



# Peter Describes Holiness

*Believers are to be holy because God is holy.*

## Lesson Focus

Peter called believers to be holy, as obedient children of God. According to Jesus, the standard for holiness can be wrapped up in two commandments—to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and mind, and to love your neighbor as yourself. God equips believers with the armor of God to help them stand against the devil's attacks and to live holy lives pleasing to God.

## Key Passages

Ephesians 6:13–17; 1 Peter 1:15–16

## Memory Verse

**Philippians 3:20–21** But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body.

# Prepare to Share

## Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

Sinners saved by God's grace become new creations in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). The Bible tells us that as new creations we are to present our bodies as living sacrifices that are holy and acceptable to God (Romans 12:1). Peter explained that we are to be holy in all our conduct (1 Peter 1:15). Our standard for holiness is God himself. As followers of Christ, we have been predestined to be conformed to his image (Romans 8:29).

Peter contrasted holiness with being conformed to former passions (1 Peter 1:14). Instead, we ought to be obedient children. Throughout his letter, Peter gave several examples of holy conduct—submission to authority, honorable relationships, unity among believers, faithful in suffering—so that others might glorify God (1 Peter 1:12). We are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind and to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:36–40).

The pursuit of holiness is a process that requires us to be prepared for action (1 Peter 1:13). In fact, we are in a battle against the devil himself (Ephesians 6:11–12). But God equips us with spiritual armor to withstand in the evil day (Ephesians 6:13).

First, we fasten on the belt of truth (Ephesians 6:14) to defend against the lies of the devil (John 8:44). Jesus is the truth (John 14:6). The breastplate

of righteousness (Ephesians 6:14) is intended to protect God's children. The righteousness referred to here is not the righteousness of men. After all, our righteousness is like polluted rags to the Lord (Isaiah 64:6). No. This is the righteousness of Christ, by which sinners can be brought to God (1 Peter 3:18). With the gospel of peace as shoes on our feet (Ephesians 6:15), we go boldly into all nations, preaching the truth and making disciples (Matthew 28:19).

Next, we take up the shield of faith, meant to protect us from the attacks of the devil (Ephesians 6:16). Faith and dependence on God's Word will block the fiery darts of the evil one. For our heads, we are given the helmet of salvation (Ephesians 6:17). As believers grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ (2 Peter 3:18), they must take every thought captive to obey Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5). Finally, we come to the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (Ephesians 6:17). The Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12). It is all we need to successfully fend off the temptations Satan desires for us to fall into.

We are called to grow toward holiness, being conformed into Christlikeness and setting our hope on the revelation of Christ (1 Peter 1:13). We must intentionally put on the armor of God each day so we can keep the devil, the roaring lion who longs to destroy us, at bay (1 Peter 5:8).

## Historical/Apologetics Background

The Bible tells us that there is an unseen world in which we live. There are spiritual forces that affect our world and wage constant battle in and around human society. On the one side is Satan and his demonic forces. Satan was originally one of the chiefs of God's heavenly beings; he was a creature of beauty and gave praise to God. However, Satan became jealous, desired to become God, and rebelled, along with other angels, against the Almighty (see Ezekiel 28:12–15 and Isaiah 14:12–15). To this day these demonic forces—these fallen angels—long to prevent people from seeing the light of the gospel and to harass, attack, and corrupt Christians.

On the other side of this eternal conflict is God and his holy angels. The angels are perfect, sinless, powerful creations of God. They are ministering spirits that carry out God's plan, and they work for the benefit of God's people. Their goal is to serve and

glorify God. The people of God—born-again believers in Christ—are included as part of this angelic army, while also being protected by its hosts.

In the church today, there seem to be two extreme views on this cosmic conflict with a minority taking the middle ground. Some ignore the spiritual conflict altogether. Others see a demon under every bush, equating sins with specific demons (such as “a demon of lust”) and “binding” Satan on a regular basis. The biblical truth about spiritual warfare lies between these two extremes.

