

“EPIC” - LESSON 5

“Who Am I Trying To Please?”

Main Focus:

We must live our lives to please God, not others.



Power Verse:

“Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God?”

– Galatians 1:10a (NIV)



Whatchagaddaknow:

“I’m Gonna Please God, Not Please People!”

LEADER’S INFO

It’s not easy to go against the crowd. So often, we choose to follow the crowd instead of doing what’s right. Children, especially, tend to give in to peer pressure.

Through the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, the children are going to learn all about how important it is to make up your mind to please God, no matter what. They will learn that, when you live to please God, He will always bless your life.

In Galatians 1:10a, we find a very important question that we must answer, “Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God?” Taking a stand and pleasing God is much more difficult than trying to please the crowd.

Let us all choose just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They chose to please GOD, not people!



“The Spark” Intro Video

“Who Is More Important?”



“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Big Ray teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Wacky Wally”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“Simon Says”



Bible Story

“Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego”



Power Verse Video

“Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God?”

– Galatians 1:10a (NIV)



Call To Action

“Who Am I Trying To Please?”



Rewind!

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

We must live our lives to please
God, not others.



Power Verse:

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of human beings, or of God?”
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Whatchagaddaknow:

“I’m Gonna Please God, Not Please
People!”

Lesson 5 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 5 - The Spark” Intro Video

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

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

Character Skit

- “Wacky Wally” Theme Graphic/Music
- Foam Finger That Says “Wacky Wally’s #1 Fan”

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video
- “Simon Says” Graphic

Bible Story

- “Shadrach, Mesach, & Abednego” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 5 Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “Who Am I Trying To Please?” Graphics
- Two Large Pieces Of Poster Board
- Nerf Gun
- A Target
- A Volunteer

Rewind!

- “REWIND!” Bumper Video
- “REWIND!” Lesson 5 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Props For The Bible Story Reenactment (*optional*)
- Cups
- A Way To Keep Time

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“Simon Says”

Bible Story

“Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego”

Power Verse Video

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Rewind!

Review Game

Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey, kids! We are continuing to learn from some of the most EPIC stories from the Bible. Today’s story is so amazing. Before we get into it, I want to ask you a question.

Have you ever been in a group of people and everyone wanted to do something that was totally wrong? I mean you end up being the only person in the group who doesn’t want to do it because you know it is sin. Have you ever been there?

That is a tough situation isn’t it? You have a hard choice to make. You can either try to please your friends...OR you can try to please God. Which do you think you should choose?

(allow kids to respond)

Leader: That’s right! We should always choose to please God and do what He wants for our lives. After all, He is our Creator, our Lord, and our Savior. To help you understand more about this, I want you to check out this awesome video.

(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 5”)

Leader: It’s not always easy to choose to please God instead of people. There is a part of each of us that really wants people to like us. We want people to think we are cool. We want people to be pleased with us, so sometimes we make terrible choices.

Instead of seeking to please people, we should seek to please God in all things. That’s what we are going to be learning about, today.

Now that you know that, I think it is time for you to find out Whatchagaddaknow!

(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: **“Wacky Wally”** *(a mega-nerd who dreams of one day becoming a superhero! He usually wears a cape.)*

Wally: *(Excitedly)* Hey! HEY! You won't believe what I'm doing today!

Leader: What's going on, Wally?

Wally: *(Jumping up and down)* I organized a talent show in the park! Everyone is going to perform, and I'm the judge! I've never been a judge, so I am superhero-excited!

Leader: That sounds fun, but what's the purpose behind it?

Wally: *(Confused)* Purpose? To entertain, of course!

Leader: *(Chuckling)* I feel like there's more to this than you're telling us. Are you going to be a harsh judge and give everyone terrible scores, then swoop in and do a tap-dancing routine to blow them all away?

Wally: Huh? Me? I would never! I retired my tap dancing shoes years ago!

Leader: Then what are you really up to?

Wally: Okay, fine! I'm not going to really judge the acts. Everyone will get a perfect score and see just how awesome and kind I am!

Leader: Ah, there it is. You're focusing on pleasing others. Have you ever stopped to think that maybe you're trying to please the wrong people? You should be trying to please God!

