

BIBLE PASSAGE

Ephesians 6:10-20

LIFE POINT

People can choose to live every day in ways that honor God.

CHRIST FOCUS

God changes believers to be more like Jesus.

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

God wants people to have pure thoughts and actions.

SUGGESTED USE DATE: August 27

BIBLE VERSE

Take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand. Ephesians 6:13 (CSB)

Take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Ephesians 6:13 (KJV)

Put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Ephesians 6:13 (NIV)

Take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Ephesians 6:13 (ESV)

Take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Ephesians 6:13 (NKJV)

SCHEDULE AND PROPS**Huddle Ups** (optional)

Supplies (for each small group):

- “Do What’s Right”—20 index cards, marker, button
- “Opposite ‘Simon Says’”—none

Countdown Video (3 minutes)

Props: none

Worship Song (3 minutes)

Props: none

Welcome and Prayer (5 minutes)

Props: 2 mismatched coffee mugs, 2 different candy bars, 2 mismatched socks

True2Life Drama (or *Mooseberry video*) (3-5 minutes)

Props: table, 2 chairs, construction paper, markers

Connection Point Game (10 minutes)

Props: 3 bottles of water, table, 300 index cards, timer

Worship Song (3 minutes)

Props: none

Bible Story (10 minutes)

Props: Bible, bike helmet, life jacket, safety goggles, knee pads

Worship Song and Offering (3 minutes)

Props: none

Connection Point Bible Verse (5-8 minutes)

Props: 12 sheets of paper, marker, tape

Connection Point Missions (5-8 minutes)

Props: none

Real Life Connections (3-5 minutes)

Props: none

MUSIC AND MEDIA

- **Countdown:**
Countdown video
- **Worship Song:**
“Holy God (Holy, Holy, Holy)”
- **Welcome and Prayer:**
Life Point and Bible Verse slides
- **True2Life Drama:**
Mooseberry Life Application video (optional)
- **Connection Point Game:**
Connection Point Game slide
- **Worship Song:**
“Amazing Power”
- **Bible Story:**
Bible Story and Christ Focus slides; Notebook Bible Story video (optional)
- **Worship Song and Offering:**
Worship song of your choice
- **Connection Point Bible Verse:**
Connection Point Bible Verse and Bible Verse slides
- **Connection Point Missions:**
Connection Point Missions and Connect to Missions slides
- **Real Life Connections:**
Real Life Connections, Real Life Questions, and Life Point slides

HUDDLE UPS (OPTIONAL)

Huddle Ups are for churches that have a drop-off time before the session begins or a pick-up time as parents arrive at the end of the session. It's a great time for interaction with a small group leader through games, conversations, or review questions. Play the countdown video to signal the end of Huddle Ups and the beginning of the session.

- ➔ Estimated time: varies according to schedule
- ➔ Tech: none
- ➔ People: Small Group Leaders
- ➔ Supplies *(for each small group)*:
 - “Do What’s Right”—20 index cards, marker, button
 - “Opposite ‘Simon Says’”—none

HUDDLE UP: PRE-SESSION “DO WHAT’S RIGHT”

Prep: On separate index cards write 1 of the following words or phrases: Be kind; Tell the truth; Obey God; Forgive others; Help people; Be fair; Love others; Encourage others; Be respectful; Be responsible; Use good manners; Do your best; Cheat; Lie; Hurt others; Disobey parents; Be rude; Be greedy; Be unforgiving; Be selfish.

- Mix the index cards and place them facedown on the floor in a grid.
- Form two teams.
- Invite a player from Team A to toss a button onto a card, turn it over, and read it aloud.
- Challenge the team to decide if the card lists an action that honors God.
 - If the action honors God, the team keeps the card.
 - If the action does not honor God, give the card to the opposing team.
- Alternate play between teams until kids pick up all of the cards.
- Count each team’s cards.
- Name the team with the fewest cards as the winner.
- Mix the cards and play again as your time allows.
- Mention that God wants people to have pure thoughts and actions.

