

Prayer Protection

Small Group Lesson



Ages
6-7

Power Point

We can pray for spiritual protection from temptation and sin.

Scripture Memory Verse

“Keep us from being tempted and protect us from evil.”

—Matthew 6:13

Bible Lesson

The story of David and Goliath.

—1 Samuel 17:1-54

Overview

Upon hearing that all the Israelite soldiers were afraid to fight a Philistine giant named Goliath, David went to King Saul and volunteered for battle. David was confident that God could give him victory over the giant. Calling out the name of God, David’s single stone killed Goliath.

Discussion Questions

1. What did David’s dad ask him to take to his brothers? (*Food.*)
2. Why were the soldiers afraid to fight Goliath? (*They thought Goliath was too big.*)
3. Why did David offer to fight Goliath? (*He knew that God was more powerful than anyone else, even Goliath!*)
4. What is the devil trying to make you afraid of? (*Allow responses.*)
5. How can God help you face what you are afraid of? (*Allow responses.*)

God Encounter

Materials: Outlet strip, portable hair dryer, marker, small label, “Plugged into God’s Power” cards from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM. (Optional: extension cord.)

Preparation: Write “God” on label and stick label on outlet strip. Print and cut out enough “Plugged into God’s Power” cards to have one card for each child.

(*Show hair dryer.*) How many of you use one of these in the morning? (*Allow responses.*) I use it to wake myself up in the morning while I’m drying my hair because it is pretty loud. (*Turn it on and act puzzled.*) I don’t know what the problem is. It worked this morning. Oh yeah, that’s right, I need to plug it in so it has power. (*Bring out the outlet strip while covering up “God” label.*) What is this used for? (*Allow responses.*) Yes, to supply power to things like this hair dryer. Today we are talking about asking God to give us the power to say no when we are tempted, right?

(*Plug the outlet strip in and plug the hair dryer into it. Turn it on.*) That’s better. Now this dryer has the power to do what it is supposed to. (*Turn the hair dryer off. Unplug the outlet strip from the wall and show kids the “God” label.*) What do you think this means? (*Allow responses.*)

We are like this hair dryer. Before we ask God for help or plug into God (*hold up strip*) we have no power to resist sin and temptation. God is the one who gives us all the power we need, but we have to plug into Him. How do we do that? (*Allow responses.*) Yes, we plug into God through prayer. **We can pray for spiritual protection from temptation and sin.** God is always there waiting. All we have to do is plug in.

(Give each child a "Plugged into God's Power" card. Children fold strips over to form a card. Discuss with kids the way they might need to pray for spiritual protection. Kids write these prayers on the inside of their cards. Then invite them to pray aloud or silently in their groups about their prayer needs. Conclude by asking for God's spiritual protection.)



The Jesus Factor

And now that Jesus has suffered and was tempted, he can help anyone else who is tempted.
—Hebrews 2:18

Materials: 1 banana, 1 kiwi, 1 orange, 3 index cards, marker, tape. (Optional: pictures of fruit.)

Preparation: Write, "sin" on three index cards. Tape the index card to each fruit. Place fruits around the room.

(Read Hebrews 2:18 aloud.) Jesus Himself was tempted while He was on this earth. He understands what it feels like. He understands how we try not to sin and He wants to help us. (Pick three volunteers to be tempted and one to be Jesus.) In Hebrews, we read that Jesus wants to help us when we are tempted.

(Ask a volunteer to walk over to the banana.) Did you know that the Bible doesn't say it was an apple that the serpent used to tempt Eve? It might have been, but it also might have been a banana, an orange or even a kiwi! Sin comes in different forms and shapes so we have to be alert!

Let's pretend this banana is temptation. Now, what have we learned we should do? (Allow responses) Right! Pray for help. (Invite a volunteer to ask for help in prayer. Instruct Jesus volunteer to run over to the child and stand beside him. Repeat this using the two remaining fruits.)

Remember, we aren't alone when we face temptation. Because Jesus understands how we are tempted, He knows we need protection, and we can receive protection through prayer. Our Power point reminds us that **we can pray for spiritual protection from temptation and sin.**

Small Group Activity

Shielded From Sin

Materials: "Shield Pattern" from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM, card stock, markers, child-sized scissors, stickers, craft supplies.

Preparation: Print one "Shield Pattern" onto card stock for each child.

(Show children the shield.) When do you use a shield? (When you are in a battle and need to stay safe.) Let's make shields to remind us that **we can pray for spiritual protection from temptation and sin.** (Have children use markers to write "God will protect me" on the front of their shield and cut it out. Allow time for children to decorate their shields with stickers and craft supplies.)

When are some times that you might be tempted to do a wrong thing? (Allow responses) When you look at your shield, it can remind you that God will protect you and help you do what is right. When you get home, put your shield where you can easily see it to help you remember to pray and ask for God's help when you are tempted.

