

SWISH! (*application activity*)

What You Need: Prepared piece of poster board or butcher paper, marker, sticky notes, scissors, blank paper, painter's tape

What You Do:

- Cut 2 holes from the paper or poster board, 1 about 12 inches in diameter and the other at least twice as big.
(If you have different sized rings, open circles, that would work too.)
- Write "1 point" under the big hole and "10 points" under the small hole.
- Cover both point values with a sticky note so kids can't see them.
- Hang poster in a doorway or corner of the room.
- Hand out the blank paper and instruct kids to either tear the paper into three pieces and wad each piece into a ball or you could have them make a paper airplane. (If you have enough paper, they can make more than one airplane.)
- Designate a spot on the floor for kids to stand (mark the spot with painter's or masking tape) and let them throw their ball or fly their planes through the holes a few times.
- Tell kids that there are point values for each hole, but don't tell them what those values are. Let them try a few times to get through the different holes then remove the sticky notes, revealing the points.

Talk about how the easy, or popular, thing to do would be to just throw it through the big hole, but the smaller, less popular, hole has the bigger payoff.

What You Say:

Sometimes we want to just do what is easy because everyone else is doing it or because we don't want to go to the trouble to do what is right. But what is easy is not always what is best. The key is to listen to what God has to say, to follow His Word and to trust that His way is the best way. And even if you feel all alone or like you're the only one making the wise choice, God is on your side. You can stand for what is right, even if it's not popular.

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For example, if there's a new person at school who doesn't seem to have anyone to sit with at lunch or hang out with at recess, you could invite them to hang out with your group of friends. It might not be the popular thing to do; your friends already know each other and it's hard to let someone new into the group sometimes. But the payoff is huge, especially for the new person who wants to make new friends. **(Share an age-appropriate example of a time you did the right thing, even when it wasn't popular.)**

STACK IT (*memory verse activity*)

What You Need: Plastic/Styrofoam cups, “Memory Verse Cards” below, clear tape



What You Do:

- Review Ephesians 6:10 together as a group.
- Show kids how to stack the cups, top to top, bottom to bottom to create a tall tower.
- Tape the cards to the cups, one card per cup. Make sure to tape the cards to the cups correctly so that when you stack them up, you can read the verse. You could also write the words of the memory verse onto plastic or Styrofoam cups (you could also write on masking tape and stick it to the cups if you want to be able to reuse them)
- Let the kids practice building a tower with their cups and saying the memory verse aloud together. When finished, they can knock the cups down, build their tower again and repeat the verse as time permits.

What You Say:

Was it easy or difficult to knock down our cup tower? (*Pause for responses.*) It was pretty easy, wasn't it? What could we do to make our tower stronger? (*Pause for responses. Examples: tape the cups together; have the kids hold them in place; etc.*) I know it can be hard sometimes to stand up for what is right, especially if you feel like everyone else is doing just the opposite. This verse reminds us that we don't have to stand up for what is right on our own. God is with us and our strength to show conviction comes from Him! **You can stand for what is right, even if it's not popular.** God will give you the strength you need to show conviction and do the right thing.

Memory Verse Cards

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2

strong

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Lord

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and

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9

mighty

10

power.

11

Ephesians 6:10

12

MESSAGE ON THE WALL (review the Bible story) -older readers)

What You Need: paper, markers/pencils, tape, Bibles, "Scripture Cards" Activity Page

What You Do:

Tape the paper on the wall..

What You Say:

Imagine you are Daniel and you are at a HUGE celebration for King Belshazzar. Suddenly, on the wall a mysterious hand writes four words. (*Write these words on the butcher paper: Tire, Power, Everything, Gentle. Say the words as you write them.*) The king asks to you to interpret the meaning behind the four words. Like Daniel, you turn to the One True God for guidance and help. (*Give each child a bible.*) To interpret the writing on the wall, you are led to the following passages in the Bible, the Word of the One True God.

What You Do:

Depending on your size group, you can hand each child a card with a verse written on it, let one child do all 4 cards or do this together. Instruct the kids to look up their verse and together match their verse to one of the words on the wall. Discuss what each word has to do with showing conviction. Listed below are the verses and potential discussion topics:

- Tire: "Don't ever get tired of doing the right thing." 2 Thessalonians 3:13, NIV (*Even when it is frustrating and hard, showing conviction, standing for what is right even when others don't is always a wise choice; this verse is God's way of encouraging us not to give up standing for what's right.*)
- Power: "Finally, let the Lord make you strong. Depend on his mighty power." Ephesians 6:10, NIV (*Remember you can trust God no matter what; He will give you His power to help you stand for what's right even when it's not popular.*)
- Everything: "I can do all this by the power of Christ. He gives me strength." Philippians 4:13, NIV (*Christ wasn't concerned with being popular, He made His decisions based on what God wanted Him to do. Christ's example gives us strength to stand for what is right. Christ also demonstrated it is important to stand for what God wants and not simply for what is popular.*)
- Gentle: "You are God's chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient." Colossians 3:12, NIV (*Speaking truth like Daniel did can be hard and God wants us to remember to be kind and gentle with our words, especially when we are speaking His truths.*)

What You Say:

Just like for Daniel, God is there for us too. He gave us His Word to encourage us, to instruct us and to remind us He loves us dearly. **Standing for what is right, especially when it is not popular**, is hard. When your friends all want to watch a movie that you know your parents don't want you to watch, it is hard to say, "I am not going to watch that movie."

Or when someone says something mean about someone else, even if they are mean, it's hard to say, "We shouldn't talk about them like that. It isn't nice." It is hard to be kind to someone who is mean, or ask the new kid at school to sit with you at lunch. But God knew it would be hard for us to show conviction, to stand for what is right, even when others don't. So, God gave us His Word to help us.

Colossians 3:12	2 Thessalonians 3:13
Philippians 4:13	Ephesians 6:10