



# Grand Champions

## Little Wranglers

- If Only I had a Better Horse!
- Against all Odds!
- Buckles, Jackpots, and Payouts
- This Judge Ain't Fair



*Grand Champions Series/If Only I Had a Better Horse  
Ron & Francine Singleterry  
Wrangler Church Ministries©2015*

## Grand Champions

*Philippians 3:14*

*I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

### Lesson One: **If Only I had a Better Horse** Little Wranglers

#### Illustration for Wranglers:

Arena: Bring a horse into the arena or round-pen. Sitting in the saddle give him voice commands only; in English and in Spanish for example being careful not to use any body language to prod him. When he does not respond, look over at the students and say: **If Only I had a better Horse!**

In a classroom: Explain the scenario above. Tell the students that your horse is just not responding to voice commands and especially not to those you give him in Chinese, for example.

*References: Psalm 23:2-3; 25:5; Philippians 3:14; Gen 3:12*

#### If Only

If only I had a better horse then\_\_\_\_\_. Just fill in the blank.

- I could win something.
- I could be a Grand Champion.
- I could make some money!

Some folks are always blaming someone or something else for why things don't work out better for them.

You remember the Bible story of Adam and Eve. Eve eats the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden; Adam comes along and eats the same fruit. God comes and asks Adam what's happened here? Adam says:

*Genesis 3:12*

*And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.*

Adam is saying: **It's not my fault! It's really your fault God because you gave me this Woman and she made me do it.**

People are always finding excuses and blaming someone or something else.

## **Who Needs the Training?**

We watched a show awhile back about a fellow that is a horse whisperer.

People call for him to have horse clinics. He takes horses that are not minding the rider and then he works with the horse and the rider to get everything working well between the two.

**You know already, that you don't just go get on somebody's horse without asking! What can happen if you just decide to go get on any horse?**

**A Horse Wreck is about to happen when you do something like that!**

He said that he does not see all that many people that have horse problems. What he does see however are horses that have people problems.

He says the people bring their mishandling techniques and their personal problems to the horses; not the other way around.

*Psalm 23:2-3*

*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: **he leadeth** me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: **he leadeth me** in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

*Psalm 25:5*

***Lead me** in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.*

Right there seems to be the issue. **We want to do the leading, instead of letting the Lord do the leading.**

## **That Better Horse**

*Philippians 3:14*

*I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

While I would have to agree that genetics and breeding have a lot to do with a good horse and the capabilities that the horse are bred for, I would also have to say that a good horse left to himself without training would not be able to be ridden into an arena and win the first go.

You most likely wouldn't even be able to get him in the trailer, much less get a saddle on him if you took him straight out of the pasture.

Do you think the horse and rider win the prize because they are just "born to win?"

Do you think the horse and rider win because the horse has spent all of his time in the pasture running free while the rider spent all of his time with his eyes glued to a TV show?

Do you think the horse and rider win because God loves them more than He loves other people and their horses?

**Do you think it is possible that the horse and rider win because they have WANTED to win, and so have spent many many many hours learning and listening from the trainer and then practiced a LOT?**

**Now we are talking about what set them apart from all of the rest who say they want to be a Grand Champion.**

### **Activity:**

Have some stick horses available and a rope. Put a few children on the stick horses as lead horses. Have other children hold onto the rope and follow behind the lead of the stick horse rider.

The teacher can take one of the horses and lead and the children follow. Then have a child on a stick horse lead out and the teacher holding onto the follow rope.

Demonstrate what happens when the person holding the rope does not follow.

This is a fun scenario to work out with young children to teach them about following God's Lead and how much better [or worse if they do not] things go along.



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### Lesson Two: **Against all Odds** Little Wranglers

#### **Illustration for Wranglers:**

Set up a Dummy Roping Steer in classroom or outside. Throw several loops; make sure you miss about half of them [on purpose]. Ask the students if they think you are ready to take Vegas next year? Ask if you have a chance? Ask if you are likely to win? Ask if it is impossible?

*References: Matthew 14:31;13:58; John 1:46; Luke 1:37; Psalm 118:8*

#### **Not a Chance!**

He doesn't have a chance! There is too much competition and he's riding that nag of a horse!

He's beat before he starts; why did he even pay the entry fee? I'd be embarrassed to show up on that nag.

These are words sometimes overheard in the stands at a Ranch Rodeo Competition. Yes, everyone can spot a "loser." He's the guy that "never wins anything."

Seems like some folks just start out in life not having a chance; and it gets worse from there!

There used to be an old country folk song that the old TV show Hee Haw made famous:

*Doom, despair and agony on me;*

*Deep dark depression excessive misery.*

*If it weren't for bad luck, I'd have no luck at all.*

*Doom, despair, and agony on me.*

At some time, everyone feels like they are "in over their head." Have you ever felt like you just didn't have what it takes?