Most of these spiritual battles are fought out of our sight (see Daniel 10:12–14). But Christians still have a part in them. Scripture commands us to submit ourselves to God and resist the devil (James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8–9); we are to destroy strongholds in the minds and hearts of people and take every thought captive to obey Christ (2 Corinthians 10:4–6); we are to take

the Word of God to all the world and make disciples (Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 1:8), delivering people from the dominion of Satan to God (Acts 26:18); we are to continually study to show ourselves approved by God (2 Timothy 2:15). This is how Christians war—we fight with the gospel!

In Ephesians 3, Paul wrote about the mystery of the gospel that was accomplished in Christ Jesus. And that plan is being made known to the “rulers and authorities in the heavenly places” (Ephesians

3:9–10) through the church. The existence, growth, preservation, and work of the church are the great evidence to the heavenly enemies of God that God has won the victory over them through Jesus Christ. When Paul calls us to spiritual warfare in Ephesians 6, to take up the full armor of God, he is calling us to faithfulness in the Christian life. As we don this armor, we enter the battle and participate with God’s holy angels in the warfare that will rage until Christ returns in glory.

# Shield of Faith Defenders

## Materials

- ☐ Cross Cutout (page 2)
- ☐ Sturdy paper plates
- ☐ Heavy tape (duct, masking, or painter's tape)
- ☐ Chenille sticks (pipe cleaners), one per student
- ☐ Aluminum foil sheets, cut into 12-inch square pieces
- ☐ Crayons or markers
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Optional for the battle: paper wads or foam balls and chairs or cones to set up the defenders' area



## Instructions

*Print one Cross Cutout for each student to color and cut out. Pass out a paper plate and a sheet of foil. Cover the back of the paper plate in foil, smoothing out the middle and pinching around the edges for a tight fit. Have students glue the colored cross onto the foil side of the plate. (For younger students, you may want to prepare the plates with foil before class or skip the foil and just have them glue the cross directly onto the plate.)*

*Pass out a chenille stick to each student. Have them form a loop with the two ends touching. Turn the plate over to the "unfoiled" side and place the loose ends of the stick in the center of the plate. Use heavy tape to attach the ends of the stick to the plate, leaving enough room for the student's hand to slide into the loop and hold the shield.*

*Once shields are made, use chairs, cones, or tape to create an area for the defending students to stand with their shields. You and/or an assistant will throw paper wads/foam balls at the students, and they must defend themselves using only their shields to block the attack. You may divide the students into two teams and have them take turns attacking and defending.*

