



LESSON EIGHT

Lesson Goal: The children will learn that it is important to stick with the team when times get tough.

Main Point: To Play On God's Team, I Shouldn't Quit When Times Get Tough!

Bible Story: Jesus gives the disciples a mission (John 19 -20 and Matthew 28:19)

Memory Verse: *James 1:2-3*

"Dear brothers and sisters, when trouble comes your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow." (NLT)

What is the purpose of these activities?

Sports Games (General Opening Activity)

The purpose of this activity is to introduce the Main Point through a sports-themed game time.

Keep At It (Specific Opening Activity)

The purpose of this activity is to introduce the idea that you should keep trying even when what you are doing becomes difficult.

The General Opening Activity is an added feature in this Elevate series. You can use multiple opening activities or pick the ones your kids will most enjoy.

Skit and Bible Story (Large Group Activity)

The Skit and Bible Story teach children that we need to keep going and stay loyal to God even when times are hard.

Take Your Best Shot (Small Group Activity)

The purpose of this activity is to help the children memorize the Bible Verse and help them apply today's lesson.

Trading Cards (Small Group Activity)

The purpose of this activity is to help the children review the Bible Story.

Perseverance Story (Small Group Activity)

The purpose of this activity is to help the children see an example of not giving up when things get hard.

It's A Tough Job (Small Group Activity)

The purpose of this activity is to teach the kids that if they are doing something good they should stick with it even if it becomes difficult.

Games Of Perseverance (Small Group Activity)

The purpose of this activity is for the kids to keep going in a difficult task even when it gets hard.

Super Sports Challenge (Large Group Activity)

This is a strategic time to review and reinforce the content of the lesson.

SUPER SPORTS SPECTACULAR

LESSON 8: TO PLAY ON GOD’S TEAM, I SHOULDN’T QUIT WHEN TIMES GET TOUGH!

Single Teacher version - “Watch & Train” DVD



Purpose Statement: This Skit and Bible Story teach children that we need to keep going and stay loyal to God even when times are hard.

Materials/Props Needed: Lesson 8 DVD materials.

- Lead the children through the opening activity “Sports Games” and/or “Keep At It”.

- Begin Worship Time.



TEACHER

(CD Track # 1) It’s the final week of Super Sports Spectacular and I am ready to see who will win! I don’t know about you but I’m super excited about the game today. Let’s all stand and sing a song! Everybody up!

Teacher leads the children in singing the song.



TEACHER

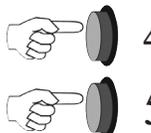
(CD Track # 1) That was awesome! You’ve all done a great job learning that song and singing it each week. I’m really proud that no one gave up. I do have a question though. Has anyone here ever had to do something really hard and it was so tough that you wanted to quit? (*allow the children to respond*) Yeah, sometimes we’ll have to do things in life that aren’t easy. But we’re not supposed to give up when things are difficult. We’ll never get to experience the greatest moments in life if we give up. God wants us to keep going when times are hard. Never give up, that’s the right thing to do! I want everyone to remember this idea so we’re making it our Main Point. **To Play On God’s Team, I Shouldn’t Quit When Times Get Tough!** Everybody up! It’s time for the Main Point!

Teacher leads the children by first demonstrating the Main Point with motions. Then have the children repeat the Main Point two or three times.

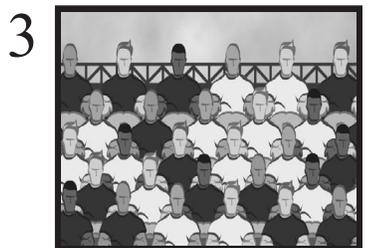


TEACHER (CONT’D)

My ears hurt from all that shouting but you did a great job! Yes, sometimes we have to go through really tough times to get to the good stuff. (*looks at watch*) But we don’t have time to talk about it right now. It’s time for the last game of the Super Sports Spectacular and Rookie and Coach have their work cut out for them today. Let’s watch the game.



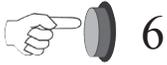
Note: Play “Super Sports Video” followed by “Dodgeball Challenge Video.”



