

## Discovering God on Route 66 LESSON #42

### THE BATTLE WITHIN!

**PREP:** Plan at least 3 situations that you will have the children improvise for the opening.

**Print** the alphabet for the children to refer to as they improvise.

**Read** the verses **Romans 7:19 - 25** to become familiar with the lesson.

**Gather** supplies for the game: 4 colors of paper plates (28 Green, 18 Blue, 26 White, & 18 Yellow), glue or tape, \$100 bills (*fake*).

**Create** the game by printing the charts for the paper plates. Then, cut them out and glue them to the appropriate plates. Plan sufficient time to **set up the game** before the children arrive.

**Copy FUNSHEETS** to pass out to the children at the end of class.

**PRAY:** Before the lesson ask the children for prayer requests. See if you have any volunteers to pray. If not, lead the children in prayer yourself.

**OPEN:** Most people have seen a cartoon or show where an “angel” and a “devil” are sitting on a person’s shoulders trying to influence the person’s decision. This opening game is to be played a bit like that scenario.

With the children’s help, you should portray about 3 situations where a decision needs to be made. The volunteers will be improvising. It should be a fun time to allow the children to be creative.

For the first situation, select 2 older children as volunteers. They will portray the “good” and the “bad” to try to persuade the teacher. *This first situation is:*

The teacher is trying to diet. One volunteer tries to get the teacher to eat junk and unhealthy foods. The other volunteer tries to get the teacher to stick to the diet and eat healthy foods and to exercise!

The hard/funny part is that each person who speaks must start their sentence according to alphabetical order!

So, for example the teacher could start with: “A diet is so hard to stick with!”

Then, the good guy could say, “But you can do this. And think of all the weight you’ll loose!”

Next, the bad guy may say, “Can’t you see those chocolate chip cookies? Mmmmmmm.”

Then the teacher, “Don’t tempt me! I’m not going to listen.”

Keep going until the letter Z! OR Skip the difficult letters.

Make sure that the alphabet is hanging close by so that it can be referred to! The children who are watching can be involved by giving helpful suggestions if someone gets stuck.

For the next 2 situations, use 3 child volunteers. The teacher can also offer help if they get stuck, but give them time to think. They can be very creative!

Here are some suggestions or create your own scenarios:

<b>Stay up past bed time VS. Go to bed on time</b>
<b>Skip school VS. Go to school</b>
<b>Steal a video game VS. Don't steal</b>
<b>Don't do your chores VS. Do your chores</b>

**BIBLE VERSES:** “Even Paul in the Bible struggled between doing what was good / what God wanted verses doing wrong! He had a battle going on inside. Let’s read what he wrote about this battle in Romans.”

Allow the children to turn to **Romans 7:19-25**. Have up to 7 volunteers read these verses. Discuss each verse or two after it has been read. Following are some example questions to ask:

**Verse 19:**

*You may want to reread this verse to the children with the correct emphasis! It can be confusing!*

“What does Paul find himself doing? The good he wants to do? OR The evil he does not want to do?”  
*(He wants to do good, but instead he does evil.)*

**Verse 20:**

“What does Paul say is the cause of his not doing the good that he should?” *(It is the sin that lives within him. As long as we have these fleshly bodies, we still have desires to sin!)*

“We know that Paul was a great Christian man. He wrote 13 New Testament books, he was a missionary; he preached and taught people about Jesus! Yet, he had problems with sin too!! If he had problems with sin, do you think all of us will have problems with sin?” *(Yes!)*

**Verse 21:**

“What is happening with Paul when he wants to do good?” *(Evil is there with him. It’s like the dialogues we did earlier. Sin is arguing with our new Christian nature.)*

**Verse 22, 23:**

“What does Paul say this fight between good and evil feels like?” *(It’s like a war going on inside him.)*

**Verse 24, 25:**

“Do you think Paul ever feels discouraged that he does the bad things that he does not want to do?”  
*(Yes. He calls himself a “wretched man”.)*

“How does Paul say he can be rescued and win the war between good and evil inside himself?”  
*(Through Jesus Christ. As a Christian we have the power of the Holy Spirit living with us! That’s the*

power that created the world! With that kind of power we can fight the evil nature that wants us to sin.)

