

ELEMENTS OF FAITH

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Run to God and away from sin.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that having faith means we run to God and away from temptation.

KEY PASSAGE:

Proverbs 4:14-15, 1 Corinthians 10:12-14, Hebrews 2:18

MEMORY VERSE:

*"You are the God who does miracles. You show your power among the nations."
- Psalm 77:14 (NIV)*

SUMMARY:

The Bible says over and over again, when the temptation to sin shows up, we should run in the other direction. When we turn to Jesus, He helps us to avoid and overcome temptation. Kids will try the Avoiding Pepper experiment as a reminder to flee from temptation.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Show us the way out when we feel tempted.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

ELEMENTS OF FAITH

LARGE GROUP LESSON

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INTRO:

Many years ago, a pair of comedians created a comedy sketch called the 2000 Year Old Man. A modern day reporter interviewed a man who claimed to be 2000 years old, and the 2000 Year Old Man told stories about some of the great and not-so-great moments in history. At one point the reporter asks the 2000 Year Old Man how transportation was created. The 2000 Year Old Man tells him, "Transportation was invented because of fear!" He explained that no one 2000 years ago had a reason to travel anywhere. There was nowhere to go, nothing to see. But, if you suddenly came face to face with a saber-toothed tiger, you had a reason to MOVE!

People travel for many reasons. We travel to school and to church and to the mall. We travel for vacation, to get away and explore and relax. We travel to visit relatives. We travel to go fun places like the park or the amusement park. Most of the time, we travel to do something fun and enjoyable, but just like the fictional 2000 Year Old Man, there are times that we get away to avoid danger. Like the pepper in the bowl of today's experiment, there are things like fire or wild animals or other dangers that will make us get up and GO!

Of course it's always best to have a plan when you move, even if it is out of fear. People move to safe places in their homes during tornadoes. They move to shelters and toward family further inland to get away from the danger of hurricanes. They aren't moving away just to move away. They're moving with a purpose. They're choosing something better.

The Bible teaches us that we are to move away from temptation. He wants us to get away from situations where we feel tempted to sin, to break His commandments and to do wrong. The Bible uses words like "run" and "flee" to describe how some biblical heroes got away from tempting situations.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

But just as we move with purpose during a dangerous storm, we should move away from sin with purpose. We're not just choosing to flee a bad situation. We're running toward something better. Today's scriptures assure us that if we are willing to choose God over temptation, He will help us to escape to something better!

READ PROVERBS 4:14-15, 1 CORINTHIANS 10:12-14, HEBREWS 2:18

MAIN POINT:

Proverbs 5 tells us that we should avoid temptation completely. Don't even go to places that make us feel tempted, and don't be around people who lead us into tempting situations. That said, whenever temptation does creep up on us, 1 Corinthians promises God will provide a way out. God will always help us find that path away from sin and toward righteousness. Hebrews 2 also assures us that Jesus knows how we feel when we are tempted. He will not abandon us. He will be there to help.

The best way to avoid a tornado or a hurricane is to have an escape route, a plan. It's not just getting away, but getting some place safe. God is our refuge when we are tempted, and He will give us safety when we are tempted.

DRIVE IT HOME:

We've seen some cool science experiments in this series, but today's was certainly one of the most dramatic. When that fingertip covered with soap touched the water, the pepper scattered! It raced as far away from our finger as possible, right to the edge of the bowl. If the bowl had not kept the pepper inside, it would have kept on going.

It's a simple trick of science, of course. There's nothing personal between ordinary table pepper and ordinary dish soap. But it's a visual reminder we want you all to take away from this lesson and this series. Temptation is no laughing matter. It's nothing to play around with, and there's nothing to be gained for sticking around in tempting situations. Sin is the very thing that separates us from God. It's the reason Jesus had to die on the cross. The longer we stay in those dangerous situations, the more likely it is we will sin.

It isn't enough to run from temptation. We need to run to something better. Sin is harmful to us, to God, and to others. If we choose God's way, we are choosing to love God and love others. I can't think of a better place to make our escape than back to God.

When we choose God's way, we'll do more than keep ourselves from sinning. We can also lead others away from sin. Standing with God and running from temptation, we can set an example that others may follow. It isn't easy to flee from sin when our friends are being tempted as well, but your courage to run to God and flee from sin may be just what a friend needs to make that first step toward God themselves.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

The pepper in our bowl couldn't move fast enough to escape the soap. That's how we should be with sin. Let's run when we find ourselves on the wrong path, and let's make our way back to where we need to be, walking in faith with God!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Show us the way out when we feel tempted.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

ELEMENTS OF FAITH

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

Do you like to add salt and pepper to your food?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Psalms 77:14

Have the kids practice saying their memory verse, and then see who can say it backwards.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a game of Hot Potato, and see who is last holding the potato!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Proverbs 4:14-15, 1 Corinthians 10:12-14, Hebrews 2:18

What is temptation?

What does God say we should do when we feel tempted?

Where should we run to when we are tempted?

What are some things you are sometimes tempted to do?

What are you going to do the next time you feel tempted to do wrong?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us the wisdom to run to you when we feel tempted.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

ELEMENTS OF FAITH

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

Do you like to add salt and pepper to your food?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Psalms 77:14

Have the kids practice saying their memory verse, and then see who can say it backwards.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a game of Hot Potato, and see who is last holding the potato!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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