SUPER SPORTS SPECTACULAR

TEACHER

Wow! Rookie never would have experienced victory if he'd given up. It's the same with the disciples. The reason we have churches today is because of the hard work that the disciples did. If they hadn't stuck with the team, or if they had given up when things were hard, we probably wouldn't be here today. I want you all to think about that in the future when you face tough situations. And I have a Bible verse that I think will help to encourage you.



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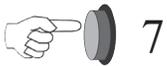
James 1:2-3 *“Dear brothers and sisters, when trouble comes your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.” (NLT)*

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TEACHER

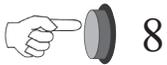
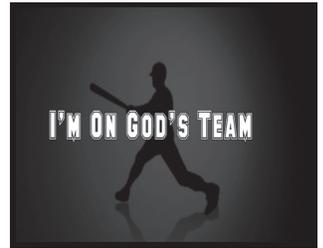
We are going to have problems. But those are moments that can turn out to be great victories for God's team if we do the right thing and never give up. I don't know about you guys, but I love being on God's team and right now I want to celebrate that by worshipping God. Everyone please stand and sing with me.



7

Teacher leads the children in singing the song, then begins the offering time.

7



8

OFFERING

8



6

TEACHER

(CD Track # 6) Thank you for singing with us. We're going to continue worshipping God with our offering. This is a time when we give back to God part of what He has given to us. I'll lead us in prayer and then it will be your time to come up and give. Let's pray.

Lead the children in prayer. If you want to, include elements of the lesson you are teaching today. For instance, today we are talking about doing the right thing and sticking with the team. So you might say, “God, we know that we are going to have problems and that things won't always be easy. Please give us the courage and the strength to stick with the team and to do the right thing even if it's hard.” Take up the offering.

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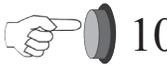
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TEACHER

(CD Track # 1) Thank you, everyone. And now you're all going to learn a few ways that you can apply today's lesson to your life. It's time for Small Groups!



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SMALL GROUPS

10



STOP

Teacher greets the kids as they come back from their Small Groups.

TEACHER

Welcome back. I need everyone's help on our review game. It's

SUPER SPORTS SPECTACULAR



11 time for “Super Sports Challenge!”

Note: Lead the children through the questions. Hit “play” when a child has given you the right answer.

CLOSING

11



1

TEACHER

(CD Track # 1) Thanks for coming. It was great to see all of you here. Don't forget our Main Point for today: **To Play On God's Team, I Shouldn't Quit When Times Get Tough!** See you next time.



KEEP AT IT

SPECIFIC OPENING ACTIVITY

LESSON EIGHT

TO PLAY ON GOD'S TEAM, I SHOULDN'T QUIT WHEN TIMES GET TOUGH!



Purpose: The purpose of this activity is to introduce the children to the idea that you should keep trying even when what you are doing becomes difficult.

Description: The children will be divided into teams and play games to earn points for their team. Even when the activities are difficult, if they keep going they can earn more points for their team than if they give up.

Materials needed: For this activity you will need this help sheet, playing cards, blocks to stack a tower, a toilet plunger, a hacky sack, a beach ball, a pogo ball or workout ball, and tape.



To introduce the activity say:

1. Today we are talking about not giving up even when things are hard.
2. I have a lot of tough activities around the room.
3. I want to divide you into teams and have you try these activities.
4. The more you keep going, even when it is hard, the more points you will score for your team.

For detailed instructions on how to do the activity see the DVD.



During the activity say the following:

1. If the activity seems too hard you can go to a different one, but you will get more points for your team if you keep going when it is hard.

Note: Divide the kids into teams and let them try the different activities. Be sure to have enough stations so that the lines don't get too long and the kids stay active.

House of Cards: Have the kids try to build a house of cards. 10 points for a one level house, 120 points for a two level house, 1000 points for a three level house.

Stacking a Tower: Have the kids build a tower with blocks. Set levels that are increasingly difficult. 10 points for level one, 120 points for level two, 1000 points for level 3.

Foot bag: Have the kids try to keep a foot bag in the air without it touching the ground and without using arms or hands. 10 points for 3 hits, 30 points for 10 hits, 120 points for 20 hits, 300 points for 30 hits, 1000 points for more than 40 hits.

