

# “Three Questions” - LESSON 1

## “Who Am I Trying To Please?”

### Main Focus:

We must live for the approval of God, not of other people!



### Power Verse:

“Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God?” - Galatians 1:10a (NIV)



### Watt's Up:

“I'm Gonna Please God, Not Please People!”

## LEADER'S INFO

It's not easy to go against the crowd. So often, we choose to follow the crowd instead of doing what's right. Children, especially, tend to give in to peer pressure.

Taking a stand and pleasing God is much more difficult than trying to please the crowd. The Apostle Paul was never a man who chose to please the crowd.

Through the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, the children are going to learn all about how important it is to make up your mind to please God, no matter what. They will learn that, when you live to please God, He will always bless your life.

The first of the three questions that Paul asks is, “Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God?” Let us all choose - GOD!



### “LIVE” Intro Segment (pt 1)

“Intro to series”



### Character Skit

“You're A Cheater” (pt. 1)



### “LIVE” Intro Segment (pt 2)

“Intro to series”



### “Watt's Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt's Up?”



### Offering Time



### Game On!

“Q-Tip Torpedo”



### Bible Story

“Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego”



### Power Verse Video

“Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God?” - Galatians 1:10a (NIV)



### Call To Action

“Who Are You Trying To Please?”



### Brain Drain

PowerPoint Review Game



### Small Group Experience

**Main Focus:**

We must live for the approval of God, not of other people!



**Power Verse:**

“Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God?” - Galatians 1:10a (NIV)



**Watt’s Up:**

“I’m Gonna Please God, Not Please People!”

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“Intro to series”

**Character Skit**

“You’re A Cheater” (pt. 1)

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“Q-Tip Torpedo”

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“Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego”

**Power Verse Video**

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**Call To Action**

“Who Are You Trying To Please?”

**Brain Drain**

PowerPoint Review Game

**Small Group Experience**

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

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## “LIVE” Intro Segment (Pt. 1)

**Leader:** Hey kids! Today we are starting a brand new series called, “3 Questions.” It’s all about the book of Galatians. Have you ever heard of the book of Galatians?

*(allow kids to respond)*

**Leader:** It’s a book in the New Testament that is actually a letter written by the Apostle Paul to the people in the church of Galatia. In this letter, Paul asks three very important questions. These three questions are ones that each of us need to ask ourselves as well. Do you want to know what the first question is?

*(allow kids to respond)*

**Leader:** Well, believe me, I can’t wait to share the first question with you. It’s what we are going to be learning about today. But, first I want you to watch this skit. It is going to help you see what the first question is all about...



## CHARACTER SKIT

**Characters: Boy and Girl** (You can either use an actual boy and girl OR you can use adults who are dressed up as kids)

(Scene is set at a school classroom. “Boy” and “Girl” both walk in the room at the same time.)

**BOY:** (opens his books and reviews for the big test they have today. He’s very giddy and he notices the girl beside him.) Hi, there (very shaky voice). Are you ready for the big chemistry test today? Dr. Germs said this test is worth 75% of our grade. I’ve been studying for weeks for this puppy!

**Girl:** OH NO!!! I forgot to study. I forgot all about this test. What am I going to do?

**BOY:** (Shocked) You didn’t study???? That’s terrible – you’ll probably flunk this class.

**Girl:** (confidently) No, I won’t. Because you’re going to help me.

**BOY:** That’s right – I’m going to help you...(does a doubletake) I’m going to what???

**Girl:** Shhhh – not so loud. You’re going to help me on this test. Just make sure that you lean to the side so I can see your paper.

**BOY:** (Very loud and offended) BUT, THAT’S CHEATING!!!!!!!

**Girl:** SHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!

**BOY:** OH, SORRY.

**Girl:** Listen, don’t you have a crush on me?

**BOY:** Well, of course I do. You’re the prettiest girl in the entire school. You’re everything to me. You’re the cream in my coffee, the dirt in my ant farm, the jelly to my peanut butter...