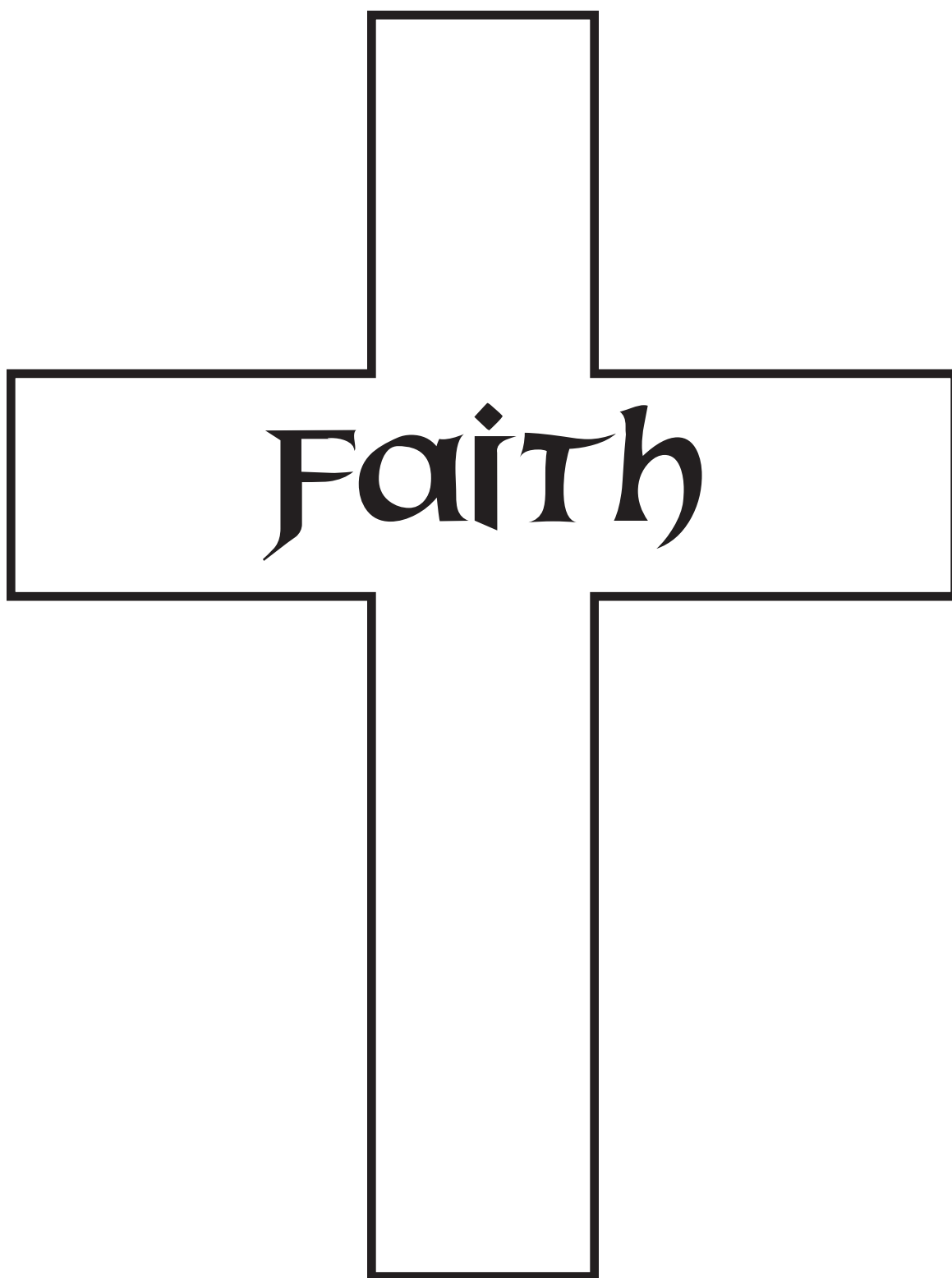
## Suggested Discussion

Great job defending yourselves with your play shields!

- ?** What does the spiritual shield of faith in the Bible protect the Christian from? *The flaming darts of the evil one; the lies of Satan and temptations to sin.*

Sometimes Satan's lies and temptations to sin will come at us like darts or arrows. The devil's lies can confuse us and make it easier to give in to sin. But if we know and obey God's Word by faith, it will block those lies and protect us.

We must take up the shield of faith each day by hearing the Word of God. That's why it's so important to regularly and faithfully read and study the Bible—so when those flaming darts come at us, our strong shield of faith can stop them!



# Review Questions

## K-1<sup>st</sup> Review Questions

1. What does it mean when we say God is holy? *God is perfect; he has no sin, and he hates all sin.*
2. In 1 Peter, God commanded believers to be holy in all our conduct. Does this mean obeying God only when we feel like it or in everything we do? *In everything we do.*
3. Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your what? *Heart (soul and mind).*
4. The greatest commandment means we should put God where in our lives: first, second, or last? *First.*
5. Jesus said the second greatest commandment is to love your what as yourself: pet, teacher, or neighbor? *Neighbor.*
6. These two commandments are hard to obey because we are born with a: lazy nature, sin nature, or good nature? *A sin nature.*
7. What special tools has God given believers to put on so they can fight against sin? *The armor of God.*
8. What will the armor of God help us do when we are tempted to sin: fall down or stand firm? *Stand firm.*
9. How do we put on this spiritual armor? *By knowing Jesus and reading the Bible.*