Wally: *(Scratching his head)* Please God? But what about the applause? The cheers? The shiny trophies? The smiles from all the kids? People throwing flowers and chanting my name! I just want people to love me!

Leader: Wally, it's great to entertain and be kind to others, but our true goal should be to please God with our actions, not people.

Wally: But what if they don't like me? What if they think I'm silly or weird or don't invite me to their talent shows because I didn't give them a good score?

Leader: Wally, some people may think your ideas are silly, but God loves you just as you are. He wants you to be yourself, not a crowd-pleaser.

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CHARACTER SKIT

(Continued)

Wally: *(Pulls out a foam finger)* But look! I made these for the talent show! “Wacky Wally’s #1 Fan!” Everyone will love them, and me!

Leader: *(Laughs)* That’s creative! But what if they don’t care about the foam finger?

Wally: *(Gasps)* Who could NOT love this gift? *(To the kids)* Do you think this is a bad gift? *(Allow response)*

Leader: That’s the thing. When you try to please people, you will fail. You can’t make everyone happy all the time, and a lot of times, it leads you down the wrong path. Instead, you should look to please God, obey His word, and show everyone His heart!

Wally: *(Thoughtfully)* So, I don’t need to make everyone like me?

Leader: *(Nods)* That’s right! Remember, God’s opinion is the only one that really matters. When you follow Him instead of what others say, He will take care of you!

Wally: Wow! I really had it wrong. I don’t need people to like me. I need to obey God!

Leader: You’ve got it now! Choose to do what’s right, even if no one else is doing it with you!

Wally: Thank you! I’m off to obey God! Hey, I can stuff these foam fingers in my mattress and make it softer. It’s pretty lumpy right now. I’ll see you later, citizens! Until then, it’s up, up, and A WACKY WALLY
AWAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAYYY!

(EXITS WHILE THEME MUSIC PLAYS)



GAME TIME

“Simon Says”

Items Needed For Game:

None

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Preparation:

Either play the game with the entire group OR choose an equal number of boys and girls to compete in this game.

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How To Play:

This is the classic game of “Simon Says.” Instruct the children to listen closely to what you say. When you say, “Simon says...” before any instruction, they are to obey that instruction. However, if you give an instruction without saying, “Simon says...,” they are NOT to obey that instruction. Those that obey the instruction when you did not say, “Simon says...” are out of the game. The last child left in the game is declared the winner.



Bible Story

“Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 5; 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 story in Daniel 3; 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 3. There was a king named Nebuchadnezzar. He decided to build a 90-foot, gold statue and force everyone to worship it. (show pic) He ordered everyone in the kingdom to worship it when the trumpets blasted. He declared that if anyone did NOT bow down and worship it, they would be thrown into a furnace of fire.

(show pic) The time came, the trumpets blew, and everyone in the kingdom bowed down and worshiped the statue. Well, almost everyone. There were three people who chose NOT to bow down and worship the statue: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They chose not to bow down to the idol. They knew that God wants us to worship only Him. They chose to please God instead of choosing to please the king.

When the king heard that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down, he was furious. (show pic) He said to them, “Don’t you realize what is going to happen to you?” You see, the king had declared that the punishment for not worshiping his statue was to be thrown into a giant furnace of fire. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego responded, (show pic) “Even if God does not save us, we will not bow!” Furious, the king ordered, (show pic) “Throw them into the blazing furnace!” And that is exactly what happened. The soldiers threw them into the fire. (show pic) The fire was so hot, it instantly killed the soldiers who threw them in.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were now in the fire. The king watched the fire burn and burn. But then something happened. One of the king’s officials said, “Hey! Didn’t we throw three men into the fire? I am looking in the furnace, and there are not three men but FOUR men. (show pic) They are walking around in there like there’s nothing wrong. The fourth one looks just like the Son of God.”

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were allowed to exit the furnace. They were safe, and they didn’t even smell like smoke. God had BLESSED them with total protection. (show pic) The king was so impressed, he did something incredible. He dressed them in robes and made them royal officials. WOW! What an EPIC ending to that story!



Today, in your lesson, you will learn that when you choose to please God, He will take care of you!



Call To Action

“Who Am I Trying To Please?”

