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If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. John 8:36

RRR Series: Redemption; Resolve; and the Return.

Classroom & Arena Style Lessons

LITTLE WRANGLERS

Redemption Messages:

#1 Hard Question/Easy Answer

#2 Living Free or Free Living

#3 Redeemed from What to What?

Resolve Messages:

#1 Stand your Ground

#2 Resolved to Lift up Jesus

#3 What Does God Expect of Us?

Return Messages:

#1 Ready or Not!

#2 Rapture & Banquet

#3 The Judgments

#4 Forever & Ever, Amen!



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Little Wranglers

RESOLVED LESSON #1: Stand your Ground

Numbers 13:30 *And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.*

Illustration:

This message can be illustrated inside a classroom or an outside setting. With this age group, the illustration can come at the end as part of the learning experience. See end of lesson for illustration.

Introduction:

<http://childrensbiblesongs.us/2011/09/twelve-men-went-to-spy-out-canaan/>

This is the link to the old Children's Bible Story Song: *Twelve Men went to Spy on Canaan*. This link has the chords and an MP3 that you can listen to. On YouTube there are also videos of people doing the hand signs to the song.

The teacher may find this short song helpful to assist the students with remembering the Bible Story.

Taking a stand in this life is very important. People will take a stand on many different subjects like which sports team is the best to which flavor of ice cream is the best. There are all kinds of things to take a stand about.

People will get angry sometimes just over what they think is the best way to color a picture in class or even over how to open a package of cookies!

I have seen cowboys get into shouting matches over which brand of truck is better!

But I want to talk to you about taking a stand on what matters the most in this life and in the life to come.

[Hold up a Bible.] **This is the Word of God.**

It is critical to your spiritual well-being that you learn now how to take a stand concerning **what is RIGHT and the Word of God.**

It won't always make you popular with everybody around you, but remember that no matter what you do there will be some that won't like your stand or what you do.

Just keep in mind that taking a stand for God's Word and our Lord Jesus Christ will be the only stand that matters for all eternity.

Ephesians 6:13-14a Wherefore 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. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth...

Don't get caught up with what everybody else thinks:

Read aloud: *Numbers 13:30 And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.*

Don't get caught up with what the crowd thinks.

Caleb spoke up first. There were 12 spies [The Bible tells us they were leaders in their congregations.] that surveyed the Promised Land. Ten of them came back and stirred up the crowd to say **NO** to God's plan.

It is very easy to get people to think only about themselves and what makes them comfortable.

Some people may curse or use bad words. But what does the Word of God say about that kind of talk?

People may say it's okay to "fudge" or "cheat" just a little on the entry rules at the arena events; after all, everyone does it sometimes. But does that make it okay?

THE CROWD CAN BRING YOU DOWN! THINK FOR YOURSELF BASED UPON THE WORD OF GOD!

You will miss GREAT blessings from God because you are willing to settle for a lot less.

The Nation of Israel was afraid and did not want to go take over the land that God had promised. They were afraid so they decided to settle for staying where they were. This meant instead of getting a supersized really nice ranch, they settled for traveling around for 40 years in the desert.

Sounds dumb! But that's what they wanted to do, instead of trusting God to give them the ranch.

Think about how ridiculous it is for the group to push back and be afraid of the blessing that God had already promised!

Unfortunately, I have seen so many times where people are shown God's promises and they pull back and say "I can't!"

Don't Depend on Your Strength:

Why did most of them say "I can't!" Why were there only two young men that took a stand?

It all boils down to one thing: **What they were focused on.**

Numbers 13: 31 But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.

Keep in mind that God controls the situation and has all the experience. WHY NOT DEPEND ON HIM?

Don't Forget Who you should depend on:

Numbers 14:8 If the Lord delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.

Joshua and Caleb tried to reason with the other leaders and the congregation of people. Most people can talk about trusting God, but in the end, very few ever go from talking the talk to walking the walk.

TAKE A STAND FOR JESUS.