- Explain that people can learn how to live in ways that honor God.
- Watch for the countdown video to signal the end of Huddle Ups. Guide your small group to join the others to begin worship.

HUDDLE UP: POST-SESSION “OPPOSITE ‘SIMON SAYS’”

Prep: none

- Review the Life Point: **People can choose to live every day in ways that honor God.**
- Mention that one way to honor God is to obey Him.
- Lead kids to stand.
- Suggest kids play a game of “Simon Says” with a twist.
- Explain that kids should do the actions you say, but when you say: “Simon Says,” kids should do the opposite. For example, if you say: “Simon Says to take a giant step forward,” kids should instead take a small step backward.
- Keep the game fast-paced and play as time allows.
- Mention that doing the opposite of what God says is *sin*.
- Emphasize that sin does not honor God.
- Remind kids that living in ways that honor God is a choice.
- Lead kids to discuss choices that honor God.
- As you dismiss each child, encourage her to make right choices.

COUNTDOWN VIDEO

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Countdown* video
- ➔ People: none
- ➔ Props: none

(Play the Countdown video to signal the beginning of worship time. Kids will count aloud as they join the large group.)

WORSHIP SONG

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: “Holy God *(Holy, Holy, Holy)*” *(lead sheet available on DVD-ROM)* or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

Hi, friends! I’m excited that you’re here to worship God with me. He deserves all of our praise! Let’s stand and sing.

(Show the music video.)

(Kids stand to sing.)

WELCOME AND PRAYER

- ➔ Estimated time: 5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Life Point* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: 2 mismatched coffee mugs, 2 different candy bars, 2 mismatched socks

BIBLE STUDY LEADER

Welcome to church! It’s great to see you!

I brought some items with me today. I’ll show you two items, and you tell me which you like best. *(Show each set of items and lead kids to respond. Invite a few kids to explain their choices.)*

Those were some great choices, but they weren’t the first choices you’ve made today. You made a lot of choices before you got to church! You chose what food to eat, what clothes to wear, and what attitude to have. Making choices is a big part of what we do every day!

(Show Life Point slide.)

People can choose to live every day in ways that honor God. Say that with me: **“People can choose to live every day in ways that honor God.”**

Choosing to honor God is a very important choice. God wants people to have pure thoughts and

actions. Choosing to obey, love, and worship God are just a few ways that we honor Him. We also honor God by how we love and treat others.

Today’s Bible verse explains that we should resist *(keep away from)* evil and stand up for what is right. Read with me Ephesians 6:13.

(Show Bible Verse slide—select preferred version.)

(Lead kids to read your preferred version.)

BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):

- Take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand. Ephesians 6:13 *(CSB)*
- Take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Ephesians 6:13 *(KJV)*
- Put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Ephesians 6:13 *(NIV)*
- Take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Ephesians 6:13 *(ESV)*
- Take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Ephesians 6:13 *(NKJV)*

The verse says to put on the whole armor of God. Who usually wears armor? *(Allow for responses.)* A person who wears armor usually is going into battle. The armor protects the person from harm. Choosing to resist evil can feel like a battle sometimes. It can be hard to stand up for what is right, but God will help us!

Let’s pray and ask God to help us make choices that honor Him, especially when it is hard. After we pray, we will check in with the True2Life team *(or the Mooseberry kids)*.

God, we know that You love and care for us. Please help us do what is right. Lead us away from evil and give us the courage to make choices that honor You. Thank You for helping us make difficult choices. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

TRUE2LIFE DRAMA

- ➔ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Mooseberry Life Application* video (optional)
- ➔ People:
 - Lucy: a preteen Christian
 - Ava: Lucy's little sister
- ➔ Props: table, 2 chairs, construction paper, markers

Ava sits behind a table at center stage. The table is covered with construction paper and markers. Lucy enters and joins her.

Lucy: Hey, Ava! What are you doing?

Ava: I have to make a paper chain for school.

Lucy: That sounds fun.

Ava: I thought it would be, but I'm having a hard time getting started.