Materials Needed:

The “Who Am I Trying To Please?” graphics; two large pieces of poster board; Nerf gun; a target; a volunteer

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled “Who Am I Trying To Please?”; take the pieces of posterboard and make two signs - one that says “GOD” and one that says “PEOPLE”; prepare your volunteer ahead of time for their role

The Message: *(title slide)*



Okay, BIG question. And I want you to answer honestly. Have you ever done something *just because* you wanted someone to like you? Like... laughing at a joke that wasn’t even funny? Or wearing socks that didn’t match because everyone else was doing it? Or saying you like old cowboy westerns just to impress your grandpa? If you’ve done something like that, raise your hand. *(allow children to respond)*

(hold up the two signs—one says “GOD” and the other says “PEOPLE.”) Here’s the thing. Every day we’re faced with this choice - “Who am I trying to please?” Am I trying to make people happy... or am I trying to make God happy? *(swaps the signs in each hand dramatically as you ask it over and over, “GOD or PEOPLE?”)*

It’s impossible to do BOTH! You have to make a choice. So today, we’re going to talk about why pleasing people won’t get us very far, how pleasing God changes everything, and why choosing WHO you live to please is the most important choice you can make—every single day.

The first lesson I want you to learn is...

If I Live To Please People, I Will Fail *(slide)*



If I live to please people, I will fail. Why? Because it is impossible to please everyone. You can’t dress a certain way in order to make everyone like you. You can’t act a certain way that will make everyone happy with you. One thing you do to make one person happy, but it might make another person angry. Living to please people is a waste of time. It will never turn out well.

Let me show you what I mean. I need a volunteer to hold this target for me. *(Choose an adult volunteer that you have prepped beforehand. Have them hold the target, but move slowly all around the room while you try to shoot at it with a Nerf gun. Play it up for the audience as you try really hard to hit the target, but it just keeps on moving)* OK, I have had enough. Thanks for helping me. *(Have the volunteer sit down)*

That is what it is like to try to please people. Pleasing people is like trying to hit a target that keeps moving. People change all the time. If I live to please people, I will fail. However...

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Call To Action (Continued)

If I Live To Please God, I Will Succeed! (slide)



You see, God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He doesn't change his mind every five minutes like people do. His Word never changes. He is the **ONLY** one we should live to please. He is our God. He is our Heavenly Father. He will never leave us or forsake us. He is our unmoving, unshakable **ROCK** we can build our lives upon.

Now, let me show you what it looks like when you live to please God. *(Place the target leaning against the sign that says “GOD” you used earlier in the message. Stand a few feet away and shoot the Nerf Gun and hit the target - hopefully you practiced beforehand.)* It's like aiming at a target that stays steady. If you're going to aim your life at something, aim it at the One who never moves.

Why would you ever want to live to please people? People will sometimes turn their backs on us. God never will. He loves us. That's why...

I Must Choose Daily Who I Will Live To Please (slide)



It is a daily decision. When you wake up in the morning you must ask yourself, “Am I going to please God or am I going to please people?” It won't just happen automatically. You must **CHOOSE** every day who you are going to live to please. Let your answer be....I will choose to please God!

ALTAR RESPONSE (play soft music)

Pray with the children who have been struggling with living to please the crowd. Many of them may have been giving in to peer pressure lately. Many of them realize they need to change who they are living to please. Lead them in a prayer of consecration to God. Pray that they will daily choose to please God - not people!



REWIND!

Materials Needed:

“REWIND!” Lesson 5 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’m Gonna Please God, Not Please People!”

2. How tall was the statue of King Nebuchadnezzar?

Answer: 90 Feet

3. How many people decided not to worship the statue?

Answer: Three

4. Was the king happy they did not bow down?

Answer: No

5. How many people were seen in the furnace?

Answer: Four

6. Were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego burned?

Answer: No

7. According to our lesson today, “If I Live To Please _____, I Will Fail.”

Answer: People

8. According to our lesson today, “If I Live To Please God, I Will _____.”

Answer: Succeed

9. According to our lesson today, “I Must Choose Daily Who I Will Live To _____.”

Answer: Please

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Galatians 1:10a