You enter a Ranch Rodeo event like Dummy roping or Mutton Bustin' and you KNOW you aren't ready; that you aren't practiced up. You know that there is NOT A CHANCE you are going to win.

If, however, you have done everything in your power to be ready for the challenge; if you have practiced your event and are as ready as possible, there can still be doubts.

Let me tell you something that happened to Peter, one of Jesus' disciples. Peter and the disciples had just witnessed Jesus feed over 5000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish. You may remember that story.

They had just seen a miracle!

As the crowd goes home, the disciples get into a boat to cross the Sea of Galilee; a huge wind comes up and they are in a small boat that is rocking back and forth which is about to sink they think.

Jesus had stayed behind on the shore and so He comes walking across the TOP of the water like He is going to walk right by the boat. The disciples are shocked! They are scared!

But Peter says, Lord can I come out there and walk on the water with you? Now you know the other disciples are saying to themselves: Peter, you are nuts! There is NOT A CHANCE that you are going to walk on top of water!

But nonetheless, Peter gets out of the boat! He fixes his eyes on Jesus and he walks on the water!

But then something happens. He starts thinking that this is impossible! This can't be done! And he begins to SINK into the water.

Then Jesus reaches out His divine hand and lifts Peter up out of the water and He says:

***Matthew 14:31***

***And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?***

Peter didn't have a chance of walking on water by himself. It would have been impossible without Jesus and when his eyes left Jesus, when he began to doubt, he found himself sinking.

## **Not Likely**

The Bible says that people did not believe Jesus and He is God!

Even one of Jesus' future disciples said things about Him because of where He was raised as a child!

*John 1:46*

*And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.*

Can anything good come out of Nazareth? Nathanael was slamming Jesus because of where He was raised as a human child! How petty is that?

People did not see miracles done in their own town because they misunderstood who He was:

*Matthew 13:58*

*And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.*

And He did not do miracles there because of **THEIR** unbelief; their own little bitty teensy tiny thinking minds caused them to miss the blessings.

**SO why would you be surprised that PEOPLE are going to be saying NEGATIVE things about you sometime in your life.**

**Your confidence is not to be in man, but to be in God.**

*Psalms 118:8*

*It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.*

## **Impossible Odds!**

*Luke 1:37*

*For with God nothing shall be impossible.*

I am **not** saying if you THINK hard enough about something that you can make it happen.

I am **not** saying if you PRAY HARD enough about something that you can make it happen.

I am saying that if God is in something, He will make it happen if you trust Him.

He is so FOR you and **not** AGAINST you.

He is the God of the Impossible.

## **Activity:**

Color the page and discuss the lesson during coloring time.

*Luke 1:37*  
*For with God nothing shall be impossible.*





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### Lesson Three: **Buckles, Jackpots, & Payouts** Little Wranglers

#### Illustration for Wranglers:

Bring to class or arena prizes earned in various venues. Belt Buckles, Saddles, Ropes, Ribbons, Trophies, Certificates, for example.

*References: 1 Corinthians 6:20; Philippians 3:7; 2 Timothy 4: 7-8*

#### Entrance Fees

Not much in life is free; it costs somebody something even when it is free to you.

Someone may pay your entrance fee to an event, but it cost them the price. You can enter a mutton bustin' or a dummy roping competition but someone paid the entrance fee.

Someone "covered" the cost. Someone "paid for" your way to enter.

There may be Buckles to be won, Jackpots to draw money off of, and sometimes big Payouts for placing well in a competition or rodeo event.

It goes without saying that as a Christian, we know Who paid our Entrance Fee so that when we accept Him as Savior we can go to Heaven someday.

#### Go-Round

You have a choice how you perform in your Go-Round [in your life].

- Do you understand that you may get battered around in the World System sometimes because of your faith?
- Sometimes there will be people that do not like you just because you do not "do what they do."
- And do you understand that this life on earth is just a temporary dwelling place?

*A Go-Round is a Rodeo term referring to "each time a competitor" has a turn to compete in an event.*

*1 Corinthians 6:20*

*For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

Your entrance fee was paid by the King of Kings. Your Go-Round is your temporary life; eternity is just that ...it is forever.

Do your best to please God above anyone or anything else.

## **Prizes**

*Philippians 3:7*

*But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.*

There is a prize awaiting those that have run the race, finished the course.

**But those that have run the race for the prize alone have missed the mark.**

**If it's about the money or the buckles or the ribbons you take home; if you compete because you "must have the buckle" then you have lost the fun of the "run" already.**

*2 Timothy 4:7-8*

*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

Your Entrance Fee was paid for by Jesus on the Cross of Calvary. You have a choice on whether or not to accept that Entrance Fee and accept Jesus. It's a choice. One day not too far down the road, you will know Jesus is knocking at your heart's door and wanting you to make that choice to let Him in or not let Him in.