Beach Ball: Tape a small area on the floor. Have the kids hit the beach ball up in the air as many times as they can without it touching the floor. Their feet have to stay in the taped area. 10 points for 3 hits, 30 points for 10 hits, 120 points for 20 hits, 300 points for 30 hits, 1000 points for more than 40 hits.

Balance Challenge: Have the kids balance on a pogo ball or workout ball. 10 points for 5 seconds, 120 points for 15 seconds, 1000 points for 30 seconds.



After the activity say:

1. In these activities, if you gave up when it got hard you didn't get as many points as when you stuck with it.
2. The more you stuck with something, the better you did.

Summary: Today we're learning that in life you shouldn't quit when times get tough.



TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

LESSON EIGHT

TO PLAY ON GOD'S TEAM, I SHOULDN'T QUIT WHEN TIMES GET TOUGH!



Purpose: The purpose of this activity is help the children memorize the Bible Verse and help them apply today's lesson.

Description: The children will repeat the Bible Verse, reading it off of cards that are turned over one at a time until they can say the whole verse without them. Then they will have an opportunity to take a shot based on the sport in that week's lesson. The sport for Lesson 8 is Super Sport. For Super Sport have the kids choose one of the previous seven shots that they would like to take.

Materials needed: For this activity you will need this help sheet, the "Bible Memory Verse Cards Lesson 8" from the Lesson Materials CD Rom, and the supplies for the shots from the previous seven weeks.



To introduce the activity say:

1. Today we are going to have a Super Sport shoot out, but before you can take a shot you will have to say the Bible Verse from memory.
2. We are going to read the Bible Verse off of these cards.
3. Then I will turn over one of the cards and we will read it again.
4. I'll keep doing that until the cards are all turned over.
5. Then if you can say it without making a mistake, you can pick what kind of shot you will take.
6. When you score a point you turn back over one piece of the verse until the whole verse is turned over.



For detailed instructions on how to do the activity see the DVD.

During the activity say the following:

1. Let's read the verse.

Note: Read the verse with the kids. Then turn over one piece of the verse and have the kids repeat it again. The verse for this week is James 1:2-3 "Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow." Continue until the entire verse is turned over.

2. Good job. Now each of you will get a chance to take your best shot at the goal.

Note: Let each child attempt to say the verse and if they are successful allow them to take a shot at the goal.

3. Good job.



After the activity say:

1. It is important to memorize scripture because it is God's word.
2. Remembering this verse will remind you of the way that God wants you to live.

Summary: All of us will have times in our lives when we just want to quit. When that happens, remember this verse and take your best shot by not quitting when times get tough.

“Dear

brothers

and

sisters,

when

troubles

come

your

way,

consider

it

an

opportunity

for

great

joy.

For

you

know

that

when

your

faith

is

tested,

your

endurance

has

a

chance

to

grow.”

James

1:2-3



GAMES OF PERSEVERANCE

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

LESSON EIGHT

TO PLAY ON GOD'S TEAM, I SHOULDN'T QUIT WHEN TIMES GET TOUGH!



Purpose: The purpose of this activity is for the kids to keep going in a difficult task even when it gets hard.

Description: The children will be given some difficult activities to complete. When the activities are too hard the teacher will help the kids to keep going.

Materials needed: For this activity you will need this help sheet, and for each child you will need the "Perseverance Games Lesson 8," from the Lesson Materials CD Rom, and writing/drawing materials.



To introduce the activity say:

1. Today I have several activities for you to complete.
2. It won't be easy, but if you stick with it, you can complete them.
3. Let's start.

For detailed instructions on how to do the activity see the DVD.

Note: Play any or all of the games that you choose. Be sure if you help the kids that you only give them enough help to keep going, don't just give them the answer or solution.



During the activity say the following:

For Perseverance Maze:

1. See if you can find your way through this maze without anyone's help.
2. If you can't seem to figure it out, keep trying and I will help you.

For Perseverance Word Find:

1. See if you can find all the words in this word find.
2. All of the words have to do with today's lesson.
3. If you can't seem to do it, keep trying and I will help you.

For Perseverance What's Wrong Pictures:

1. See if you can find all the differences between these two pictures.
2. There are at least 15 differences.
3. If you can't seem to find them all, keep trying and I will help you.