Lucy: I can help. What's the first thing you need to do?

Ava: I think I need to cut the paper into strips.

Lucy: Great. Where are the scissors?

Ava: I didn't get a pair of scissors. Do you think we could just tear the paper?

Lucy: I guess, but it won't look as neat.

Ava: *(tears the paper into a rough strip)* You're right. It doesn't look great, but it's OK.

Lucy: Now, you need to tape the ends of your paper strip together to make a circle. Where's the tape?

Ava: Tape? I didn't get any.

Lucy: OK, what about glue or a stapler? We could use one of those.

Ava: No. I don't have any of those things. I didn't get them.

Lucy: Ava, are you telling me you didn't get any of the tools you need for the project?

Ava: I thought I could just make it work. I figured I could just rip the paper and twist the ends together. *(She tries, but it falls apart.)*

Lucy: Ava, things usually don't work right without the right tools. Tools help us in all areas of our lives.

Ava: Why do I get the feeling you aren't just talking about this project?

Lucy: Do you remember me telling you about the boy at school who makes fun of me because I pray before lunch?

(Ava nods)

Lucy: I realized that God has given me all the tools I need to do what's right and honor Him. He's given me His Word that teaches me what is right, and the Holy Spirit to guide me.

Ava: Is that guy still bothering you?

Lucy: He is, and it's hard sometimes to do the right thing. That's why I have to choose every day to live in ways that honor God.

Ava: So using the tools that God has given us—like the Bible and the Holy Spirit—will make things work better?

Lucy: Of course, they will! I don't have to figure things out on my own and just hope it all works out. Why would anyone do that when God has given us the tools we need to honor Him and know how to live?

Ava: God has given us the tools we need to obey and follow Him. I guess it would be kind of silly to not use the tools He's given us.

Lucy: Hmm ... kind of like having scissors and tape in our craft box but choosing not to use them.

Ava: I get it. Let's go find the things we need to do this project right.

(They exit.)

(END SCENE)

CONNECTION POINT GAME

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Game* slide
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, 3 kids
- ➔ Props: 3 bottles of water, table, 300 index cards, timer

GAME INSTRUCTIONS:

- *Choose 3 kids.*
- *Invite each player to stand behind the table.*
- *Set a bottle of water in front of each player.*
- *Give each player 100 index cards.*
- *Tell players they will have 1 minute to balance cards on top of their water bottles.*
- *Explain that each player may only balance 1 card at a time, and no player may touch a card once he or she balances it on the bottle.*
- *Tell players if their cards fall, they can pick them up and begin again.*
- *Caution players that at any point during the game you may call a name. Explain that if you call a player's name, he must stop balancing cards and wait for your restart signal.*
- *Set the timer and begin the game.*
- *Randomly call player's names throughout the game time. Require those players to stop until you give permission to resume playing. Be fair and equitable.*
- *Call time at the end of 1 minute.*
- *Count the number of cards each player balanced on his water bottle.*
- *Name the player who balanced the most cards as the winner.*

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show Connection Point Game slide.)

Today's game requires patience, a steady hand, and quick moves. I need three kids who would like to play! *(Choose three kids. Lead the players to stand behind the table and face the audience. Provide the players with game supplies.)*

Players, you will have one minute to balance as many index cards as you can on top of your water

bottle. You may balance only one card at a time, and you may not touch a card after you place it on the bottle. If your cards fall, you may pick them up and begin again.

I will call names throughout the game. When I call your name, you must stop balancing cards and wait until I tell you to rejoin the game.

We will count the cards on each bottle at the end of one minute. The player with the most will be the winner.

Do all of you understand how to play? *(Answer any questions and play the game.)*

How difficult was it to stop and wait when I called your name? *(Allow players to respond.)* It was difficult to obey the rules while the other players kept stacking cards.

Even though it is sometimes difficult, you can choose to live every day in ways that honor God. Let's sing another worship song, and then we will hear today's Bible story.

