

“The Game Of Life” - LESSON 5

“Jenga”

Main Focus:

When we remove Jesus from our lives, our lives crumble!



Power Verse:

“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.”
- 1 Corinthians 3:11



Watt's Up:

“I Will Memorize What The Bible Says!”

LEADER'S INFO

There are so many things in this world that compete for the attention of children - fame, fortune, money, popularity, power, and more. It is very tempting to center our lives around these things and “build” our lives on these things that will not last.

The Apostle Paul teaches us that Jesus Christ is the only foundation we must build our lives upon. If we choose to build on anything else or if we remove Jesus as the center-piece of our lives, then our lives will crumble and fall.

By using the popular game, Jenga, the children will learn the importance of keeping Jesus Christ as the center-piece and foundation of their lives.



“The Spark” Intro Video

The “Game Boy”



“Watt's Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt's Up?”



Character Skit

“Regina Rulebook”



Offering Time



Game On!

“Jenga”



Bible Story

“Parable Of Two Builders” (Matthew 7:24-27)



Power Verse Video

“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have - Jesus Christ.”

- 1 Corinthians 3:11



Call To Action

“Jenga”



Brain Drain

PowerPoint Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

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PowerPoint Review Game

Small Group Experience

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CHARACTER SKIT

Character: Regina Rulebook (a quirky girl who is obsessed with rules)

(Play “Regina Rulebook’s Video Intro” off the DVD—Regina enters holding a box of cereal)

REGINA: Now WHAT do we have here??

Leader: *(jumps)* AGH! Regina, you have got to stop doing *(notices the cereal box in Regina’s hands)* Um, Regina, what are you doing with that?

REGINA: RULEBREAKER! Here, rule #624 *(reads the back of the cereal box)* “Stays crunchy, even in milk!”

Leader: What??

REGINA: *(is obviously a little flustered)* Um, YES, Rule breaker! Rule #624 states that everyone must stay crunchy, even in milk! And I know for a fact that if you were to jump into a pool full of milk you would get VERY soggy!

Leader: Wouldn’t ANYBODY?

REGINA: RULE BREAKER!! *(smacks leader with the cereal box)*

Leader: OW!! What’d I do?

REGINA: Isn’t it obvious? Rule # -5!

Leader: -5?? You have NEGATIVE rules??

REGINA: Yes! See? *(looks desperately on the back of the cereal box)* Umm...ummm....AHA! Here. Rule # -5! Free prize inside!!

Leader: Regina, that’ doesn’t make any sense.

REGINA: *(getting more frustrated)* Of course it does! Everyone must...um...have...candy in their...bellybutton?

Leader: Regina, come on, this is getting ridiculous.

REGINA: YOU’RE being ridiculous, Rule breaker!

Leader: You’re reading the back of a cereal box!!

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CHARACTER SKIT *(continued)*

REGINA: How DARE you! These are Regina’s Rules, and Rules are meant to be followed! *(scans the cereal box frantically)* HERE! Rule #...um...12! Contains 50% of...daily requirement of...vitamin...B. *(starts crying comically, like a little kid)* I WANT MY RULEBOOK!

Leader: Regina, calm down, it’s okay!

REGINA: It’s NOT okay, my little Rule breaker! I’ve broken my number one most golden rule...I’VE LOST MY RULEBOOK!! I’ve looked everywhere, but I can’t find it! What good is Regina Rulebook without her RULES? I’ve based my entire LIFE on my rules and now I am BROKEN!! *(Starts crying on the leaders shoulder. Opens the box of cereal and starts eating it sloppily while crying)*

Leader: Oh Regina, I’m so very sorry. Maybe I can help? You see, today we’re talking about Jenga!

REGINA: How is Chinese Food going to help me?

Leader: Nooo, Jenga is a GAME! You see, some people center their lives on the wrong things. They remove Jesus from the centerpoint of their lives. And like the game Jenga, if you take the most important piece away, their life comes tumbling down!

REGINA: That’s what’s happened to me!! I’ve....TUMBLED! *(cries again like a baby, raises her head up, opens her mouth, and just pours the entire remainder of the box of cereal out onto her face)*

Leader: Regina, it doesn’t HAVE to be this way! You see, we can build our lives on something strong and solid! We can build our lives on JESUS! HE is the piece of our lives that we NEVER want to take away! Listen, you’re pretty upset. Why don’t you hang out with us backstage and you can learn all about it!