**Girl:** (interrupting) ok STOP! You’re starting to really freak me out. If you really like me and you want me to like you, then you better let me copy off of your paper or you’ll never have a chance to have me as a girlfriend...

**BOY:** But...God says that cheating is wrong.

**Girl:** Well, it’s your choice. Are you going to do what God wants or what I want? Hurry up and decide – we’re about to start.

Lights Out



## “LIVE” Intro Segment (Pt. 2)

**Leader:** WOW! That boy is in a tough situation isn't he? He has a hard choice to make. He can either try to please this girl that he really really likes - OR he can try to please God. Which do you think he should choose?

*(allow kids to respond)*

**Leader:** That's right! We should always choose to please God and do what He wants for our lives. After all, He is our Creator, our Lord, and our Savior. The sad thing is, not everyone makes the choice to please God every time. In fact, sometimes WE choose to please people instead of God.

The Apostle Paul wrote about this in the book of Galatians. As a matter of fact, it is the first question that we are going to ask ourselves in this “3 Questions” series. The first question is found in Galatians 1:10. “Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God?”

This question is one that we must all ask ourselves every single day. There is a part of each of us that really wants people to like us. We want people to think we are cool. We want people to be pleased with us, so sometimes we make terrible choices.

Instead of seeking to please people, we should seek to please God in all things. That's what we are going to be learning about today. Since you know that, let's check in with Skittles and see “Watt's Up?”

*(play “Watt's Up Teaching” video)*



**GAME ON!**  
**“Q-Tip Torpedos”**

**Items Needed For Game:**

2 Lg Pkg of “Q-Tip” cotton swabs; two straws; two small garbage cans

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**Preparation:**

Choose one boy and one girl to play in this game. Place each player directly in front of one of each of the garbage cans, approximately 5-7 feet away; give each player a straw and a bag of “Q-Tips”

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**How To Play:**

Take turns giving the players a chance to place a Q-Tip in their straw, then blow into the straw, shooting the “Q-Tip” like a torpedo across the room. Tell the players that they will each have ten shots to try to make as many of the “Q-Tip Torpedos” into the garbage can. The player who makes the most “Q-Tip Torpedos” into their garbage can - that team is declared the winner!



## Bible Story

### “Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego”

#### Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; the PowerPoint presentation for Lesson 1; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

#### Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Daniel 3; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

#### The Story:

Today’s Bible Story is found in the book of Daniel chapter 3. It’s a story of some really cool friends. Their names? Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They were godly men. They followed God with all of their hearts. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were prisoners in the country of Babylon. Babylon was ruled by a very mean king named Nebuchadnezzar. King Nebuchadnezzar decided that he was going to build a large statue and force everyone to worship it. He built a 90-foot tall statue made of pure gold. He ordered everyone in the kingdom to stop what they were doing, turn toward the statue, and worship it when they heard the trumpets blast.



This was kind of a weird plan, I know. But, he was serious. He declared that if anyone did NOT bow down and worship the image of gold, then they would be thrown into a furnace of fire. WOW! That’s one major punishment. If you don’t worship, you will burn to death.



(*show pic*) The time came, the trumpets blew, and everyone in the kingdom bowed down and worshipped the statue. Well, almost everyone. There were three people who chose NOT to bow down and worship the statue: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Now, they had every reason to bow down and worship. Not only were they surrounded by an entire country who was doing it, but if they didn’t do it they could be killed. Now, that is some MAJOR pressure. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego chose not to bow down to the idol. They knew that God only wants us to worship Him. They chose to please God instead of choosing to please the king.



When the king heard that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down, he was furious. (*show pic*) He ordered, “Throw them into the blazing furnace!” And that is exactly what happened. The soldiers threw them into the fire. (*show pic*) The fire was so hot, it instantly killed the soldiers who threw them in. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were now in the fire. The King watched the fire burn and burn. But then something happened. One of the king’s officials said, “Hey! Didn’t we throw three men in the fire? I am looking in the furnace, and there are not three men, but FOUR men. (*show pic*) They are walking around in there like there’s nothing wrong. The fourth one looks just like the son of God.”

