

Discovering God on Route 66 LESSON #49

PRIDE AND TEMPTATION

PREP: Review the sins and punishments of the Israelites as told in Numbers that you will be discussing at the beginning of class.

Review the verses **I Corinthians 10:11-13** that you will be teaching the children.

Practice sharing the modern day story. Be sure you have read through it several times so that you are familiar with it. *Option: Select volunteers to act the story out as you read/tell it.*

Draw a scoreboard to show at the front of the room as a visual aid.

Prepare the song *Humbly Grateful or Grumbly Hateful?* found in both Sing a Song of Scripture and All the Best – Songs for Kids by Lillenas.

Tape each of the 10 word/word sections from I Corinthians 10:12 on plastic drinking cups. (*The 16 oz. size works well. Or another option is to use empty coke cans.*) Do this for each team of 5 - 6 children.

Make copies of the FUNSHEET for each child.

PRAY: Ask the children if they have any prayer requests. Lead the children in prayer for their requests and that they will understand how dangerous pride and temptation can be!

REVIEW: Tell the children that the first 10 verses of Chapter 10 of I Corinthians are about mistakes made by the people of Israel during their journey through the wilderness. (*You will need to briefly remind the children about how God, through Moses, lead these people out of slavery in Egypt through the desert to the land which would be called "Israel".*)

Discuss how the Israelite people sinned continuously against God even though God did many great miracles for them and God loved them very much. Here are a few examples referred to in I Corin. of their sins and how God punished them!

Numbers 25:1-9: Men (*led astray by women*) began worshipping Baal – a false god. So in one day 23,000 were killed by a plague.

Numbers 21:4-9: The Israelites grew impatient with the travel and the food. So, they complained and spoke against their leader, Moses and against God. Thus, the Lord sent venomous snakes that bit them and many died!

Numbers 16:1-32: The Israelites grumbled and complained against God's choice of Moses and Aaron. The Lord opened the ground and these people were swallowed by the ground. Then, fire consumed the other 250 men who were also grumbling with them!

Numbers 16:41-50: Because of the people's grumbling and complaining, God allowed a plague that killed 14,700 people. However, God told Moses how to stop the plague to save the others lives!

BIBLE: Have the children look up **I Corinthians 10:11-12**. Let 2 volunteers read the verses aloud as the other children follow along.

Verse 11:

“Why was this information about the Israelites written down in the Bible?” *(So that we could see the example and be warned not act like they did.)*

“What are some things that they did that we know we should not do?” *(Grumble and complain about what God provides for us, Worship other gods like Baal, Fall into temptations to think we know best and are always right, etc.)*

Verse 12:

“What do you think this Bible verse means by ‘if you think you are standing firm?’” *(We can act proud or think we will not ever sin like the Israelite people sinned. We think we do everything right and will not do wrong.)*

“What warning is given to us when we think this way?” *(Be careful because we can fall! Fall into the snare of temptation and sin!)*

Talk about how Christians who become self-confident become less dependent on God's word and God's Spirit. They become careless in their living. As carelessness increases their openness to temptation increases and resistance to sin decreases.

SING: Sing *Humbly Grateful or Grumbly Hateful?* found in both Sing a Song of Scripture and All the Best – Songs for Kids by Lillenas.

STORY: Read the following story to the children. Be sure you have read through it several times before hand so that you are familiar with it. It would be helpful to draw a scoreboard to show at the front of the room as a visual aid.

FUN OPTION: Allow volunteers to come up and act out the story as you tell it: Cheryl, Melissa, Jenny, Fans, Coach, Brian, Jeff, Mom, and Dad.

Inning	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	SCORE
Indians	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0		4
Bobcats	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0		4

OUTS: ⊙ ⊙ ○

THE MVP??

After 8 innings the score between the Bobcats and the Indians was tied - 4 to 4. So in the ninth inning, the Indians were first up at bat. They had 1 person on second base and already had two outs.

Amy's hands were sweating as she gripped the bat. She knew that the Bobcat's pitcher, Melissa, was the best pitcher in the league and that Cheryl was the best first baseman.