REGINA: Okay...but not until you follow one rule. Rule # 37....*(looks over the cereal box)* Um....um...PUT THIS ON YOUR HEAD!

Leader: *(sighs)* Okay. *(puts it on their head)*

REGINA: Now say “I AM EMPEROR BREAKFAST!”

Leader: I AM EMPEROR BREAKFAST!

REGINA: *(giggles)* Silly little Rule breaker! Goodbye, boys and girls! Remember, these are Regina’s Rules, and rules are meant to be followed!



GAME ON!

“Jenga”

Items Needed For Game:

A box of the classic game, Jenga

Preparation:

Divide the room into two teams. Set up the Jenga game on a table at the front of the room.

How To Play:

Take turns allowing one player from each team to come up and remove a block from the Jenga tower. The team that removes the block that results in the tower collapsing - does not win! Congratulate the other team as the winners!

After the game, say:

“That was so fun! We all laughed as the wrong piece was taken out and the entire tower came tumbling down. But, I will tell you what is not any fun at all - when that happens in our spiritual life. If we remove the wrong piece from our lives - Jesus - then our lives will crumble and fall as well. Today, we are going to learn all about keeping Jesus as the centerpiece and foundation of our lives.”



Bible Story

“Parable Of Two Builders”

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; the PowerPoint presentation 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 Matthew 7:24-27; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today, I want to share a story that Jesus told in Matthew chapter seven. Jesus told of two men who planned to build a house. If you have ever seen a house being built, you know that it is a very difficult thing to do. It requires a lot of preparation and planning. Jesus said that one of the men was wise and the other was foolish. Let’s see if you can tell which was which.

One man was searching for the perfect place to build his house. (*show pic*) He found what he believed was the perfect spot. It was a large area of solid rock. He felt that this would be a great spot to build his house. So, that is exactly what he did. When he was done, (*show pic*) he looked at his home that was built on solid rock and felt that it was good.

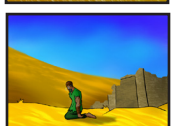
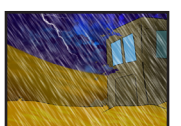
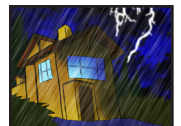
One day, there was a MAJOR storm (*show pic*) that brought high winds and tons of rain down upon the house. It was a terrible storm, but the next day (*show pic*) the sun came up to reveal that this man’s house had lasted through the storm. It stood strong on a solid foundation.

(*show pic*) The other man searched for the perfect spot to build his house. He found a spot that was a beautiful area covered in sand. He built his house on the sand (*show pic*) and was very happy with how it turned out. It probably felt a lot like a beach house.

Do you remember the storm we talked about? This same storm came upon the house of the man who built on sand. (*show pic*) His house didn’t stand up so well. After all, he had built his house on soft sand. When the rain and winds came, they caused his house to begin to shift and shake. When the sun came up the next morning, (*show pic*) this man’s house was nothing more than a pile of rubble.

Now, which of these men do you think was the “wise” man that Jesus talked about? (*allow response*) That’s right! The “wise” man was the one who built his house on a solid foundation - the rock.

This is exactly like those who build their lives on Jesus. He is our foundation. We must follow Him and obey His commands. That will help our lives stay strong. If we remove Jesus, the most important piece, from our lives - then our lives will crumble as bad as the “foolish” man’s house.





Call To Action

“Jenga”

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; a Jenga game; 4 strips of paper; marker; adhesive tape; a table

Preparation:

Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled “Lesson Five,” begin with the slide titled “Jenga”; write the words “Jesus”, “Money”, “Power”, “Popularity” on each of the five strips of paper; use the adhesive tape to apply these strips to five different game pieces; before your lesson, place the game pieces in strategic points of the Jenga tower and set it up on the table in plain sight of the audience; make sure you know which one is the “Jesus” piece, and place it at the lowest point of all the pieces, placing it as a MIDDLE piece on one of the layers. This way, when you remove it, the entire tower will crumble and fall.



The Message: *(title slide)*

Today, we are learning from the game, “Jenga.” It’s a game that requires lots of concentration. The object is to remove wooden blocks, one at a time, and avoid causing the tower to crumble and fall. It can really be tough to do because all it takes is removing the wrong piece and....BOOM! The entire tower crumbles and falls.

This game can teach us a lot about living for God. As a Christian, we know that...

