

Make You, Not Break You

James 1:1-18

K-5 Joint Group Time

Main Point - God wants to push you to do better, but not push you so hard that you fail. Whenever you do fail, it's never God's fault.

Memory Verse

Romans 8:28

This memory verse can be found on the *MV1* CD. To order your copy, go to the Products page of the *Kidswise* web site. Or, this memory verse is available on the Products page of the *Kidswise* web site under Audio. In order to download this memory verse, you need to have added the option Audio to your membership.

Singing

Select 2/3 songs about growing to be more like Jesus through hard times.

Drama

- Have three leaders perform the drama titled, *Make You, Not Break You (#2)*.
- This is a parallel story to the children's talk.

Make You, Not Break You

James 1:1-18

K-2 Group Time

Main Point - God wants to push you to do better, but not push you so hard that you fail. Whenever you do fail, it's never God's fault.

Hurdles and French Cricket

Need:

- pool noodles and boxes to set them up on for hurdles
- plastic cricket bats and soft balls for French cricket

Instructions:

- Take the children outside to a safe, grassed area.
- Divide them into small groups and have them spend time hurdling and playing French cricket.
- When all children have had a time playing both, seat them on picnic rugs and have your group discussion and prayer time outside under a tree.

Small Group Discussion

1. *What game or activity (i.e. music, art, dance, sport) do you want to get better at? How will you get better at it?*
(by practising it again and again, and by listening to people who can help you get better - coach, dance teacher, art teacher...)
2. *In the story about Sam and his dad and the cricket bat, how did Sam's Dad help him get better?*
(he taught him how to hold the bat, keep eyes on the ball, etc he also threw more difficult throws for Sam to hit)
3. *When Sam's Dad was throwing harder balls, was his Dad trying to get him out?*
(no, he was trying to help Sam get better at cricket)
4. *Sam also wanted to become a good hurdler. What did Sam's coach do to help him get better?*
(he taught him how to jump, keep eyes on finish line, etc he

also raised the bar for Sam to jump higher)

5. *When Sam's coach raised the bar, was he trying to make Sam fail?*

(no, he was trying to help Sam get better at hurdles)

Conclusion:

- *It was not easy for Sam.*
- *And Sam's coach and Dad didn't make it easy for him.*
- *They both wanted him to get better.*
- *Being a Christian is not easy.*
- *But God won't make life easy for us.*
- *In fact God wants to use the hard times in our life to make us better.*
- *He wants to make us more and more like his Son, Jesus.*

Need: the following phrases written out on cards (for Kindergarten you will need to reduce the number of cards and draw a picture/symbol beside the phrase)

- more patient
- love our enemies
- stop and think before we speak
- control our anger
- trust God
- love others the way we would like to be loved
- pray more
- say sorry when we hurt others
- be more generous with our things

Introduce each card and talk about how Jesus was always patient, never lost control of his temper, perfectly trusted God, etc.

Application:

- *We need to grow to be more like Jesus.*
- *Hard times can help us become more like Jesus.*
- *So when we are sick, we can either get angry with God for being sick or we can learn to be patient, pray more, and trust him more.*
- *What other hard things happen?*
(bullying, failing, getting hurt, friends leaving, being teased for following Jesus...)

Activity:

- Ask the group to select an appropriate card for each one of the hard things they come up with.

Prayer Time

Repeated prayer

Father God, – thank you that – hard times can help us – to become more and more like Jesus. – Please help us – to trust you – and obey you – when things are tough. – Amen

Individual Prayer

Encourage the children to select a card from the discussion time and ask God to help them to grow and be better in that area.

Memory Verse Craft (option 1, more suitable for Kindergarten)

- Download the resource file titled, *James Stencils* (available on the *Kidswise* web site). Find the stencil of the memory verse Roman 8:28 written in octagonal shapes.
- Copy and cut one memory verse per child and hole punch the top.
- Provide plastic tubing and craft things (i.e. coloured pasta) to thread on to make a necklace. **Warning: check for allergies before using coloured pasta).**
- Thread the memory verse so that it sits in the middle at the front.

Memory Verse Craft (option 2)

- Download the resource file titled, *James Stencils* (available on the *Kidswise* web site). Find the stencil of the memory verse Roman 8:28 written as a jigsaw puzzle.
- Copy and cut one memory verse per child on A4 cardboard.
- Provide coloured pencils for the children to decorate the jigsaw puzzle.
- Provide scissors for the children to cut out the pieces of the puzzle and a paper bag in which to place the pieces.

Make You, Not Break You

James 1:1-18

3-5 Group Time

Main Point - God wants to push you to do better, but not push you so hard that you fail. Whenever you do fail, it's never God's fault.

Role Plays

Ask:

- *What game or hobby (i.e. music, art, dance, sport) do you want to get better at playing? How will you get better at it? (by practising it again and again, and by listening to people who can help you get better - coach, dance teacher, art teacher...)*
- Divide the children into small groups and ask each group to create a drama about getting better at doing something by having a coach, teacher, parents who both teaches and extends them.

Conclusion:

- *A good parent, teacher or coach will push you but will not push you so hard you fail.*
- *A good parent, coach or teacher wants you to get better.*
- *They don't want you to fail.*
- *They want you to improve.*
- *God wants that for us.*
- *He wants us to grow in our love, to be more patient, to learn to forgive others who hurt us.*
- *In other words, God wants us to be more and more like his Son, Jesus.*
- *Hard times can help us grow to be more like Jesus.*

Small Group Discussion

Read James 1:2-8

1. *What does James say will happen? v2*
(all kinds of trouble will come, hard times)

2. *What sort of trouble do you think James is talking about?
The trouble you get into for talking in class? Read verse 3 for help.*
(being tested for following Jesus: saying no, saying yes, missing out, giving more, being left-out, feeling the odd one out all because you follow Jesus)
3. *When we are tested for following Jesus, what does James say will happen to us? v4*
(we will become the way God had planned for us, become mature, we will have everything we need)
4. *In the story about Sam and his Dad and the cricket bat, how did Sam's Dad help him get better?*
(he taught him how to hold the bat, keep eyes on the ball, etc he also threw more difficult throws for Sam to hit)
5. *When Sam's Dad was throwing harder balls, was his Dad trying to get him out?*
(no, he was trying to help Sam get better at cricket)
6. *Sam also wanted to become a good hurdler. What did Sam's coach do to help him get better?*
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7. *When Sam's coach raised the bar, was he trying to make Sam fail?*
(no, he was trying to help Sam get better at hurdles)

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Introduce each card and talk about how Jesus was always patient, never lost control of his temper, perfectly trusted God, etc.

Application:

- *We need to grow to be more like Jesus.*
- *Hard times can help us become more like Jesus.*
- *So when we are sick, we can either get angry with God for being sick or we can learn to be patient, pray more, and trust him more.*
- *What other hard things happen?*
(death, bullying, failing, getting hurt, friends leaving, being teased...)

Activity:

- Ask the group to select an appropriate card for each one of the hard things they come up with.

Prayer Time

- Encourage the children to select a card from the discussion time and ask God to help them to grow and be better in that area.
- If possible, seek out material suitable for children and pray about people being persecuted for being a Christian.

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