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. John 8:36

Illustration and Activity:

*Arena Style: Set up a rope for a Tug of War. Position two teams and the "line" that determines the winners. As you set up the teams, make one team with just a handful of participants while the obviously stronger team that will undoubtedly be the victors has bigger people or more people. This game is not about being a victor; **it is about "standing your ground".***

In the wings, standing around as observers are folks that are decisively going to make the difference. They do not appear to be engaged in this upcoming Tug of War. But after it appears that the "loosing" person[s] are going to be defeated; then have this group of adult helpers run in and pull the smaller team to a decisive and quick victory.

*Therefore, once one team has soundly defeated the other team then use this as an illustration of "standing your ground." It is not always the easy thing to do; and you will not appear to be the obvious winner. **But if you have the right "support" on your side; you are the victor.***



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Little Wranglers RESOLVED LESSON #2: **Resolved to Lift up Jesus**

John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

Illustration:

This message can be illustrated inside a classroom or an outside setting.

Have several helium balloons filled and ready for release. On the inside of each one have a scripture message inserted on a small piece of paper OR attached to the string on the outside. What makes the balloons rise?

Alternative for Outside Setting: Have a remote controlled airplane demonstration for a short time. Talk about the lift needed to get the plane off of the ground. How is it lifted up?

Introduction:

Flying requires lift. Hot air balloons and helium balloons get their lift by being lighter than air. Airplanes get their lift by the shape of the wing and the speed that it travels through the air. For several years I worked at an aerospace company as an engineer. I worked with engineers that specialize in aerodynamics. They could explain how each plane design works, but there is one flight that they cannot explain.

How did Jesus fly when He ascended through the sky into Heaven? No hot air balloon or jet engine with wings on it lifted Jesus up.

In John 3:1-16 Jesus was explaining how He had to be lifted up on the cross. He told this religious leader that their rules and laws would not get them to Heaven.

Jesus told Nicodemus that His death on the cross was the only way to get to Heaven.

Resolved to Trust Him:

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Jesus just messed up Nicodemus whole understanding of the scriptures.

TO THE TEACHER:

Acts 1: 1-11 details Christ's ascension. This passage should be summarized so that the students are aware of the reference in the Introduction.

Please read John 3: 1-16 in preparation to present this Lesson/Message. Very Briefly summarize this passage's events as you begin the section: Resolved to Trust Him.

Up until that time in history, parts of the Old Testament were the only written Word of God. It told about the Law and keeping of the Law; it also told of the coming Messiah [Who was Jesus].

Nicodemus was part of a religious group that ruled over all of the Jewish people. He had been taught that keeping the Law of God was the most important thing he could do as a religious man.

The Messiah, Jesus, had to come to pay for our sins so that we could become His righteousness. There is nothing good enough in us that will ever make us good enough to get to Heaven.

Therefore, we needed Him, Jesus. This is what He was explaining to Nicodemus.

1 Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Jesus says: **Trust Me**, not in the laws or rules, but trust Me.

To trust Jesus, you must be resolute (determined) that He is the Lamb of God. To trust Jesus, you must “lift Him up” to be the way to Heaven. Nothing else will do.

Resolved to Tell about Him:

How many of you have heard of “The Great Commission?” That phrase of words is not in the Bible, but The Great Commission is. Jesus “commissioned” or “commanded” his disciples to tell the world about Him and the free gift of salvation that He offers.

Matthew 28:16-20 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Acts 1:8-9 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

Go spread the Good News about Jesus.

Activity:

Have airplanes to “make” or “decorate” or “assemble.” Places such as online novelty dealers have dozens of varieties to choose from. Some even have “religious” sayings already on the product.

In advance make labels that say JESUS and put those on the finished airplanes.



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LITTLE Wranglers RESOLVED LESSON #3: What does God expect of us?

John 4:29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

Illustration:

This message can be illustrated inside a classroom but we prefer the outside setting.

Outside Style: A wagon ride message. *Have a wagon ride out and around the facilities and property. Stop out several hundred yards away and have the message while the students are on the wagon.*

Classroom setting: *Set the room up in a different fashion than normal. Bring in some hay bales and have a pretend wagon ride out into the countryside. Set up the room to look outdoors. Have the kids climb into the wagon circle of hay. Pretend with some outdoors sounds on a CD. OR you can download a wagon ride experience on a YouTube video and use on the screen. Let the imaginations go that they are outside on a wagon ride to the destination of the lesson.*

Introduction:

Some of the students looked EXCITED this morning when they found out we were having a wagon/hay ride! Sounds like a really fun way to have “church!”

