



Losers vs. Winners

Session 1

by Emily Norman, Sheree Patterson, and Eric Majeski

You may think you're a winner, but you're really a loser, UNLESS you're a loser. THAT'S when you're really a winner.

Purpose:

Giving students the concepts to draw closer to God. When you (cross the finish line), how does your faith hold up? What does one "win" by connecting with God? Understanding what the purpose of faith and God's role is in all of life's events/situations.

This Bible study requires a little bit of prep ahead of time, but is worth it in helping the students interact during the activities.

Preparations

You will be making an object representing a gold medal. Cut medals out of poster board and buy colored ribbon (ex: purple ribbon; cut 34 inches long). Be creative and come up with what works for you!

Session 1: The world's view vs. God's view

"For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it." (Matthew 16:25)

I. Pin Activity

- The purpose of this activity is to help each student recognize a specific gift that makes them unique. This is a gift that God has given them and he/she wins when he/she uses it.
- Each person must bring a 2 in x 2 in object or make an object (with paper, foam, sticker, etc...) describing a unique trait about themselves. (For example: Atomic fireball which stands for being passionate about faith; a band aid representing empathy for when someone is hurting; a smile representing joy in life, etc.). Make enough so that each person can give one to everyone who is participating. Attach these objects to safety pins. (For example, if the object is a bandaid and there are 30 people, then the person will need 30 bandaids and 30 safety pins.)
- Give each person one of the gold medals you made.
- Give directions for the activity while students are still seated.
- Allow the students time to trade their pins, collecting one pin from each participant. As students trade their pins, they will attach them to the ribbon on the medal.
- The fun begins when the first student chosen picks an object (other than own) to talk about. They explain the significance of that object, telling whose it is and how it makes the person it belongs to unique. The person whose object is chosen continues this cycle until everyone's objects have been discussed.

II. Defining WINNING and LOSING

- Write down three famous winners & three famous losers of the world on the Session 1 handout. Please note that these should be well-known people rather than people the participants know personally.
- Distribute the handouts and discuss what everyone wrote down:
 - Why did you choose these people?
 - What makes someone a "winner"? Or a "loser"? Discuss.

III. Small Group – Talk about it

1. What have you ever won in your life? Think of different situations (an award, an event, a prize, or a competition)
2. Discuss the different levels of accomplishment. Discuss what it means to win a gold, silver, or bronze medal.
3. How does winning a chess tournament compare to the quarterback throwing the winning touchdown?
4. Have you ever lost in a spelling bee? Do you remember the word? Why do you remember that situation?
5. What other situations do you remember being in where you were a “winner” or “loser”? Think of common situations from daily life (racing down the street with a friend, building the biggest Lego tower, climbing the tree, etc...)
 - Make a statement defining the world's view of who you are as a “winner” or “loser”.
 - Have students open their Bibles and read together the theme verse Matthew 16:25. Ask:
 - What does this verse mean to you? (Any answer is right for you; no answer is wrong. Answers are personal).

The point of this section is to help students recognize God's view of a winner and how it differs from the world's view.

IV. Small group – Talk about it

Read Romans 12:2.

1. What do you think the “pattern of this world” means?
2. Why are we drawn into this pattern? Why do we do it?
3. What tools are we given to be transformed? And, why should I be “transformed”? Why should we be “different”?

Main Point: This transformation produces the joy and contentment we have living in faith versus living in the world. The rewards we receive in faith outweigh any temporary fulfillment the world offers.

Have a brief discussion to check students' understanding.

Our faith is one way, the world is another. Living in our faith, our life is actually happier.

V. Illustration

You can use “The Beggar's Rags” from More Hot Illustrations for Youth Talks by Wayne Rice, published by Youth Specialties, as an illustration, or create your own illustration.

VI. Closing prayer

Session 1: The world's view vs. God's view

Write down three famous winners and three famous losers and why these people are winners or losers.

Winner: _____ Why: _____

Winner: _____ Why: _____

Winner: _____ Why: _____

Loser: _____ Why: _____

Loser: _____ Why: _____

Loser: _____ Why: _____

Session 1: The world's view vs. God's view

Write down three famous winners and three famous losers and why these people are winners or losers.

Winner: _____ Why: _____

Winner: _____ Why: _____

Winner: _____ Why: _____

Loser: _____ Why: _____

Loser: _____ Why: _____

Loser: _____ Why: _____