*Allow students to refer to the Flip Chart for questions 10–16.*

10. What piece of armor reminds us that the truth is found only in Jesus: the shield of faith or the belt of truth? *Belt of truth.*
11. What piece of armor protects our heart and helps us want to do what's right: breastplate of righteousness or belt of truth? *Breastplate of righteousness.*
12. What piece of armor reminds us to think about our salvation that comes only through Jesus? *Helmet of salvation.*
13. What will come at us like darts or arrows? *Satan's lies and temptations to sin.*
14. What piece of armor blocks Satan's darts? *Shield of faith.*
15. What is the sword of the Spirit: a real sword or the Word of God? *Word of God.*
16. What pieces of armor help us stand firm in the gospel, knowing we have peace with God? *Shoes of the gospel of peace.*

## Pre-K Review Questions

1. What does it mean when we say God is holy, he is perfect and has no what? *Sin.*
2. God commanded believers to be holy. Does this mean obeying God only when we feel like it or in everything we do? *In everything we do.*
3. Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your what? *Heart (soul and mind).*
4. The greatest commandment means we should put God where in our lives: first, second, or last? *First.*
5. Jesus said the second greatest commandment is to love your what as yourself: pet, teacher, or neighbor? *Neighbor.*
6. These two commandments are hard to obey because we are born with a: lazy nature, sin nature, or happy nature? *A sin nature.*
7. What special tools has God given believers to put on so they can fight against sin? *The armor of God.*
8. How do we put on this spiritual armor? *By knowing Jesus and reading the Bible.*

*For the following questions, you may choose to have students point to the pieces of armor in the Flip Chart picture if they don't remember the names.*

9. What piece of armor reminds us that the truth is found only in Jesus: the shield of faith or the belt of truth? *Belt of truth.*
10. What piece of armor protects our heart and helps us want to do what's right: breastplate of righteousness or belt of truth? *Breastplate of righteousness.*
11. What piece of armor reminds us to think about our salvation that comes only through Jesus? *Helmet of salvation.*
12. What piece of armor blocks Satan's lies, which are like darts or arrows? *Shield of faith.*
13. What is the sword of the Spirit: a real sword or the Word of God? *Word of God.*
14. What pieces of armor help us stand firm in the gospel, knowing we have peace with God? *Shoes of the gospel of peace.*

# Memory Verse Games

Allow students to refer to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page during the games.

You may want to cover it up after a few weeks for more of a challenge.

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## Echo! Echo!

Do what I do—say what I say! Groups will echo each other as they recite the memory verse together.

### Materials

- ☐ Flip Chart Memory Verse Page

### Instructions

Divide the class into two groups. You will say a word or phrase of the memory verse while doing some sort of action—sit down, stand up, spin in a circle, touch your toes, etc. The groups will take turns “echoing” what you say and do as you recite the verse. Repeat several times. You can whisper, shout, squeak, etc. Switch around and let older students take turns leading.

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## Egg Hunt

Hunt for all the parts of the memory verse hidden in the eggs! This game can be played all year round. The plastic eggs just happen to be great little containers that can be hidden easily.

### Materials

- ☐ Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- ☐ Strips of paper
- ☐ Plastic Easter eggs

### Instructions

Write the memory verse on strips of paper with one or two words on each strip. Put one strip inside of each plastic Easter egg. Hide all the eggs around the room.

Have the students search for the eggs and bring them back to the table. They will open the eggs and work together to put the verse in the proper order.

For a larger class, prepare more than one set of eggs (sorted by colors for different teams). Students can work in teams to collect and construct the verse.