For Perseverance Words:

1. See how many different words you can spell using only the letters in the word "perseverance."
2. There are at least 33 words that can be made.
3. If you can't seem to get them all, keep trying and I will help you.



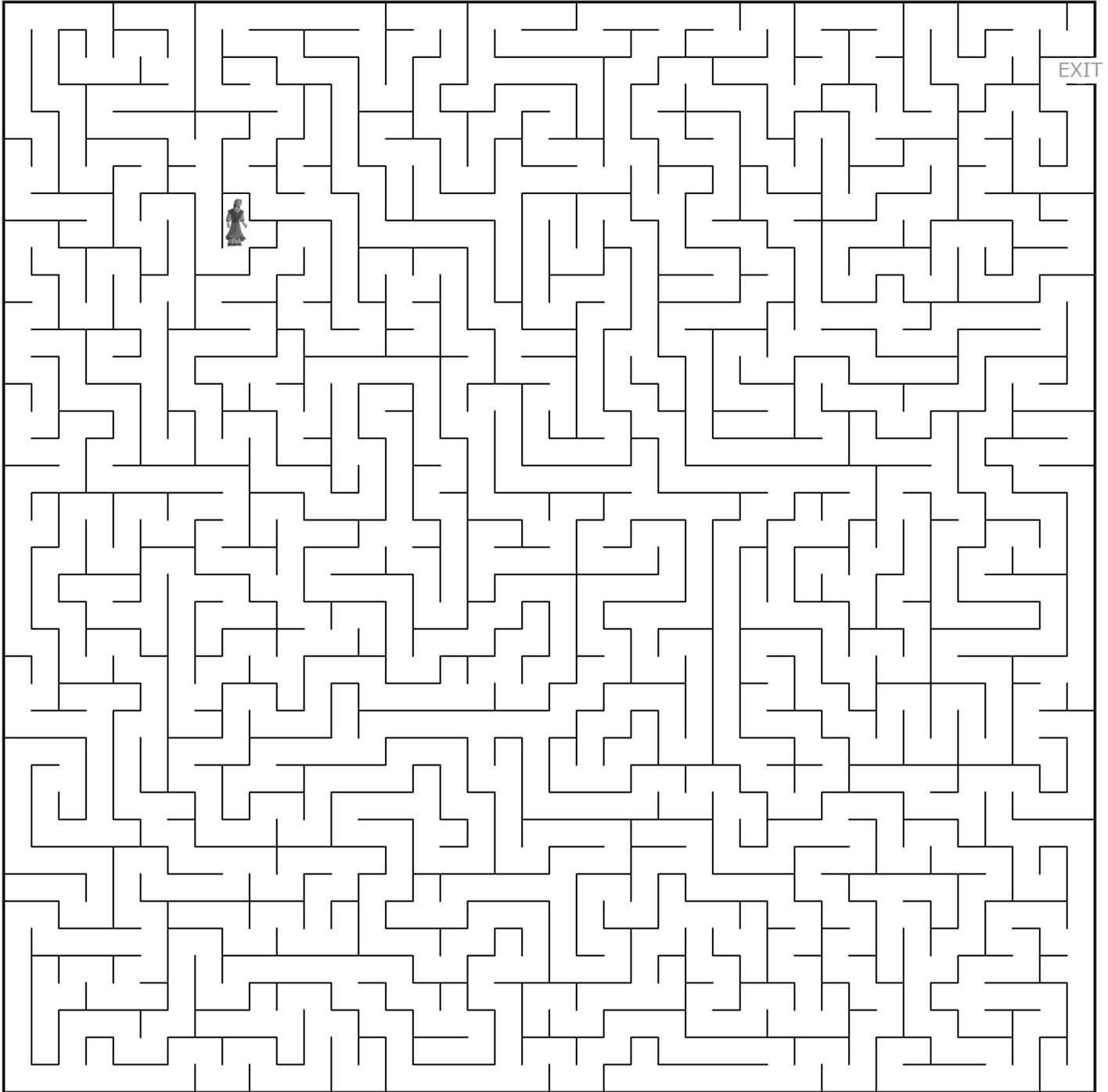
After the activity say:

1. What did all these activities have in common? (*They were difficult.*)
2. What was the only way to complete the task? (*To keep going no matter how difficult it got.*)
3. If the activity was too hard, what did I do? (*You helped.*)
4. Just like I helped you with these activities, God is with you and can help you keep going in difficult times.