Melissa threw a fast ball and . . . Pop!! Amy dropped the bat and began to run to first base. Her excitement grew more and more as she watched the ball flying towards the fence. But then, the unbelievable happened. Jenny, who had not caught a ball all season, somehow managed to get her glove in just the right place. Yes. Amy was out, the score was still tied, (*Put another 0 on the score board.*) and it was the Bobcat's turn to bat.

Now, during the bottom of the ninth inning, it was Cheryl's turn to bat. The Bobcats had no one on base and there were 2 outs. Things looked very bleak. Cheryl stood at the plate and glared at the pitcher. She was ready to hit any ball that came her way and POW!! Cheryl stayed at the plate as she watched the ball go higher and higher into the air. Not only did it go over the fence - that ball went out of sight! Cheryl ran around the bases with her hands in the air. "Thanks to me," she thought, "the Bobcats have won their fourth game in a row!"

After the game all the players and the parents were congratulating Cheryl. "Way to go Cheryl."

"You're the greatest Cheryl." The fans told her.

"I'm sure glad we have you on our team," the coach said.

Some of Cheryl's classmates, Brian and Jeff came up to hug Cheryl and tell her what a super job she had done. Brian told her, "Cheryl I think you're the best softball player I've ever seen."

Jeff added, "Yeah. You did great!"

On the way home all Cheryl could talk about was how many people she got out and how her home run had won the game. "Mom didn't I do great?" Cheryl asked as they walked in the house.

"Oh, Cheryl, you really did play well today. I'm thankful that God has given you the ability to be such a good softball player. But you've done nothing but talk about yourself all the way home. What about Jenny? Did you tell her what a great catch she made?"

"Oh, Mom. She knows it was a pretty good catch. Besides, that's her job. She is an outfielder you know."

"Well Cheryl, I just want you to think about what I Corinthians 10:12 says `So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall.'"

"I know. I know." Cheryl lashed back at her mom. "I've heard that verse at church. I think I even memorized it one time." She said as she rolled her eyes.

Just then Cheryl's father came inside from cleaning out the car. "Here's your bat, ball, glove, drink, and cleats, Cheryl. Next time you need to bring in your own stuff from the car."

"Okay, Dad." Cheryl huffed.

Then Dad asked, "What were you and Mom talking about?"

"Oh, Mom was telling me about some Bible verse, but I told her I'd already heard it."

"Could she have been talking about I Corinthians 10:12 which talks about pride coming before a fall?" Dad questioned.

Cheryl was a bit surprised. "Wow Dad. How'd you know that? You two must've already talked. Well, I gotta go call Susan and tell her how great I did at the game." Cheryl started to dash up the stairs but her dad stopped her.

"Wait a minute young lady," he said, "take your stuff with you or it goes in the trash."

Cheryl replied, "I was going to get it. Don't have a ...". But Cheryl stopped talking when she saw the look her mother and father were giving her. She got her things and went up to her room.

Later that week at the next softball practice, both Melissa, the team pitcher, and Cheryl as first baseman, were chosen "Most Valuable Player" by some of the businessmen in town. They each received a coupon for a free banana split and a free pizza.

Melissa handed her 2 coupons to Jenny. "Here Jenny. I think you were the most valuable player. I mean that was a super catch you made. How did you do it?"

Jenny answered, "My dad has really been working with me. We've practiced every day for the past several weeks."

"But Melissa," Cheryl interrupted, "I wanted you to go get pizza and ice cream with me."

Jenny looked at the coupons, "Thanks Melissa but you can keep these. After all, they were given to you."

Melissa refused to take the coupons, "No way Jenny. Besides my mom gave me some money. We can all go get pizza and ice cream together."

"Oh, okay." Cheryl finally agreed. "Well, let's go."

That next Saturday the Bobcats played against the Eagles who were known as the worst team in the league. As usual the Bobcats were counting on Melissa and Cheryl to lead them to victory, but it didn't happen as they had hoped. It was a very unexpected upset by the Eagles. The Eagles won 7 runs to 4. The Bobcats had lost to the worst team in the league!

Brian and Jeff walked up to Cheryl and Melissa after the game. "Good try girls. You'll do better next time." Brian said trying to make them feel better.

Then Jeff added, "Cheryl I'm sorry you struck out so many times, but if you want I can practice with you. I think I know what you're doing wrong."

"Doing wrong?" Cheryl asked angrily. "The only thing I'm doing wrong is talking to you guys. I know how to bat. It was that stupid umpire's fault."