Jesus Is The Most Important Piece Of Our Lives *(slide)*



Jesus is our Lord, our Savior, our King. He is the reason for living. He should be the most important person in our lives. Our PowerVerse teaches us, “For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have - Jesus Christ.” Jesus is the one we are to build our lives upon. He should be THE most important piece of our lives. NOTHING should come before Him.

The problem is, this life is full of a bunch of “other” things that try to grab our attention and take it away from Jesus. *(pull the piece labeled “Money” out of the tower and hold it up for the audience)* The world tries to tell us that “Money” is what we should build our lives upon. After all, you need money to buy all the cool stuff like Televisions, video games, cars, and a lot of other things. But, “Money” is not worth building your life upon. After all, you can remove “Money” from your life - and your life will be just fine. God will take care of you.

(pull the piece labeled “Power” out of the tower and hold it up for the audience) The world tries to tell us that “Power” is what we should build our lives upon. After all, you need power to prove how important you are. You can be the boss and order people around. But, “Power” is not worth building your life upon. After all, you can remove “Power” from your life - and your life will be just fine.

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Call To Action *(Continued)*

(pull the piece labeled “Popularity” out of the tower and hold it up for the audience) Some people believe that “Popularity” is what we should build our lives upon. After all, the more friends you have, the better you feel about yourself. Friends are good and friends are wonderful. But, “Popularity” is not what you should build your life upon. After all, you can remove “Popularity” from your life - and your life will be just fine. But, there is one piece that you should NEVER remove from your life...

When We Remove Jesus, Our Lives Crumble *(slide)*



(pull the piece labeled “Jesus” out of the tower; since it is the center piece for one of the rows, this should cause the entire tower to fall) Jesus is the reason for living. We were created to be in relationship with Jesus - for Him to be the foundation, the centerpiece of our lives. When we remove Jesus from our lives, then our whole purpose in life is gone.

Probably you are thinking, “Well, I would NEVER remove Jesus from my life.” That’s probably true. You would most likely never choose to “kick Jesus out” of your life. What happens more often is that something else - popularity, money, power, whatever - comes in and becomes more important than Jesus. You end up spending less and less time praying, reading your Bible, going to church, sharing your faith. Little by little, Jesus becomes less and less important. Ultimately, you end up moving Him out of the CENTER of your life. That’s when your life begins to crumble.

God doesn’t want our lives to crumble into ruin like that foolish man’s house that was built on sand. He wants our lives to stand strong like the wise man’s house that was built on solid rock. That’s why He instructs us to make Jesus the center of our lives. He wants us to build our lives on Jesus - the solid rock. So, how do we make sure that we keep Jesus at the center of our lives?

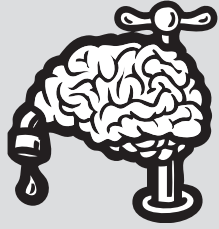
We Must Choose Every Day To Make Jesus The CENTER Of Our Lives *(slide)*



The key to keeping Jesus at the CENTER of our lives is the decisions we must make every single day. We must choose Jesus over popularity. Instead of going after money and power, we choose to get closer to Jesus. We must make the choice every day to keep Jesus at the center of our lives. If we do that, then when the “storms” of life come, our life will stand strong - just like the wise man’s house.

ALTAR RESPONSE *(play soft music)*

Pray with the children to examine their lives. If there is anything that is more important than Jesus, pray with them to remove it and place Jesus back at the center of their lives. Pray that their daily decisions will keep Jesus at the center of their lives. Pray that they will stand strong when the “storms” of life come.



BRAIN DRAIN

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; The DVD

Preparation:

Play the “Brain Drain” Video Intro off the DVD; Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled “Lesson Five,” begin with the slide titled “Brain Drain”; there is a slide for each question

1. Watt’s Up today?

Answer: “I Will Keep Jesus At The Center Of My Life!”

2. What did the “foolish” man build his house on?

Answer: sand

3. What did the “wise” man build his house on?

Answer: solid rock

4. What happened to the “foolish” man’s house when the storm came?

Answer: it was destroyed

5. What game did we learn lessons from today?

Answer: Jenga

6. According to our lesson today, “_____ Is The Most Important Piece Of Our Lives.”

Answer: Jesus

7. According to our lesson today, “When We Remove Jesus, Our Lives _____.”

Answer: Crumble

8. According to our lesson today, “We Must _____ Every Day To Make Jesus The Center Of Our Lives.”

Answer: Choose

9. Should we ever love anything more than Jesus?

Answer: No

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: I Corinthians 3:11

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