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## Follow the Leader

Follow the leader around the room. Say the verse and do the motion before moving on.

### Materials

- ☐ Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- ☐ Follow the Leader Cards
- ☐ Tape

### Instructions

Print and cut out the Follow the Leader Cards. Tape each one to a chair or table and randomly place them around the room. You will lead the students around the room and stop at each card. Read the card and lead the children to do what the card says while reciting the memory verse. Then move around to the next one. You may want to repeat this activity or have students take turns leading.

## Freeze!

Stomp like a dinosaur or spin in circles, but when it's time to freeze, get ready to say the memory verse.

### Materials

- ☐ Flip Chart Memory Verse Page

### Instructions

Students will move around the room in a specified action you give, such as crawling, skipping, turning in circles, galloping, walking in giant steps, etc. Then when you say, "Freeze!" the students will stop and freeze in position. Recite the memory verse, then begin again with a different action. You may need to show them how to freeze and hold a position.

## Funny Voices

Recite the memory verse together using different voices. Be squeaky like a mouse or whisper as quietly as you can. How many voices can you do?

### Materials

- ☐ Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- ☐ Funny Voice Strips
- ☐ Container

### Instructions

Print and cut out one set of the Funny Voice Strips and put them into a container. Choose a student to draw out a strip and lead the whole class in reciting the memory verse using that kind of voice. Have fun with it and repeat several times choosing a new voice each time!

## Sneaky Stickies

Students will try to be sneaky as they cover up the words and pictures of the memory verse!

### Materials

- ☐ Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- ☐ Sticky notes

### Instructions

Open the Flip Chart to the Memory Verse Page. Recite the verse together then choose a student to place a sticky note over one word, phrase, or picture on the Flip Chart. Recite the verse again, including the part that is covered up. Continue to choose students to place stickies, one at a time, reciting the whole verse between each turn—including the words/pictures that are covered. When all of the words/pictures are covered up, try to say the whole verse together!



# Lesson Review Games

These games are written for team play, however, they can easily be adapted for smaller classes.

Allow students to refer to the Flip Chart during the games.

## Basket Toss

Students give the correct answer and toss the beanbags. Each basket has greater points.

### Materials

- ☐ Review Questions
- ☐ One beanbag for each team
- ☐ Three laundry baskets or boxes
- ☐ Masking tape

### Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use masking tape to make a tossing line. Bring in three baskets or boxes. Set the baskets in a line, with each one a little

farther from the tossing line. Label the baskets with 5, 10, and 25 points so the farther away it is the higher the score.

Divide the class into two or more teams depending on size. Have the teams line up at the tossing line. Take turns asking the first students in line from each team a review question. When a student answers correctly, he will have a chance to toss a beanbag into a basket then go to the end of the line. If the beanbag misses, there are no points scored. If someone does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Keep track of the scores on the board. Continue until all the questions have been answered. Repeat questions if necessary.

## Board Game

Teams will answer questions and make their way to the Finish on the Game Board.

### Materials

- ☐ Review Questions
- ☐ Game Board (provided in the Teacher Kit)
- ☐ Dice, numbered cards, or spinner
- ☐ Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team

### Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams. Team members will take turns answering the review questions. If they answer correctly, they will roll the dice, spin, or draw a numbered card and move that number of spaces on the Game Board. Follow the directions on the spaces to move ahead, fall back, or switch places with another team. If someone does not know or does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Alternate between teams as long as time permits, repeating questions if necessary. The first team to make it all the way to the end wins.

## Bowling

What do you do with extra water bottles and softballs? Go bowling, of course. Students will answer questions then bowl for points.

### Materials

- ☐ Review Questions
- ☐ Six to ten empty water bottles
- ☐ Softball or other small playground ball
- ☐ Masking tape
- ☐ Dried corn or beans (optional)

### Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Pour a small amount of dried corn or beans into the bottom of each

water bottle and tighten the lid. Set out the water bottles on one end of the room. Use masking tape to form a "lane."