WORSHIP SONG

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: "Amazing Power" *(lead sheet available on DVD-ROM)* or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

First Corinthians 10:31 says that whatever we do, we should do it for the glory of God. Every choice we make should be to honor Him!

Let's stand and sing. Singing praise to God is another way we can honor Him with our actions.

(Show the music video.)

(Lead kids to sit as song ends.)

BIBLE STORY

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Christ Focus and Bible Story* slides; *Notebook Bible Story* video (optional)
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: Bible, bike helmet, life jacket, safety goggles, knee pads

Option 1: Use the suggested props and tell the following Bible story.

Option 2: Play the *Notebook Bible Story* video.

Option 3: Tell the *Optional Bible Story* available on the DVD-ROM. This session's optional Bible story: "Isaac, the Peacemaker," Genesis 26:1-6,12-33.

BIBLE STUDY LEADER

(Show Bible Story slide.)

(Enter wearing a bike helmet, life jacket, safety goggles, and knee pads.) Hi, everyone! I'm ready to tell today's Bible story! (pause) Why is everyone giggling? What's going on? (Allow for responses.)

Oh, I see. You think all my safety gear looks funny. These are very important tools! (Take off each piece of equipment and lead kids to tell why each is important.)

God knew that life would not always be easy, and He gave us tools to help us. God's tools keep us from sin and lead us to what is right. What are some tools that God has given to help us make right choices? (Allow for answers. Kids might mention the Bible, prayer, church leaders, and so on.)

Today you'll hear that Paul wrote a letter to the church in Ephesus. He wanted to encourage the people to be strong and make choices that honored God. Listen to hear what tools Paul said would help them.

(Open Bible to Ephesians 6.)

Be strong! God is strong, and He will give you strength! Paul wrote these words in a letter to the church at Ephesus. Paul was in prison in Rome, and he knew being a Christian was not easy. Paul knew that living as a Christian was like being in a battle. The battle is not against other people. It is against evil!

Paul compared a strong faith to the armor that a Roman soldier wore.

(Read Ephesians 6:13.)

Take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand.

- Wear God's truth like a belt around your waist. God teaches us about Himself in His Word.
- Wear your righteousness like armor on your chest. When you trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord, He forgives your sin and makes you right with God.
- Be ready with the gospel—like putting sandals on your feet so you are ready to go and tell others the good news and peace of Jesus!
- In everything you do, use your faith like a shield. You will be able to defend yourself from the evil one. The devil wants us to believe what is not true. God gives us faith to trust in Him.
- Jesus has saved you from sin. That salvation protects you like a helmet.
- Use the sword of the Spirit—your Bible. It is God's Word, and the words in it are true.

Paul told the people to pray at all times and to stay alert. He encouraged them to pray for one another and asked them to pray for him, too.

(Read Ephesians 6:19-20.)

Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel. ... Pray that I might be bold enough to speak about it as I should.

(Close Bible.)

Paul explained that the people had everything they needed to live in ways that honor God. He told them to be strong and do what is right!

(Show Christ Focus slide.)

God changes believers to be more like Jesus. He never sinned and always made the right choice! Even though we will make mistakes, we can choose to follow Jesus' example and do our best to live in ways that bring honor to God. The more we follow Jesus' example, the more we will be like Him.

You have a choice to make every day. You can choose to live in ways that honor God or ways that dishonor God. God gives you the tools you need to help you obey Him. He wants you to choose to honor Him with your actions, attitudes, words, and thoughts.

WORSHIP SONG AND OFFERING

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: Use a favorite song or download a worship song of your choice.
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

It's not always easy to make the right choice. When is a time that making the right choice might be difficult? *(Allow for responses.)*

You can do what is right, even when it is hard. God has given us the tools we need to be strong and make choices that honor Him. Let's pray and thank God for His help.

God, thank You for Jesus and His example to us. Thank You that the Bible tells us Your instructions and helps us know what is right. Please help us obey You and make choices that bring You honor. We love You! In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Optional Giving Segment:

It's time to give an offering. Some of the money people give at church helps others learn to make choices that honor God. If you would like to give an offering today, ...

