



AT THE BEACH

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

We need to be on guard against temptation.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn the importance of preparing to face temptation.

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Warnings About Sin

INTRO

How many of you have ever made the mistake of going outside for a long time without any sunscreen? Can someone tell me what happened?

Not everyone gets sunburn, but those who do, know how painful it can be. Sunburn can make every part of your body hurt. It can make it hard to move, hard to sit, and hard to lay down to go to sleep. Then the peeling begins, and the sunburn really makes you look and feel gross!

If we are wise, we will always plan ahead before going out in the sun. We wear light clothes, we wear hats, we wear shades. And we also wear sunscreen! Sunscreen can come in spray or lotion, and it's designed to protect your skin from the harmful effects of the sun.

No more red skin. No more burns. If you plan, if you use sunscreen, you will be just fine.

Today, I want to share with you how God wants us to protect ourselves from sin. Sin is anything we do that is rebellious against God. That includes following other gods and taking God's name in vain, but it also includes, lying, cheating, stealing, and even disobeying our parents.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Sin is what separated us from God in the beginning. Jesus came and died to forgive our sins, but when we accept Jesus as our Savior, he wants us to avoid sin; to go and sin no more.

We need to protect ourselves against sin, and the best resource we have for that is the Bible.

Here's a great example of that in 1 Corinthians chapter 10.

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-13

MAIN POINT

Paul warned the Corinthian church about sin by pointing them to the Old Testament, to the stories of Israel. God delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt, but when the people sinned, they were punished. Paul tells the Corinthians not to be like the Israelites in the wilderness, but to be holy, to resist sin, and to do what is right.

The story of the Israelites is just one of many reminders why we need to resist sin and stay faithful to God. Throughout the Old Testament – Adam and Eve, the people who lived in Noah's time, Pharaoh, the Israelites in the desert, King David, and all the kings of Judah and Israel – they all learned that there are consequences for disobeying God.

But if we are faithful, God will be faithful. We will turn to God, and he will give us the power to resist temptation. To flee from it. When we put our faith in God, he is sure to keep us on the right path, even in those times when we stumble.

DRIVE IT HOME

The Bible is a great tool for living; resisting temptation is just one of its many uses. The Bible teaches us what sin is. Moses summarized them in the Ten Commandments, and the rest of the Bible helps us understand what sins means. The Bible tells us we are sinners, and try as we might, we've all messed up.

The Bible also reminds us there is hope. Jesus died for our sins so that we could live forever with him. We have Jesus on our side, and Jesus can give us the strength and courage we need at times to stay faithful to God.

The Bible also reminds us that we are forgiven. Jesus died for everyone and every sin. If we stumble and fall, Jesus will forgive us. He will help us get back on track, and he will help us to start over.

Sometimes when we do give in to sin, the hardest thing to do is forgive ourselves. I want you to know that no matter how badly you think you have messed up, Jesus still loves you. He will always forgive you, and he will always welcome you back.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

We are sinners born into a world of sin. Every day, we will fight the battle against temptation. Prepare yourself daily by reading from God's word. Know sin when you see it, and be prepared to say no. But if you do mess up, remember Jesus still loves and forgives.

God's word is the best sin block we can ask for, stronger than any sunscreen. Protect yourself, and be ready when temptation comes!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Keep us alert and aware, so we will not be caught off guard by sin. Help us to obey and do the right thing.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*