Divide students into teams. Have students line up. Ask the first student a review question. If he answers correctly, let him roll the ball toward the bottles. Each bottle that is knocked down is worth 1 point. A strike (knocking down all the bottles) is worth 20 points. Take turns asking questions of each team. If a student gives an incorrect answer or does not know the answer, he can ask his teammates for help. Keep track of the scores.

# Football Frenzy

Who can score the most touchdowns?

## Materials

- ☐ Review Questions
- ☐ Football Cutouts, one per team
- ☐ Tape or poster putty

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions. Print and cut one Football Cutout for each team. Color them different colors for each team, or have teams choose and write a name on their football. On the board draw 6 vertical lines and label them 50, 40, 30, 20, 10, and End Zone to represent yard lines on a football field. Make the lines long enough so there is room for the footballs to be placed along them with room in between. Divide the class into teams. Place

each team's football at the 50-yard line using tape or poster putty on the back.

Alternate asking review questions to each team. If the answer is correct, move the team's football to the next yard line toward the End Zone. If the answer is incorrect, the team's football stays where it is. If a student is unsure of the answer, he may "pass" the question to a teammate to answer. Only one pass per question is allowed, and this does not affect the order of the questions being asked on the team.

When a team's football reaches the End Zone, they have scored a touchdown worth 6 points, and the team's football is placed back at the 50-yard line on the next turn. Keep track of scores on the board.

Continue asking questions and moving the teams' footballs until all the questions are asked or for a set time. You may repeat questions as necessary. At the end, the team with the most points wins.

# Musical Questions

When the music stops, who will answer the question?

## Materials

- ☐ Review Questions
- ☐ Chairs
- ☐ Worship music
- ☐ Different color/style chair, masking tape, colored paper, etc.

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions. Set up chairs either in a circle or in two rows back to back so students have room

to walk around them. Mark one chair as the "question" chair (use a different color/style chair or mark it with tape, a paper question mark, etc.)

Instruct students to walk in front of the chairs when you play the music. When the music stops, they will race to find a seat. The student in the question chair answers a review question. Continue playing music and having students change seats until all the review questions are answered.

# Racetrack

Who will reach the checkered flag first?

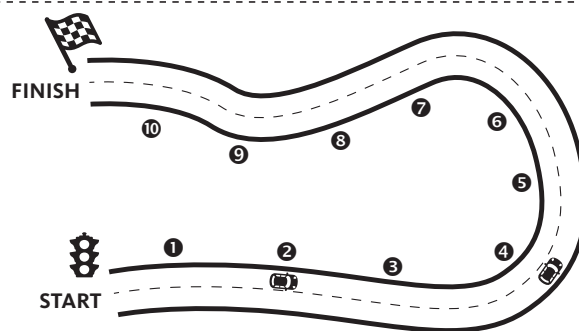
## Materials

- ☐ Review Questions
- ☐ White board or chalk-board
- ☐ Markers/chalk
- ☐ Optional: paper cutouts for each team (cars, animals, circles, etc.), tape/poster putty

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions. Draw a racetrack on the board. It may be as simple as a straight horizontal path or a curvy circle. Label "Start" and "Finish" (with a checkered flag) at either end of the track. Add numbers along the track (e.g., 1-10) at equal intervals between Start and Finish. The numbers will be used as placement points for the racers as they progress along the track.

Divide the class into teams. You may draw a different symbol (e.g., stick figure, circle, X or O) to represent each



team at the Start, or use paper cutouts as team markers and stick them to the board with tape/poster putty.

Ask the first team a review question. If they answer correctly, move their marker or redraw their symbol along the track at #1. If they answer incorrectly, give the next team a chance to answer and move to the first number. If they do not know, give the answer and ask that question again later. Continue to alternate asking review questions and moving teams' markers along the racetrack according to the numbers along the track. The first team to reach the Finish wins!