We get really excited when we get to do special things. Sometimes it’s exciting to cheer for a team and they actually WIN! Sometimes it’s exciting to enter the dummy roping and WIN! Sometimes it’s exciting to go for PIZZA! We all get excited about special things!

In John Chapter 4 we read about a woman that got very excited and ran all over town shouting and waving her hands and knocking on doors and telling people in the streets what happened to her andwell, when I tell you this story you will see that she got really excited. If she had FACEBOOK back then she would have had it there first; if she had Snapchat, then she would have had a picture of Jesus and she in a selfie at the well and she would have labeled it something like: BEST DAY EVER!

It all started in **John 4:4** when Jesus said that “...**he must needs go through Samaria.**”

To the Teacher:

Read John 4: 3-29 in order to prepare for the lesson. Pick out the verses that are age appropriate; summarize the rest. Tell the story of the woman at the well with excitement!

Jesus stopped at a well that Jacob dug. The town of Sychar had grown up beside the well because of the water that was available. A woman came to the well in the middle of the day. Jesus started a conversation with her.

You may not think that is so strange. However, she was a Samaritan and Jews did not speak to them. Jesus talked of Living Water that He could give her. She tried to start an argument, but Jesus had not come all this way to argue, He went right back to telling her that she had a need.

(Summarize the story from John 4:7-29)

He brought her to a place where she was aware that she was a sinner and could not keep the Old Testament Law.

Limited Time

The woman at the well only had a limited time on the earth. She's not alive anymore; that was about 2000 years ago. But did you know that we only have a limited time on the earth, too?

1 Peter 1:24-25 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

So as soon as she was saved/born-again she did what any new Christian that is EXCITED would do.....she ran and told someone that she had found JESUS.

She didn't have a 12 week program to learn how to be a Christian.

She didn't take time to learn all the Bible Stories.

NOPE, she didn't start off her Christian life that way. She started by pointing everyone she saw to Jesus.

She didn't have a course on Soul-winning [How to lead people to Christ.]

She didn't take the time to figure out "how to break the news" to her friends.

She had a great change at the well! She'd met the Master!

No wasting time for her. She went right to the task; she began to share Jesus immediately.

Limited Resources

Most likely at your age, you don't have a big bank account. You don't have a LOT of money in your pocket today. Most likely you don't own a truck or a car yet.

Most likely, if you own a horse, it was paid for by your parent or another adult. Most likely, you don't have a lot of resources to get around town without someone else driving you. Even your lunch is bought by someone else. Your boots or shoes were bought by someone like your parents or grandparents, most likely.

So you have limited resources.

But God says: *Psalm 50:10 For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills*

Jesus has all the resources you will ever need for anything.

YOU may think you don't have the resources you need to serve Jesus today at your age, but you really do. He may bring cousins, or school friends, or grown-ups into your life that you can share the good news of Jesus with. Many times grown-ups will listen to children before they will listen to a grown-up talk about Jesus.

Philippians 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Jesus knows what you need before you do! Whether it's groceries in the house or an opportunity to tell someone else about Jesus, He can supply your resources.

Limited Potential

1 Peter 1:15-16, But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.....

Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Did you know that YOU can put limitations upon what God will do in your life?

Did you know that when you "willfully" sin that it disappoints God and it also puts a wall up between you and God's fellowship?

When you tell your parents that you do not intend to get into trouble again for disobedience, for example, you most likely don't intend to disobey again.

However, sooner or later, you will disobey in some area. That is the sin nature that we war against all of our lives.

But when you on purpose, ignore what you are told and go right back to what you were corrected about, that is "doing it on purpose" or "doing it in spite of what you were told." Then it becomes sin on purpose! That is disobedience! That is "willful" sin.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

A good phrase to learn is: **OBEY RIGHT AWAY!**

Activity Sheet Follows:



Obey Right Away!