

“Be Different” - LESSON 1

“Don’t Be A Copycat”

Main Focus:

We must not copy the behavior of the world!



Power Verse:

“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.”
- Romans 12:2



Whatchagaddaknow:

“I Won’t Copy The Ways Of The World!”

LEADER’S INFO

Romans 12:2 reminds us of a powerful truth: we are called to stand out, not blend in. In a world that encourages us to change in order to fit in the patterns and values of society, God challenges His children to transform their thinking.

This lesson will inspire children to think critically about their choices and behaviors. Instead of being a “copycat” and imitating the world, they’ll learn to align their lives with God’s Word in order to live in His perfect will.

Through the story of Daniel and his friends, the children will understand that following Jesus means making decisions that sometimes seem “crazy” or unpopular to others, but they reflect the heart of God. They will learn to transform their thoughts and change their way of living.



“The Spark” Intro Video

“Stop Copying Me!”



“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Dylan teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Inspector Change-A-Lot”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“Who Will You Listen To?”



Bible Story

“Daniel Does Things God’s Way”



Power Verse Video

“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.”

- Romans 12:2



Call To Action

“Don’t Be A Copycat”



Rewind!

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

We must not copy the behavior of the world!



Power Verse:

“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.”

- Romans 12:2



Whatchagaddaknow:

“I Won’t Copy The Ways Of The World!”

Lesson 1 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 1 - The Spark” Intro Video

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

- “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video
- “Whatchagaddaknow” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “Inspector Change-A-Lot” Theme Graphic/Music

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video
- “Who Will You Listen To?” Graphic
- Several Tables, Chairs, And Cones
- Two Blindfolds

Bible Story

- “Daniel Does Things God’s Way” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 1 Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “Don’t Be A Copycat” Graphics
- Two Bowls Of Water
- A Large Sponge

Rewind!

- “REWIND!” Bumper Video
- “REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Bible Story Excerpt
- Romans 12:2 Print Piece
- Pencils, Pens, Or Markers

“The Spark” Intro Video

“Stop Copying Me!”

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Dylan teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”

Character Skit

“Inspector Change-A-Lot”

Offering Time

Game Time!

“Who Will You Listen To?”

Bible Story

“Daniel Does Things God’s Way”

Power Verse Video

“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.”

- Romans 12:2

Call To Action

“Don’t Be A Copycat”

Rewind!

Review Game

Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey, kids! Guess what? Today we’re starting a brand-new series called “BE DIFFERENT!” It’s all about Christians are supposed to live lives that are very different than the rest of the world.

Ever heard of the term, “Copycat?” What does it mean when someone is a “copycat?” (*allow response*) That’s right! When someone tries to do exactly what someone else does—wearing the same clothes, talking the same way, acting like them. (*imitate a silly copycat voice*) “Look at me, I’m soooo cool!” That’s a copycat!

Let me ask you something—have you ever seen someone try to be just like their favorite celebrity, friend, or even someone you follow on YouTube? (*pause for response*) In fact, some of YOU might have tried to use some of the same phrases and words you’ve heard some others use - even though you know those words are not pleasing to God.

Well, today’s lesson is all about choosing to not be a copycat. Before we learn too much, I want you to check out this amazing video!

(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 1”)

Leader: It’s interesting how so many Christians try to look, act, and speak just like the world. But here’s the deal: God says in Romans 12:2 that we shouldn’t copy the world’s behavior. Instead, He wants us to think differently and live differently.

So, what does it mean to “BE DIFFERENT”? It means we don’t have to do what the world says is “cool” if it doesn’t match up with what God says is right. We don’t need to follow the crowd—we follow Jesus! When we live for Him, we’re like a bright, shining light in a dark room. And trust me, people will notice when you live for Jesus!

We are going to learn all about that in our lesson, today. But, before we do that, we need to find out “Whatchagaddaknow.”

(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Inspector Change-A-Lot” *(They are a wacky person who loves to invent things! Dressed like an old-timey detective, they should come in each week ready to feature their latest invention or tool that can be debunked with a simple solution.)*

Inspector: *(Enters with a gadget that can preferably light up and make noise)* Yes, hello! I am Inspector Change-A-Lot.

Leader: Hello! It’s nice to meet you! What are you doing here, Inspector Change-A-Lot?

Inspector: You can just call me Inspector. I am here on a mission from God! My calling from above is as strange as my name, as you will soon see.

Leader: What’s that little doohickey you have there?

Inspector: I am glad you noticed. This is the “Copycat-O-Matic 3000 XPR!” It is the only one of its kind in existence anywhere on the planet or in the universe.

Leader: What does the XPR stand for?

Inspector: I have no idea. I just thought it sounded cool.

Leader: Oh, it does! So, what does it do?