(Give your own directions for how the kids can give their offerings. After collecting the offering, guide kids to stand for the worship song.)

CONNECTION POINT BIBLE VERSE

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Bible Verse* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, all kids
- ➔ Props: 12 sheets of paper, marker, tape

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- *Select your preferred version of the Bible verse.*
- *Divide the Bible verse into 8 words or phrases and write 1 word or phrase per sheet of paper.*
- *Write 1 Life Point phrase per paper:*
People can choose / to live every day / in ways that / honor God.
- *Mix all of the papers and tape them in random order on a focal wall.*
- *Say the verse and lead kids to repeat it after you.*
- *Invite kids to rearrange the papers 1 at a time until they complete the verse. (Explain that they will not use all of the papers.)*
- *Lead kids to say the Bible verse several times.*
- *Challenge kids to rearrange the 4 unused papers and guide kids to say the Life Point.*
- *Remind kids that God has given us the tools we need to make choices that honor Him.*

BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):

- Take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand.
Ephesians 6:13 (CSB)
- Take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Ephesians 6:13 (KJV)
- Put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Ephesians 6:13 (NIV)
- Take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Ephesians 6:13 (ESV)
- Take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Ephesians 6:13 (NKJV)

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

It's time to say our Bible verse! Stand and say with me Ephesians 6:13.

(Show Bible Verse slide—your preferred version.)

(Lead kids to read your preferred version.)

God wants us to be prepared to do what is right. He wants our actions, attitudes, thoughts, and words to be good. Making right choices is one way that we follow Jesus' example and become more like Him.

(Lead the activity.)

CONNECTION POINT MISSIONS

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Missions* and *Connect to Missions* slides
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader
- ➔ Props: none

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show Connection Point Missions slide.)

The first Baptist missionaries sent to Brazil were Buck and Anne Bagby in 1881. Missions work in Brazil has grown! Now there are many churches and people who have trusted Jesus as their Savior.

São Paulo, Brazil, now has 13 International Mission Board missionaries serving in the city. The missionaries today say it is amazing to see the work God has done in the country over the last 150 years.

(Show Connect to Missions slide.)

The Bagbys and missionaries who followed them to serve in Brazil have had many challenges through the years. God has helped them create a strong group of churches in Brazil that want to preach the good news about Jesus and send missionaries around the world.

Pray for the missionaries who now serve in Brazil. Thank God for so many people in Brazil getting to hear about Jesus through the hard work of missionaries, churches, and Christian organizations. Pray that the work continues as missionaries from Brazil go to other places in the world.

(Invite a child to lead the group to pray. If no one volunteers, voice a prayer yourself.)

God, we pray for the missionaries in Brazil who serve You. We pray that many people will hear the gospel and know that Jesus is the Savior. Please help the churches grow and send out more missionaries. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

REAL LIFE CONNECTIONS

- ➔ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Real Life Connections*, *Real Life Questions*, and *Life Point* slides; microphone to take to individuals in group *(optional)*
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: none

Lead a conversation with your kids about today's Bible story and Life Point. Show the Real Life Questions slides and discuss each question.

BIBLE STUDY LEADER

(Show Real Life Questions slides.)

We can choose to live every day in ways that honor God. It won't always be easy, but God gives us the tools we need to obey and follow Him. Let's talk about choices and how to choose to do what is right.

- Why should people make choices that honor God?
- What is a tool that helps people avoid sin?
- How can you honor God with your actions? attitudes? words? thoughts?
- What can you do when you're unsure about what choice to make?

(Show Life Point slide.)

People can choose to live every day in ways that honor God. Say that with me: **"People can choose to live every day in ways that honor God."**

As you learn and grow, you will have even more opportunities to make choices. I pray you will make choices that honor God and make you more like Jesus!

I'm glad you came to church today. Remember to make right choices this week and plan to come again next time! I'll see you soon.

Leader note: *If you plan to utilize the post-session Huddle Up, dismiss kids to their small groups.*