Summary: When things are difficult in our lives the easiest thing may be to quit. But we should remember that God is always with us and wants to help us keep going even when it gets hard.

PERSEVERANCE MAZE

See if you can find your way through this maze.



PERSEVERANCE WORD FIND

See if you can find all the words.

Words to Find:

PERSEVERANCE
CONTINUE
FATIGUE
HARD
QUITTER
TEAM

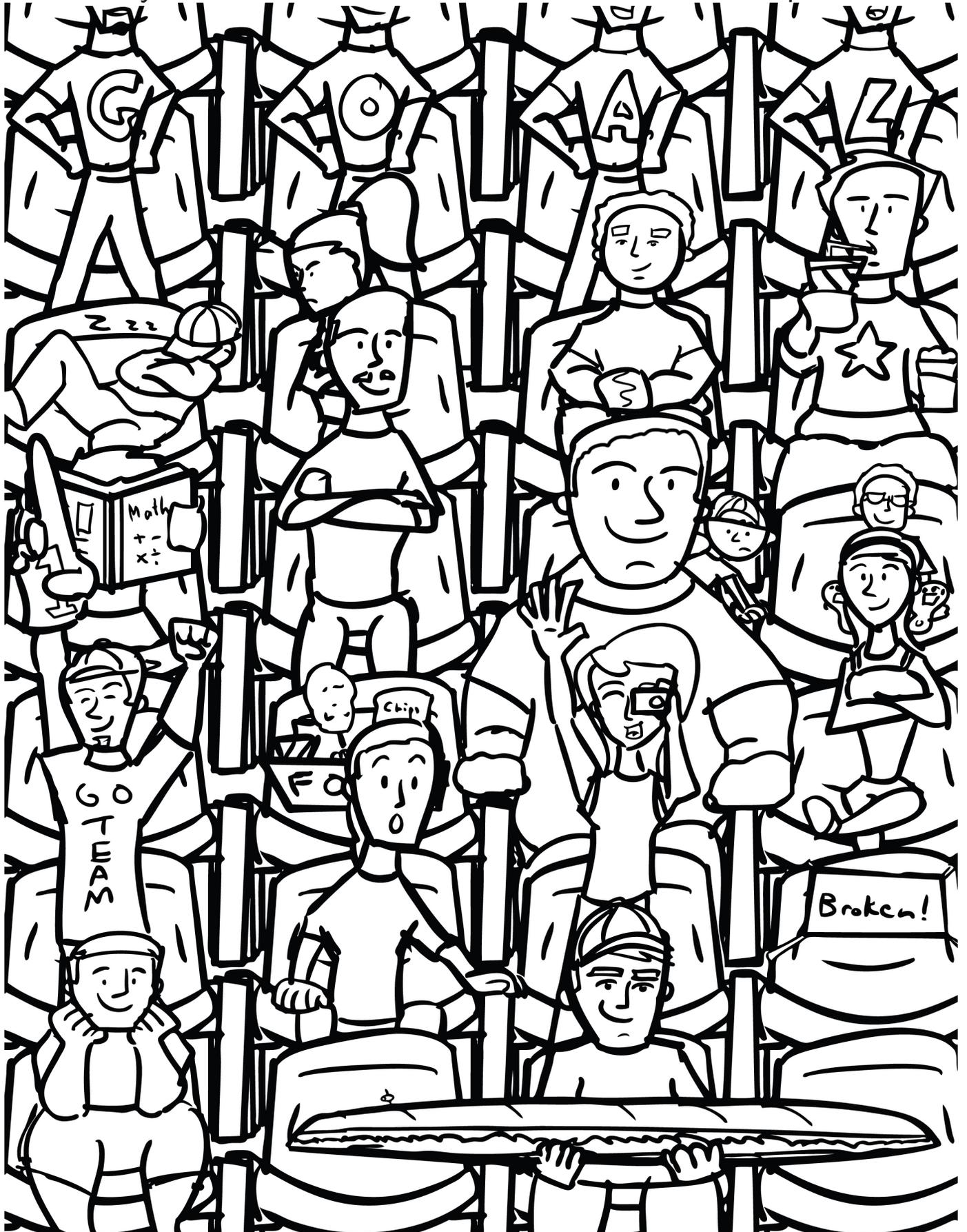
CHAMPION
CONTINUE
FORTITUDE
MARATHON
SURRENDER
WHINER

CONSISTENT
ENDURANCE
GOING
PERSISTENCE
SURVIVOR
WINNER

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

PERSEVERANCE WHAT'S WRONG PICTURES #2

See if you can find the difference between these two pictures.