**APPLICATION:** “Last week we talked about being transformed so that we could do God’s will and the good that God wants. How do we become transformed?” *(By the renewing of our minds! We need to put good things in our minds like going to church, praying, reading the Bible, and spending time with Christian friends.)*

“Have you ever put on pants or a jacket and found money in the pocket that you forgot you had?” *(Varied answers.)*

“How does that feel?” *(Awesome! Great!)*

“Why did we not know the money was there?” *(We forget because we get to thinking about other things.)*

“If we forget about a great thing like money, do you think we can forget about the good things that we learn about God and about what the Bible teaches?” *(Yes.)*

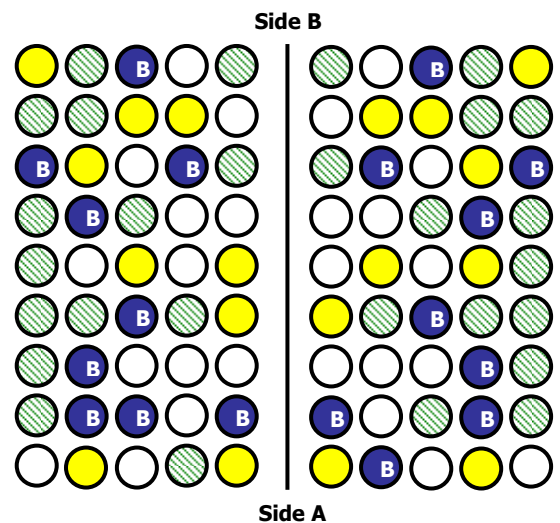
“So, how do we keep from forgetting these great things that God wants us to know and to do?” *(We keep coming to church, keep reading our Bibles, memorize Bible verses and songs, write things down, etc.)*

“When we have those battles within us between good and evil, how can we give the good more strength to win?” *(Pray, trust in Jesus and have faith that He knows what is best for us, remind ourselves of what we know about God! Feed the good within us more than the evil!)*

**GAME: PREP:** You will need 28 Green Plates, 18 Blue Plates, 18 Yellow Plates, 26 White Plates, and 18 Yellow Plates. Print out the charts found on the next pages. Then, cut them apart and glue them to the inside of the appropriately colored plates. Set out the plates according to the diagram. *(To designate the line, you can just use more space.)*

**Object:** To travel from the bottom to the top of the plates in the fewest moves and have the most money.

**Note:** The quickest a team can possibly get to the other side is 9 moves.



**GAME PLAY:**

- Divide the children into 2 teams.
- Give each team \$1000 to start the game.
- Teams take turns selecting one plate to turn over. Teams must stay on their side of the line.

- Allow different team members to choose which plate to turn over, though they should discuss the decision with their team!
- Plates can be good or bad. *(Children will need to work together and pay attention to discern how to know the good ones from the bad. You should not reveal this knowledge.)*
- Once a plate has been turned over, that team may either lose money, gain money, or stay at their current amount of money.
- After the first row, the next plate to be turned over must be “touching” that plate. So, teams can move forward, backward, side ways, or diagonally!
- Teams may NOT go back to a plate that has already been chosen.
- The first team to get to Side B gains an extra \$400!!
- The game is over after both teams have made it to side B. *(Or the remote possibility that a team is “stuck” and cannot go any further because they kept selecting “bad” plates.)*
- Count the money to determine the winner!! If there is a tie, then the first team that made it to side B wins.

**DISCUSS:** Ask the children about what lessons they learned from the game. Guide them in understanding the following thoughts:

- They had to pay attention to discover that certain colors were bad! Just like in life there are certain places, shows, games, etc. that we discover are not good choices – though they may look okay at first.
- Sometimes even trying to follow one of the “Great Choices” could get you into trouble! So, before making decisions, it was important to think ahead. In life we should consider the BEST choice to make by thinking about consequences and thinking beyond just that moment.
- The easiest way to win was to avoid all the temptations. As it is in life, sometimes the best way to resist sin is to stay away from those things that we know tempt us!

**CLOSE:** Pass out this week’s FUNSHEETS to be completed by the children with their parents help at home. End with prayer.

**ALPHABET GUIDE:**

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