



## LOW-ENERGY GAME

### Stand Up for the Truth

[10 min]

#### Stand Up for True Statements

Say: **Today we've been learning about how Jesus stands up for God. Jesus stood up for God at the Temple—a place for worshipping God—and Jesus stood up for the truth about God wherever he went. Let's play a game where you'll stand up when you hear something true.**

- Gather everyone around you to sit on the floor.
- Read through the list of animal facts below, pausing after each one to allow kids to cast a vote of “true” or “false” by standing when they think a statement is true and sitting when they think it's false. In between each vote, kids will crouch.
- After you've read each statement and allowed kids to make their vote, say whether it's true or false.
  - A blue whale's heart is the size of a small car. (*False, although it is an urban legend many people think is true!*)
  - Some deep-sea sharks who live in cold water can live for well over 200 years. (*True*)
  - Lions have only three toes on each paw. (*False*)
  - Elephants can't jump. (*True*)
  - Dogs can smell colors. (*False*)
  - Elephants can't swim. (*False*)
  - In addition to their fur, tigers' skin is striped, too. (*True*)
  - Grizzly bears have enough bite power to crush a bowling ball. (*True*)
  - Flamingos are actually gray birds—the food they eat causes their feathers to turn pink. (*True*)
  - It's silly to say “blind as a bat” because most bats can actually see very well. (*True*)
  - One way dogs communicate is by how they position their paws. (*True*)
  - Within a year's time, more people are bitten by other people than are bitten by sharks. (*True*)
  - Panda bears come from Australia. (*False*)
  - A type of Arctic frog can freeze solid and then thaw and get back to life as usual. (*True*)

#### Talk About It

Ask: • **What made it difficult or easy to know what animal facts were true?**

Say: **Sometimes we'll hear or experience things about God that aren't true, and it might be hard to tell. Like with the animal facts, we might be unsure of when to stand up for what we know about God.**

Ask: • **What are ways we can discover truths about God so we know how to stand up for God?** Share an example of something you do to get to know God better, such as listening to favorite podcasts by wise Bible teachers or going on walks where you talk to God.

Say: **We can get to know God, too, as we spend time with him and learn from God's Word, the Bible. The better we know God, the better we'll know what hurts his heart, so we can stand up for him. And because Jesus stands up for God, we can always talk to Jesus when we're not sure what to do.**

**TALK-ABOUT VIDEO**  
**Stand Up!**[10 min]

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**Supplies**

- "Stand Up!" teaching video

**Discuss and Watch "Stand Up!"**

Say: **In our Bible story, Jesus did something you normally wouldn't do in a church. But he had to do it because Jesus stands up for God, and people were disrespecting God! Let's watch what happened.**

Watch "Stand Up!"

Ask: • **Why do you think it was okay for Jesus to flip a table, even though that's something you'd normally get in trouble for?**

- **Aside from flipping tables, what could you do to stand up for God?**

Say: **When we see people disrespecting God, especially people who claim to love God, we can speak up for God. Jesus stands up for God, so we stand up for God.**



## DEEPER BIBLE

### If I'm Supposed to Live Like Jesus, Is It Okay to Show Anger?

[15 min]

#### Supplies

- Bibles
- resealable plastic sandwich bag
- vinegar
- baking soda
- tissue paper square (approximately 6x6 inches)
- pan with sides
- paper
- pens
- tablespoon
- measuring cup

#### Easy Prep

- Put 2 tablespoons of baking soda in the center of the small tissue-paper square. Fold the tissue paper to make a small packet of baking soda.
- Put ½ cup of vinegar in the resealable plastic sandwich bag.

#### Bubble Up

Say: **In today's Bible story, Jesus got angry. Let's think about how anger bubbles up in our lives.**

Put the baking soda packet in the plastic sandwich bag, seal the bag, and set it in the pan. As the bag inflates and ultimately pops open, kids can shout things that make them angry.