SUPER SPORTS CHALLENGE

LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY

LESSON EIGHT

TO PLAY ON GOD'S TEAM, I SHOULDN'T QUIT WHEN TIMES GET TOUGH!



The purpose of this activity: This is a strategic time to review and reinforce the content of the lesson.

Materials needed: DVD chapter "Super Sports Challenge" Lesson 8.



Ask the following questions and then ask for volunteers to answer. If they answer correctly, hit "play" on the DVD.

1. Playing on God's team won't always be easy. When times get tough what should we do?
 - A. Give up.
 - B. Pretend that we're not on God's team.
 - C. Continue doing the right thing even if it isn't easy.**
 - D. Ask someone else to handle the problems for us.
2. A boy at school makes fun of you because you pray before you eat your lunch. What should you do?
 - A. Keep praying because you know it is important.**
 - B. Quit praying so he will leave you alone.
 - C. Start making fun of him so he'll know what it feels like.
 - D. Throw something at him. That'll teach him.
3. You keep inviting a friend to church, but they keep saying "no." What should you do?
 - A. Give up because they obviously aren't going to come.
 - B. Only invite the people you're sure will agree to come.
 - C. Don't invite anyone and just worry about yourself.
 - D. Keep inviting your friend because it is the right thing to do.**
4. Why did Rookie want to give up after the first half of the game?
 - A. Because Rookie was too tired to continue.
 - B. Because the All-stars were losing the game.**
 - C. Because Coach was being mean.
 - D. Because Rookie had a dentist appointment.
5. What happened when Rookie chose to keep playing?
 - A. Rookie got an injury and had to quit.
 - B. Rookie got kicked off the team.
 - C. Rookie was able to experience victory.**
 - D. Rookie didn't keep playing.

6. In today's Bible story, what did Jesus tell the disciples to do?

A. Go and make disciples of all nations.

B. Never give up.

C. Always do your best.

D. Bless everyone that you meet.

7. True or false? One of the reasons we have churches today is because the disciples didn't give up when Jesus died.

A. True.

B. False.

8. Fill in the blanks from today's Bible verse, James 1:2-3. "Dear brothers and sisters, when _____ comes your way, consider it an opportunity for _____. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow."

A. A friend, good times.

B. Trouble, great joy.

C. A problem, misery.

D. Time, work.



PERSEVERANCE STORY

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

LESSON EIGHT

TO PLAY ON GOD'S TEAM, I SHOULDN'T QUIT WHEN TIMES GET TOUGH!



Purpose: The purpose of this activity is to help the children see an example of not giving up when things get hard.

Description: The children will listen to a story about a kid who is trying to get a present for his grandmother, but runs into obstacles and problems that are harder and harder to overcome.

Materials needed: For this activity you will need this help sheet.



To introduce the activity say:

1. Today I am going to tell you a story about Josh.
2. Josh has something very important he wants to do, but he faces a lot of problems and obstacles.
3. Whenever Josh faces a problem or obstacle and wants to give up I want you to shout "Don't give up!"

For detailed instructions on how to do the activity see the DVD.



During the activity say the following:

1. Listen carefully to hear when you need to encourage Josh not to give up.

Josh looked up at the calendar in the kitchen and saw his grandmother's birthday written in bright red marker. His mother had circled the day and written "Party at Gramma's." Josh looked at the money he had in his pocket and added up how much he would get for his allowance for the next two weeks.

*"I won't have enough to get Gramma a present," thought Josh. "Maybe I should just give up."
(Don't give up!)*

Josh's mom walked into the kitchen. "Mom," Josh said, "I need to earn some extra money for a present for Gramma. Can you raise my allowance?" Josh smiled.