Take Home Challenge

Materials: Lesson 5 Ages 6-7 Take-Home Challenge from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM.

Hand out this week's Take-Home Challenge and encourage kids to complete the activities with their families. Remind them that you'll ask for responses during next week's K.I.D.S. Church service.

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Overview

Upon hearing that all the Israelite soldiers were afraid to fight a Philistine giant named Goliath, David went to King Saul and volunteered for battle. David was confident that God could give him victory over the giant. Calling out the name of God, David's single stone killed Goliath.

Discussion Questions

1. Who was Goliath? (*Philistine soldier.*)
2. Why were the soldiers afraid to fight Goliath? (*Goliath was nine feet tall.*)
3. How long had Goliath been taunting them? (*40 days.*)
4. What had David done as a shepherd? (*Killed lions and bears to protect the sheep.*)
5. What did David say to Goliath as he faced him? (*God would give him victory over the giant.*)
6. When has God given you victory over a temptation? (*Allow responses.*)
7. How does it feel to overcome a temptation or sin? (*Allow responses.*)

God Encounter

Materials: Construction paper, scissors, stapler, staples.

If you've ever gotten stuck to something, or were playing and let someone tie your hands together or put toy handcuffs on you, you know how it feels to be tied up or trapped. The Bible tells us that sin is like chains that keep us tied up and trapped. God doesn't just tell us to resist temptation for no reason. It is because He knows that we will be trapped by sin and it will keep us from living our lives the way He intended us to live.

(Give each child a sheet of construction paper and a pair of scissors. Help kids cut paper into small strips, form strips into circles and staple the ends of each circle together to make chain links. Kids make several links and then join with one or two others to staple chain sections together, forming a single chain.)

We can pray for spiritual protection from temptation and sin.

Sometimes people have a hard time saying no to sin. Even when they know something is wrong, they feel like they aren't able to stop. It is like they are chained to that sin and cannot get away from it. *(Have kids stand up and cluster together tightly. Explain that they need to stand still for the next part. Carefully wrap the chain around the group as many times as it will fit.)*

When we keep sinning, we aren't able to do what God wants us to do. But, we can pray and ask God for help when we are tempted to sin. He is always listening and He will help us resist Satan's temptations. *(Lead children in a*

time of prayer. Allow children to pray silently and to ask God to help them resist specific sins in their lives. After the prayer, have everyone say together ... "In the mighty name of Jesus we pray... AMEN!" (Instruct kids to break through the chain. Kids then pick up a piece of chain link to be used later in the Small Group Activity.)



The Jesus Factor

And now that Jesus has suffered and was tempted, he can help anyone else who is tempted.

—Hebrews 2:18

Materials: Bibles, "Temptation Traps!" from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM

Preparation: Print copies of "Temptation Traps!", one per child."

(Ask a volunteer to read Hebrews 2:18.) We are not alone. Jesus was tempted while He was on earth. He understands what temptation feels like. He understands how we struggle and He wants to help.

(Hand out copies of "Temptation Traps!" to each child. Have kids form three groups. Assign the first group situation #1, the second group, situation #2, etc. Group members read their assigned situation and talk about how Jesus' victory over temptation could help them do the same. Have kids write their response in the space for their assigned situation.)

Let's read another scripture about Jesus being able to understand temptation. (Read Hebrews 4:14-16.)

Jesus felt the pain of being tempted, but didn't sin. He also tells us we can know that God will give us mercy and grace when we do sin. (Read 1 John 1:9 then lead children in prayer, asking for strength to live faithfully by following God's Word, and thankfulness for God's forgiveness when we fail.)

Small Group Activity

Temptation Stomp!

Materials: Paper chain links from God Encounter activity, masking tape or rope.

Preparation: Tape or use rope to mark start/finish lines about 20 feet apart.

(Hold up paper chain links used in the God Encounter activity.) These chain links represent temptations and sins you'll face. Let's play a game where you get to stomp out temptations and sins.

(Spread the paper chain links over the playing area. Have kids line up in two relay teams. The goal is for each child to run down the course, but they must step on each chain link [they will have to go to different links to avoid collisions] as they run the course. First team to finish wins.)

One team may have won this game, but when ***we pray for spiritual protection from temptation and sin***, everybody wins! (Hand out treats or K.I.D.S. Church Cash from Leader Resources CD-ROM.)

Take Home Challenge

Materials: Lesson 5 Ages 8-10 Take-Home Challenge from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM.

Hand out this week's Take-Home Challenge and encourage kids to complete the activities with their families. Remind them that you'll ask for responses during next week's K.I.D.S. Church service.

Prayer Protection

Small Group Lesson



Ages
11-12

Power Point

We can pray for spiritual protection from temptation and sin.