Inspector: Allow me to demonstrate. Your head please.

Leader: You want my head? I like my head!

Inspector: I want to place the machine on your head!

Leader: Well, ok.

Inspector: Now then, I will ask you a question and give my answer. Then, I will allow you to answer the question.

Leader: That sounds easy enough.

Inspector: Here is the question. What is your favorite color? I will answer first. My favorite color is Orange. Now it’s your turn. Wait, let me activate the Copycat-O-Matic.

Leader: My favorite color is blue.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



CHARACTER SKIT

(Continued)

Inspector: Yes! The machine has worked once again!

Leader: What exactly did the machine do?

Inspector: It blocked you from giving the same answer I gave, thus saving you from being a copycat.

Leader: What were the chances we would have the same favorite color?

Inspector: A very high chance indeed! But as you experienced, there was no chance of that with the Copycat-O-Matic 300 XPR in use!

Leader: I know a better way to avoid being a copycat. In fact, we are learning all about this in our lesson today.

Inspector: A better way than using my amazing one-of-a-kind invention?

Leader: Much better! Allow God to transform your heart and mind! It’s that simple. We just need to stay in contact with God daily through His Word and prayer.

Inspector: That does seem to be a better plan, but I am still certain about my invention! It has never failed me. At least as long as I have Wi-Fi anyway. I will go back to the drawing board and make my machine 1000 times better than it is now! But until then, your plan is good as well!

Leader: God’s plan is always the best! But it was fun using your device. Keep up the good work.

Inspector: Oh, I plan to! I could use a more expensive aluminum foil... I got this stuff from the dumpster out back. We shall see! I am Inspector Change-A-Lot, and I’ll be back to inspect your transformation, so be ready!

(EXITS WHILE THEIR THEME MUSIC PLAYS)



GAME TIME

“Who Will You Listen To?”

Items Needed For Game:

Several tables, chairs, and cones; two blindfolds

.....

Preparation:

Choose two boys and two girls to participate in this game. One person from each team will be the “caller,” and one will be the “listener.” Blindfold both of the “listeners,” and place them at the starting line. Place the “callers” at the finish line. Set up an obstacle course with the chairs and tables.

.....

How To Play:

When you say, “Go!” the “callers” are to start calling out directions for the “listeners” to follow. Their goal is to give the correct directions and help the “listeners” get to the finish line quickly. However, the crowd is allowed to yell out directions as well. The crowd can yell out either correct directions OR incorrect directions. The “listeners” have to try to decipher which voice to listen to and obey. The first “listener” to cross the finish line wins for their team!



Bible Story

“Daniel Does Things God’s Way”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the passage in Daniel 1; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today’s Bible Story is found in the book of Daniel, chapter 1. You might have heard of the man named Daniel in the Bible. Well, this is the story of a very young Daniel and his three friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These young men were part of the thousands of Hebrew people who were taken from their home in Judah and forced to go to the country of Babylon.



The king of Babylon was a man named Nebuchadnezzar. King Nebuchadnezzar was a mean and evil man. He did not believe in our God. He worshiped false gods. He chose a large group of young men to come to his palace to be his personal servants. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were among them.



(*show pic*) King Nebuchadnezzar told the young men, “You will all eat the food and drink the wine I give you.” Well, there was a big problem with this. The meat and wine that King Nebuchadnezzar wanted to give them was against their religion to eat or drink. So Daniel approached the chief of staff and asked him, (*show pic*) “Can my three friends and I eat only the food God has commanded us to eat?”



Daniel did not want to eat the food and wine that was against what God had commanded. He didn’t want to just do what everybody else was doing and be a “copycat.” But the chief of staff was afraid of the king. He didn’t want to get in trouble for not giving the young men the food and wine the king had ordered for them.

So Daniel made a deal. He told the chief of staff, “Let my friends and I eat only the food approved by our God. At the end of 10 days, compare us to the other young men. If we are not stronger and healthier than they are at the end of 10 days, we will eat the food and wine of the king.” The chief of staff agreed to the deal, and at the end of the 10 days, (*show pic*) Daniel and his friends stood before King Nebuchadnezzar. The king was so pleased with how strong and healthy they were, he placed them in high positions of authority. (*show pic*)

From that point on, Daniel and his friends were allowed to eat the food that they chose - the food that was approved by God. They grew in wisdom and respect in the king’s court. Today, you are going to learn about how important it is that we not copy the customs and behaviors of this world. You will learn - if you choose God’s way, then you will be blessed!



Call To Action

“Don’t Be A Copycat”

Materials Needed:

The “Don’t Be A Copycat” graphics; two bowls of water (*one filled with clean water and one filled with dirty water*); a large sponge

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled, “Don’t Be A Copycat”



The Message: *(title slide)*

Being a copycat can be fun, sometimes. Especially if you trying to get on your brother or sister’s nerves. Ha ha! But being a copycat when it comes to the way people think, speak, or act - especially those who are not following Jesus - can have some really horrible consequences. You can’t follow people who aren’t following Jesus. Right? Maybe you have had something like this happen to you...