"Well, if you really need some extra money, I guess you could work for it," his mom said. "I'm weeding my rose bed this week. If you help me, I'll give you some extra money. I think your dad might need some help too, if you ask him."

"Thanks, Mom," Josh said. As Josh walked to the stairs he looked out the window and saw the rose bed full of weeds. "That's really gonna be hard," Josh said to himself. "Maybe I should just give up."

(Don't give up!)

By the end of the day, Josh had agreed to two full weeks of work. The first week he would help his mom work in the rose bed and the second week he would help his dad clean out the garage. In the afternoons he would do his older brother's chores. And on Saturdays he would pull his sister on her wagon around the block. All of them would give Josh some extra money for his present for Gramma.

Josh worked hard for two weeks, but there were many times he wanted to give up.

He wanted to give up when he got scratches and cuts on his arms and hands from working in the rose bed. (Don't give up!)

He wanted to give up when he dropped something heavy on his foot while cleaning out the garage. (Don't give up!)

He wanted to quit when he was carrying out the garbage for his brother and the bag broke and smelly, gross trash spilled all over his legs. (Don't give up!)

And he really wanted to quit when he was pulling his little sister in her wagon while she sang that annoying kids show theme that she knew Josh hated. (Don't give up!)

But Josh didn't quit. At the end of the two weeks, Josh looked at all the money he had. "I not only have enough money for Gramma's present, I probably have enough to get something for me too!" Josh was excited as he raced out to his bike. Josh's favorite comic book character had a new issue out and Josh couldn't wait to read it. Josh raced to the shortcut over the bridge in the park and had to stop. Some bigger boys were blocking the bridge with their bikes. Josh recognized Tim, one of the bullies from school. "Give us five dollars if you want to cross the bridge." Tim said. Josh looked around for an adult, but there was no one nearby.

"Can't you let me by, Tim?" Josh said, "I have to get a present for my Gramma."

"Aww, poor baby," mocked Tim, "The baby has to get a present for his Gwammy." The other boys laughed. "If you want to use our shortcut, pipsqueak, you have to pay!"

Josh looked at his watch. If he didn't take the shortcut he would barely make it in time to go to his Gramma's party. Josh thought about giving up and going home.

(Don't give up!)

Josh turned around and pedaled as fast as he could around the park. When he got to the store he was panting and sweaty. He ran inside and got his Grammas's present. It was a poster by Gramma's favorite artist. Josh rolled the poster carefully and started to the comic book shop. While he was in the comic book shop, he heard the sound of thunder outside. Josh ran outside as it started to rain. He quickly took the poster inside before it got wet. Josh thought, "There's no way I can get home without Gramma's present being destroyed by the rain." Now he really felt like giving up. (Don't give up!)

There was a drug store next to the comic book shop. Josh saw they had rain coats in the front window. He left the poster with the comic book store owner and ran next door to buy a raincoat. Then he wrapped the poster in the raincoat. "Thanks for holding this poster for me." Josh told the owner. "I had to spend most of my money on this coat, so I can't afford a comic. Thanks anyway."

Josh sped home in the rain, getting soaking wet from head to toe. When he pulled in to the driveway he saw his mom in the garage packing the car with decorations for Gramma's party. "Josh, you are soaked!" his mom said as Josh skidded to a stop. "You better get upstairs and get ready for the party." "Sorry I'm late," said Josh. "I got delayed and caught in the storm. Here's Gramma's present, I gotta get ready!"

"Josh!" his mom called. Josh stopped in the door of the garage. "I'm really proud of you for not giving up and working so hard for your Gramma's present. Tell me how much you spent, and I will pay for half, okay?"

Josh smiled. "Okay, mom. There were lots of times I wanted to give up, but I'm glad I didn't. I know Gramma's going to love her present." As Josh ran upstairs he thanked God for his family and especially for his Gramma.



After the activity say:

1. Have you ever been trying to do something good, like Josh was, and you kept running into problems and obstacles? *(Yes.)*
2. All of us want to give up sometimes, when we run into problems and life gets hard.
3. But when we are on God's team we should never give up, or we will never be able to accomplish the good things that God has planned for us.

Summary: Josh didn't give up. He stuck with it, and in the end he was able to get the present for his grandmother. When we are doing good things, we shouldn't give up even though our task may be hard.