Scripture Memory Verse

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—Matthew 6:13

Bible Lesson

The story of David and Goliath.

—1 Samuel 17:1-54

Overview

Upon hearing that all the Israelite soldiers were afraid to fight a Philistine giant named Goliath, David went to King Saul and volunteered for battle. David was confident that God could give him victory over the giant. Calling out the name of God, David's single stone killed Goliath.

Discussion Questions

1. Why did David go to where the Israelites were fighting? (*Brought his brothers food.*)
2. How did David's brothers treat him when he met them? (*They were irritated that he was asking questions.*)
3. What was Goliath's challenge to Israel? (*Fight him, whoever lost would become slaves to the other.*)
4. Have you ever been challenged by someone that didn't believe in God? (*Allow responses.*)
5. Did you ever face a situation where you needed to call on God for help? (*Allow responses.*)
6. How has overcoming some temptations helped you avoid other ones? (*Allow responses.*)

God Encounter

Materials: Bibles, balloon, tire gauge, bike tire or other inflatable object such as a raft or sports ball with Max PSI listed. (PSI: Pounds per square inch—the maximum air pressure the ball or tire should hold.)

(*Ask a volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 10:13 "You are tempted in the same way that everyone else is tempted. But God can be trusted not to let you be tempted too much, and he will show you how to escape from your temptations."*)

Wow, that's very cool. No matter what we are tempted with, other people go through it too. God isn't caught off guard when you pray and ask for the power to resist temptation. The Bible said that Jesus already had victory over every kind of temptation so He could give you the power to overcome temptation! It gets better. God knows each and every one of us. He knows what we can handle, He knows our limit.

(*Hold up the tire.*) How much air do we put in? How do you know? (*Allow responses.*) Yes, it's written right here on the side. (*Show writing and read the limit.*) You fill it with air and check it with a gauge. (*Show gauge.*) This measures how much air is in the tire. (*Repeat with balls or other objects.*)

What happens if you go over the limit? (*Allow responses.*) Yes, it can burst. (*Blow up balloon until it pops.*) Just like this did! This scripture means that God knows our MAX limit. He will not allow us to be tempted beyond that.

And, look at the last part of the verse. He will show us how to escape!

Now, when He shows us the way out, we have to follow Him. We have to be obedient to do or say what He tells us. In some cases, we may actually have to leave. Can you think of some places you might actually have to leave? *(Allow responses, suggesting a movie, a friend's house, a party, etc.)* That isn't easy to do, but sometimes it is the way God shows us to escape. Isn't it great to know that ***we can pray for spiritual protection from temptation and sin.***



The Jesus Factor

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—Hebrews 2:18

Materials: Bibles, "Temptation Traps!" from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM

Preparation: Print copies of "Temptation Traps!," one per child.

(Ask a volunteer to read Hebrews 2:18.) We are not alone. Jesus was tempted while He was on earth. He understands what temptation feels like. He understands how we struggle and He wants to help.

(Hand out a copy of "Temptation Traps!" to each child. Have kids form three groups. Assign the first group situation #1, the second group, situation #2, etc. Group members will read their assigned situation and create skits about how Jesus' victory over temptation could help them do the same. Have kids write their skit lines in the space below their assigned situation. Give kids a few minutes to create and practice their skits. Then allow each group to perform their skits.)

Let's read another scripture about Jesus being able to understand temptation. *(Read Hebrews 4:14-16.)* Jesus felt the pain of being tempted, but didn't sin. He also tells us we can know that God will give us mercy and grace when we do sin. *(Read 1 John 1:9 then lead kids in prayer, asking for strength to live faithfully by following God's Word, and thankfulness for God's forgiveness when we fail.)*

Small Group Activity

Musical Power Point

Materials: Chairs, index cards, marker, tape, music CD and player, stopwatch.

Preparation: Write each word of the Power Point on a separate index card. Arrange chairs in a straight line and then tape cards in random order onto the backs of a chairs.

When Jesus was tempted by Satan, He knew that God would help Him. God wants to help us, too. Praying and asking for God's help will help protect us from temptation and sin.

(Play a version of musical chairs. Start music CD and have kids walk around chairs while music is playing. When you stop the music, start the stopwatch and instruct kids to grab index cards from the backs of chairs. Boys and girls race to sit in chairs holding cards in verse order. Challenge them to put cards in order faster each round. If you have more children than cards, they can take turns playing. If you have more cards than kids, they can collect two cards at a time, holding one in each hand.)

Take Home Challenge

Materials: Lesson 5 Ages 11-12 Take-Home Challenge from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM.

Hand out this week's Take-Home Challenge and encourage kids to complete the activities with their families. Remind them that you'll ask for responses during next week's K.I.D.S. Church service.