Brian interrupted, "Calm down Cheryl. What's your problem?"

Cheryl ran off screaming, "Uuurrrrrhhhhh!! Why don't you all leave me alone?"

Later when Cheryl got home from the game her father and mother were waiting to talk to her.

"Hi Cheryl" her mom said. "Come in here and sit down. Your dad and I would like to talk to you."

Cheryl walked into the den and sat on the sofa.

"Cheryl," her dad said, "I think we need to have a little talk."

Just then Cheryl burst into tears. "It's just not fair! Everybody hates me. I can't do anything right. All anybody does is preach at me about I Corinthians. What have I done that's so bad?"

Cheryl's father replied, "Why don't you tell us what you think you've done that's so bad."

"It's just like the Bible says." Cheryl blurted out. "When you think you're great or think you're really great at something like softball you better watch out 'cause you're going to fall. I heard that Bible verse before but I thought God was talking about other people. I didn't know He meant me."

Cheryl's mom walked over and gave Cheryl a big hug. "I'm so happy." She said. "Cheryl, God wrote the Bible to help show every single one of us how to live. We all need help."

Cheryl wiped her eyes. "I guess you're right. I think I better go call Jeff and ask him if he's still willing to help me with batting."

"Now, I think that's the right attitude to have, Cheryl." Her dad replied. "We can all learn from others."

THE END

Discuss the story with the children. Talk about how Cheryl had so much pride in herself and her abilities. She needed to give God the glory for her abilities and realize that she could improve. Talk about positive things that other characters did like Melissa, Jenny, Brian, and Jeff.

BIBLE: Have a volunteer read **I Corinthians 10:13**. Discuss with the children:

- Temptation means "to test or prove". Thus, each time we face a "test" we can pass or fail. We can win by having a good attitude and resisting sin or we can fail by giving up and sinning.
- No one has a unique temptation.
- God will never let us face a temptation in which we cannot win! He provides a way out of the temptation so we won't sin!
- We can't say, "The devil made me do it." We are the ones who choose to sin.

Relate the story about Cheryl. "What was Cheryl's temptation?" (*To think more highly of herself than she should and not really care about others.*)

"How could Cheryl have resisted this temptation?" (*Stop focusing on herself all the time! Be considerate of others and listen to her parents' wisdom.*)

Explain to the children how to endure temptation:

1. PRAY - Pray to God for guidance and strength.
2. TRUST – Believe that God has provided a way out as He promises to do in I Cor. 10:13!
3. LOOK - Focus on Jesus. He was tempted in the wilderness and did not sin. Also, He did not want to die on the cross but endured it for us. He was in a human body just like us, and yet He never sinned. (Hebrews 12:3, 4) WWJD?

Remind the children next time they are being tested or tempted to PTL! Just remember PTL.

GAME: Help the children memorize **I Corinthians 10:12**. *You may want to have the children read this verse again after letting them know that they will need to know the verse for the next game.*

SET UP: Tape each of the 10 words/word sections from the chart below on plastic drinking cups. *(The 16 oz. size works well. Or another option is to use empty coke cans.)* Do this for each team of 5 - 6 children you will have. Mix up the order of the cups and put them all together. Place the cups across the room from where the teams will be working.

PLAY: Divide the children into teams of about 5 or 6 each. On go, one person from each team will run to the other side of the room where the cups are located. He should grab a cup and run back. Once he tags the next team member, she will run and find a cup with a word that their team does not have yet.

When the team has all of the necessary words, they should start stacking their cups in the proper order of the verse I Corinthians 10:12. *Note that words on every other cup will be upside down.* The stack will grow high and so it will be easiest if the teams build the “towers” from the floor and not a table.

The winning team is the one who has all the cups stacked on top of each other and in the proper order first. If possible, play again. It will reinforce the Bible verse and give the children another opportunity to work together.

CLOSE: If you have time let a volunteer tell how to endure temptation or let a volunteer quote the verse I Corinthians 10:12.

Pass out the FUNSHEETS. End the lesson with prayer.

NOTE: If you did not do so last week -- Make copies of the invitations *(found with Lesson #50)* for parents to join their children in observance of The Lord’s Supper.

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I CORINTHIANS 10:12

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