You get to recess and see that all the popular kids are making fun of a girl on the playground. They try to get you to join them - “Come on, look how ugly she is! Don’t you think she’s such a loser?” In order to fit in, you feel like you have to join in and make fun of her, too.

You see a preview for an epic new movie that just came out, but it turns out it’s rated R. Later, when you’re at your friend’s house, they put on that movie. In order to be liked and not “ruin all the fun,” you feel like you have to watch a movie full of violence and bad language. You want to fit in - you want to be cool or popular - but in order to do that, you feel like you have to do what EVERYBODY else is doing - even if it goes against what God says.

In this series, we are learning some important things from the book of Romans, chapter 12. This first lesson is all about how you shouldn’t be a “copycat” when it comes to things that are not pleasing to God. Romans 12:2 says, “*Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.*” If you don’t want to be a copycat...



Let God Change Your Thoughts *(slide)*

If you want to “BE DIFFERENT”, you have to choose not to copycat the way the world thinks. It all starts in your mind. What you think about shapes the choices you make and the kind of person you become. When you fill your mind with God’s Word and spend time in prayer, God will help you think His thoughts instead of the world’s thoughts.

Let me show you what I mean. *(hold up the sponge)* This sponge is going to represent your mind. Our minds are
(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



Call To Action (Continued)

like sponges. Whatever we “soak up”—whether from TV, friends, or what we read—will affect our thoughts. If we fill our minds with God’s Word and His truth (*dip the sponge into the bowl of clean water*), He will help us think good, clean, and holy thoughts. (*squeeze the sponge so the clean water pours out*) Isn’t that awesome?

BUT, if we spend time soaking up sinful things - music, videos, friends, whatever - (*dip the sponge into the bowl of dirty water*), then what comes out of our lives is (*squeeze the sponge so the clean water pours out*) dirty, sinful, and looks just like the world. That’s why it is important that we choose to change the way we think by reading the Bible, going to church, and hanging around people who are following Jesus. When we let God change our thoughts, He helps us live in a whole new way—His way!

Thinking the right way is important, but it doesn’t stop there—you have to...

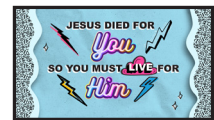
Choose To Do What’s Right (slide)



Yes, let God change the way you think...but then you have to act on it! Every day, you face choices. Will you do what’s popular, or will you do what’s right? Will you follow the crowd, or will you follow Jesus? Being different isn’t always easy, but when you choose to do what’s right, you honor God.

Daniel and his friends decided they were not going to go against what God taught them, even if it meant they would be sent out of the King’s palace and go to prison. They were not going to copycat the ways of the world. We have to make the same choice. We have to choose to do what’s right no matter what. Because...

Jesus Died For You, So You Must Live For Him (slide)



Jesus knew it would be hard to “BE DIFFERENT” in this world. He knew it because He had to do the same thing. He left Heaven and came to Earth. He lived a sinless life. Then He died on a cross, and rose again so that you and I can live for Him forever.

Jesus died for you, so you **MUST** live for Him! Jesus freed you of a life of misery and sin, so the best response is to live for Him and serve Him, doing the right thing no matter what! Even if it seems like **EVERYBODY** is living a way that is against the way God wants us to live...we must choose **NOT** to be a copycat! We must choose to “BE DIFFERENT.” If we do, God will bless us - big time!

ALTAR RESPONSE (play soft music)

Pray for any children who are facing pressure to “be like the world.” Pray that they would have courage to stand up for God and live for Him no matter what.



REWIND!

Materials Needed:

“REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics; “REWIND!” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “REWIND!” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “REWIND!”; there is a slide for each question

1. Whatchagaddaknow today?

Answer: “I Won’t Copy The Ways Of The World!”

2. What did the king offer Daniel and his friends at the banquet?

Answer: Food And Wine

3. Who told Daniel and his friends not to eat the king’s food?

Answer: God

4. Did Daniel and his friends eat the king’s food?

Answer: No

5. True Or False: Daniel’s deal with the chief of staff was denied.

Answer: False

6. True Or False: Daniel and his friends were stronger and wiser than the others after eating the food God told them to eat.

Answer: True

7. According to our lesson today, you must “Let God Change Your _____.”

Answer: Thoughts

8. According to our lesson today, you must “Choose To Do What’s _____.”

Answer: Right

9. According to our lesson today, “Jesus Died For You, So You Must _____ For Him.”

Answer: Live

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Romans 12:2