baby pool filled with water and see what happens to unanchored boats. I've marked the bottom of the baby pool with a "safe zone" circle in the middle of the pool. This is where it's safe for our boats to be. If they drift outside of that "safe zone" they are in the danger area and have wandered into temptation. We'll take turns blowing on the boats from outside the edge. See how easy it is to blow them into the danger zone?

What happened to our boats? Did they wander into the danger zone? What would happen if they had an anchor? What should be our anchor?

I'll give you each a rock and some yarn. I want you to write the word "God" on a rock and tie a piece of yarn around it. Then we'll hot glue the yarn to the bottom of your boat- leaving just enough yarn to reach from the rock to the bottom of the boat- the same height as the water in the pool. Let's try our experiment again and see if our boat stays in the safety zone.

So let's say you are anchored in Christ and you are faced with peer pressure. What can you do?

1. Take a deep breath and say a prayer.
2. Try and get your friends to do the right thing.
3. Tell someone who can help.
4. Walk away from the situation.

**Talk It Over-** Why should Christian leaders stand firm in the face of peer pressure? How does it affect your example when give into peer pressure and make the wrong choice?

In our homework this week, we'll investigate some more verses about dealing with peer pressure.

## **Lesson 18- Be an Example in Purity- Rounding Up Godly Friends**

**Materials:** bibles, craft sticks- five per child, permanent markers, pipe cleaner- one per child, plastic cup- one per child, white trash bags- one per child, black construction paper, white chalk- one per child, scissors, blindfolds, plates, chocolate pudding, balloons with character traits written on each one, hula hoops- one per team, brooms- one per team, Wanted poster- one per child, pencils, homework cards

**As kids come in-** Collect their homework cards from last week and initial them.

**Lasso Practice-** Today we're going to talk about how to be an example in purity by choosing Godly Friends. Our friends have a big influence on us- they either lead us closer to God or farther away from Him. To get started, I want you to think of five Godly friends that are in your life. They can be either kids or adults. You'll have five craft sticks and I want you to write the name of these people on the sticks and put them in a cup corral that I'll give you. Next, I'll give you a pipe cleaner. You'll create a lasso from the pipe cleaner by making a loop on one end and secure it by twisting it together under the loop. Put your craft sticks down on the ground and practice putting them in your cup corral with nothing but your lasso- you can't use your other hand!

Now, we're going to see if you can lasso your good friends and corral them into the cup. To do this, I'm going to collect all the craft sticks and on the count of three I'll toss them up in the center of the playing area. When you hear the signal, you'll try and find your sticks and put them back in your corral using the lasso.

What do you like most about your Godly friends? How does having Godly friends help keep us pure?

**Look It Up-** In order for us to keep our lives pure, we need to choose Godly friends who bring us closer to God's plan for our lives. We need to look for people who have Godly characteristics. I'm going to give each of you a white trash bag. You'll need to poke head holes and arm holes in it and pull it over your head. Then I'll give you black construction paper and a piece of white chalk. You'll cut big spots out of the black paper and on each spot you'll write one characteristic of a good friend found in Colossians 3:12-17. You'll have five minutes to work and see how many spots you can make with these characteristics. When you get your spots done, tape them to your trash bag body so you'll become a cow! What are the important characteristics of a good friend?

**Cow Patties-** Good, Godly friends keep us on the right track. While you're still dressed as a cow, you're going to take off your shoes and travel through an obstacle course of cow patties (plates of chocolate pudding)... while blindfolded. But because good cows travel in herds, you'll have one cow friend ahead of you without a blindfold who can see the way and help guide you through the field. The first cow in each herd will be responsible for helping the rest of the herd avoid the patties. When I say "go" your herd needs to begin to move through the field with the first person giving directions and hints. We'll see if any of the herds can get through the field without stepping on cow patties!

How did your friends help you through this trouble? How can Godly friends help you through situations in your life? How are you a Godly friend to others?

**Round Up the Herd-** You can take off your cow costumes because now you'll become cowboys! Look up Proverbs 13:20. "Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm." I've written some characteristics on some balloons that I'll place all over the room. Some of these are characteristics of a good, wise friend; others are characteristics that describe a foolish friend. You'll work in teams and each team will have a hula hoop on the opposite end of the playing area. That will be your team's corral. In a moment, the first person from your team will take a broom and use it to herd one of the cows (balloons) into your corral. Make sure that you choose a cow with a positive characteristic- leave those bad cows alone! We'll look at the herds when we're done and see which characteristics you were able to herd into your corral.

Characteristics to write on balloons:

Caring	Christian	Obedient	Listens
Cheerful	Rude	Grumpy	Brave
Mean	Thoughtful	Selfish	Forgiving
Friendly	Generous	Grateful	Hard-working
Lazy	Stingy	Honest	Ungrateful
Wasteful	Jealous	Reliable	Respectful
Responsible	Sensitive	Compassionate	Trusting

**"Quick Draw" Wanted Posters-** Now that we've talked about what makes a good friend, I want you to do a "quick draw" on a wanted poster. Get your pencil ready by your side and when I say "draw," you'll get out your pencil and sketch a picture of what you think a good friend looks like inside the rectangle on the poster. This is a quick draw though- you'll only have two minutes! When time is up, you need to put down your pencil. Then you'll have two more minutes to write a description of what you want in a good friend below the picture. We'll share our "Quick Draws" with a small group when we're done.

**Talk It Over-** Why is it important for a Christian leader to choose Godly friends? Why is it important to be a Godly friend to others? How can friends support each other in life?

For your homework this week, we'll look at some more scriptures about choosing Godly friends.



# WANTED!



# GOOD FRIEND

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## **Lesson 19- It's a Leadership Celebration!**

To celebrate the end of the theme, take your ELT to a special place off campus to celebrate.

This may be a bowling alley, skating rink, playground, restaurant, or anyplace that seems special and fun for them.

Thank them for their hard work and leadership during the last 19 weeks and reward them with extra time to hang-out and enjoy each other!