Then once you accept Him, you have a choice on what you do with your Go-Round with how you live your life; either as a Disciple or not.

If you have accepted Jesus, then there should be a desire to be like Him. That means, you should want to have a good Go-Round.

And at the end of your life, whenever that comes at whatever age you will be in a position to receive the Prize.

What is that Prize? It's Jesus. Some folks never understand that. **It's Jesus.**

## **Activity:**

Bring stick horses to class. If you can do this in an arena or outside area all the better.

Set up an obstacle course for the students to run the race on the stick horse.

Have a few ribbons for the participants.

Name the obstacle course "LIFE".

Name the horse after the participant; for example if Travis runs the course, then name the stick horse, Travis, right before he runs.

As the "contestant" comes up to the starting line ask him if his entrance fee is paid? Explain that whatever he does on this course does not really count towards the ribbon, unless his entrance fee was paid.

At the end of the run, the participant gets a ribbon, or a prize piece of candy or small gift.

In summary: Let the students see that:

- There is an entrance fee [ Jesus paid the fee]
- The obstacle course is like what they do in their lives.
- The finish line awards the prize. [in real life, that prize is Jesus].
- This was a PICTURE activity that represents a REAL race.



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### Lesson Four: **The Judge Ain't Fair** Little Wranglers

#### Suggested Illustration for Little Wranglers:

**Arena:** If you have a student in your older age groups that normally shows animals, you may be able to utilize this resource. Have them bring one of their show animals into the arena and “show” the animal while talking to the showman, asking questions about why you do different things during the competition. You can have them there as an illustration throughout your lesson asking pertinent questions along with the lesson.

**Inside:** We have brought a lamb and on another occasion a goat inside buildings; spread a plastic tarp on the floor and walked in the haltered animal. The same scenario has worked.

*References: 1 Corinthians 9: 24; John 5: 30b*

#### Out to Win

Competition day! We remember at our house the Lamb Shows and competitions when our son was growing up.

The prep that went in before competition was remarkable.

- For weeks he fed them special feed to build up their muscles.
- For weeks he made sure they had just the right exercise including running them uphill on our hill farm in Tennessee.
- Doctoring “foot rot”; that was a very smelly sheep feet problem.
- Electric shearers and sharpened blades came out for the sheep’s haircuts.

Your may enjoy competing Mutton Bustin’ or watching Barrel Races, or you may compete in Dummy Ropings, or other sports like baseball, but nonetheless, competition day comes and you know you will do better if you are practiced up and prepared.

The bottom line is: You are OUT TO WIN!

*1 Corinthians 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.*

This Bible scripture was written by Paul the Apostle. He is **not** talking about running an actual foot race or chariot race, but instead is talking about a “spiritual race.”

Paul is saying that he chooses to live a godly life so that his testimony is right and pure and will not cause others to either not come to Christ or others to live ungodly compromised lives.

Other words, he says he strives to live right and do right because it is right and pleasing to God.

## **The Judge’s Call Ain’t Fair**

Have you ever been in a contest or in a game that had a judge and you felt like you should have had more points? Did you ever think the Judge was not fair?

Have you ever watched a ball game and heard someone say that the referee made a bad call?

People are not perfect. Sometimes they are going to make a “bad call” or “judge unfairly.” As I learned growing up: Life is not always going to be fair; get used to it.

There is a day coming, however, when we will be dealing with the Just Judge, the One that makes only perfect calls. Jesus is the Perfect Judge.

Jesus said: *John 5:30b ..... I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.*

This is one judge we can’t say: This Judge Ain’t Fair, because He is the fairest of them all.

## **The Judge’s Call is Final**

Here is where a lot of folks get mixed up so you might want to pay attention to this part of the lesson very closely.

**Did you know that you don’t get into Heaven because you have done more good things than bad things? You are not going to be judged by your good deeds to decide whether or not you go to Heaven.**

**The only “right things” that is “righteousness” that you can bring to the gates of Heaven are not yours to begin with; simply Jesus’s “righteousness” is all you will have if you have accepted Him as your Savior. One day you will understand that He wants you to accept Him as Lord and Savior. When you understand this, then you will need to make a choice to accept Him or not accept Him into your heart and life.**

There will be no scales setup to weigh your good deeds versus your bad deeds to see which outweighs the other. Remember that Jesus is the Perfect and Righteous only begotten Son of God. He is the only way to Heaven.

**Activity:** Color the page and Discuss the Lesson.

*John 5:30b ..... I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.*