- Ask: • **How did that experiment remind you of the way anger feels?**  
• **When can anger be destructive and feel like an explosion?**

Say: **When anger explodes out of us, it's not usually a good thing. In our Bible story today, Jesus was so angry that he started flipping tables and benches over. If we're supposed to live like Jesus, is it okay to show anger that way? Can we explode like our bag just did? Let's dig in to that.**

#### Dig Deeper

Distribute paper and pens. Say: **To understand why Jesus was so upset, let's look at the verses Jesus quoted. He quoted two different Bible verses from the Old Testament, so we're going to read those and the *context*, which means the other words around them. Listen for what was special about the Temple as we read the first passage. As I read, write down words you hear that show how special the Temple was. The Temple might also be called "my house."**

Read Isaiah 56:5-8, pausing after each verse for kids to catch up on any words they're writing.

- Ask: • **Share some of the words you noticed.**  
• **Why was the Temple such a special place?**

Say: **Jesus didn't get angry because of a personal preference; he got angry because the Temple was supposed to be a holy place for God! Jesus also said the sellers in the Temple had made it a den of thieves. The context of that verse came from a time the Israelites used the Temple kind of like a good luck charm. They thought they could do all kinds of bad things and worship other gods, but as long as they lived near the Temple they wouldn't**

**be punished. Let's see what God said about that.**

Read Jeremiah 7:8-11.

Ask: • **What was so bad about how people were using the Temple?**

Say: **The context of both the verses Jesus quoted shows that he was hurt because he knew what he saw hurt God's heart. That's not the same as being angry because you didn't get your way.**

**Standing up for God is about doing what's right and speaking out when other people put God's name on something that's wrong. It's not about getting angry based on our own opinions.**

**Think of it this way. If you know your friend Sadie really, *really* loves cats, you wouldn't go up to someone else and say, "Sadie said it's okay to kick that cat." Why? Because you know that's *not* something Sadie would ever think is okay!**

Ask: • **What's something you'd be very upset about if another person associated your name with it?**

Say: **It would be really upsetting to find out that someone is associating your name with something you hate. So when Christians say God is okay with them doing something and he's really not, that hurts God's heart. That's when we need to stand up for God.**

Have kids give examples of times it might be okay to get mad because something hurts God's heart. For example, a pastor of a big church is caught stealing money from the church.

Say: **Even when things like that happen, it doesn't *necessarily* mean we show anger. Jesus *did* show anger in our story today, and that was okay to do. But most of the time, even when he saw things that were wrong, he didn't flip tables. If your usual reaction is to act out of anger, that's not following Jesus' example. Following Jesus' example means showing love as much as possible and only acting out of anger in really extreme situations.**

Read Ephesians 4:26-27.

Ask: • **When does anger turn into sin?**

Say: **It's not a sin to feel angry. And as Jesus showed us, it's *sometimes* okay to act angry when it's truly responding to something that misrepresents God. But since we're not Jesus, we sometimes have a harder time telling when acting in anger is right, so it's best to operate out of love. Jesus stood up for God by flipping tables, but that's not the only way to do it. We stand up for God by speaking out when someone is doing something in God's name that God wouldn't like.**

Pray: **God, help us know your heart more and more so we understand what hurts your heart. Help us stand up for you with love and words as much as possible, with anger only as a last resort. And help us not show anger based on our own opinions. In Jesus' name, amen.**



## LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

### We'll Stand Up

[5 min]

#### Sit and Stand

Say: **Jesus stands up for God, so we stand up for God. Let's commit to that with our prayer. As I read different situations of what others might do, you'll sit. When I finish reading each line, you'll stand and say, "We'll stand up for you, God."**

Read the following situations, pausing after each one for kids to stand and respond.

- **When others are a distraction in church...** (We'll stand up for you, God.)
- **When others say bad things about you...** (We'll stand up for you, God.)
- **When others judge instead of showing love...** (We'll stand up for you, God.)
- **When others don't take care of our church...** (We'll stand up for you, God.)
- **When other Christians act like God loves them more than non-Christians...** (We'll stand up for you, God.)

#### Wrap Up

Pray: **Jesus, thank you for showing us how to stand up for God! We're committed to standing up for you and reflecting your true heart instead of pulling people away from you. In your name, amen.**



**Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page**

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons. Say: **Jesus stands up for God. He even knocked over a table to stop people from distracting others from God. Let's color that.**

Allow time for kids to color.