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were allowed to exit the furnace. They were safe and they didn’t even smell like smoke. God had come through for them because they decided to live for God’s approval instead of man’s approval. Today, in our lesson, we will learn that God always comes through for those who live to please Him.



## Call To Action

### “Who Am I Trying To Please?”

#### Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; the two actors who participated in the character skit at the beginning of the lesson

#### Preparation:

Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled “Lesson One,” begin with the slide titled “Who Am I Trying To Please?”

#### The Message: *(title slide)*



Today, we are learning about the question that Apostle Paul asked in the first chapter of Galatians, “Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God?” It’s a very important question that we must ask each other every day. It’s a very difficult decision to make to live for God’s approval and not people’s approval.

Remember the boy and girl in the skit earlier? The girl wanted the boy to cheat. He knew that God didn’t want him to do it. He had a big decision to make. Would he choose to please God or would he choose to please people? Let’s see how things turned out for him...

*(Scenes opens with boy and girl sitting on a bench with the words “Principal’s Office” above them to the side. Boy is very worried and nervous. Girl is acting like she couldn’t care less while she plays with her gum.)*

**GIRL:** I can’t believe we got caught cheating on that test. It was three days ago. How did Dr. Germs figure it out?

**Boy:** *(Very angry)* Because you copied off of my test WORD FOR WORD. You even wrote my name where you’re supposed to write your name!

**GIRL:** *(clueless)* I still don’t know how they caught us.

**Boy:** I knew this was a mistake. I shouldn’t have let you copy off of my test. I knew it was wrong.

**GIRL:** If you knew it was wrong, then why did you do it?

**Boy:** Because I thought you would like me if I let you.

**GIRL:** Listen, I only told you that so you would let me copy off of your paper.

**Boy:** *(Sigh)* I was so worried about what you thought of me. I just wanted you to like me. I wanted you to  
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## Call To Action (Continued)

think I was awesome, but I know who I should have been worrying about.

**GIRL:** Who?

**Boy:** God. I should have been more concerned about the way He thinks of me. I should have been thinking about how to please Him and make Him happy, not make you happy!

**GIRL:** Gee, thanks a lot. What good would that have done for you?

**Boy:** Well, if I would have been trying to please God then I wouldn't have let you cheat off my test and I would have be able to keep my 99% on the test, and I wouldn't be sitting here next to you at the PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE!!!!!!

**GIRL:** I don't get it.

**Boy:** It's not your fault. I made the wrong decision. From now on, I'm going to make sure the only person I try to please is God. If I'm not making Him happy, then I'm going to change what I'm doing.

*(voice comes from off stage - perhaps into a microphone - "The principal will see you both now.")*

**Boy:** *(looks at the audience and is not excited at all)* Great.

*(they both exit)*

Wow! He found out that it just doesn't pay when you try to please people. He chose to cheat and try to please the girl instead of do the right thing and please God. He learned a lesson that we need to learn...

**If I Live To Please People, I Will Fail** *(slide)*



If I live to please people, I will fail. Why? Because it is impossible to please everyone. You can't dress a certain way in order to make everyone like you. You can't act a certain way that will make everyone happy with you. One thing you do to make one person happy, but it might make another person angry. Living to please people is a waste of time. It will never turn out well. If you live to please people, you will fail. However...

**If I Live To Please God, I Will Succeed** *(slide)*



You see, God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He doesn't change his mind every five minutes like people do. He is the ONLY one we should live to please. He is our God. He is our Heavenly Father. He will  
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## Call To Action (Continued)

never leave us or forsake us. Why would we ever want to live to please people? People will sometimes turn their backs on us. God never will. He loves us. That’s why...

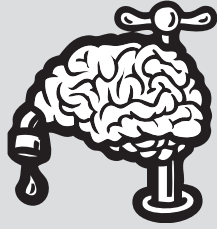
**I Must Choose Daily Who I Will Live To Please** *(slide)*



It is a daily decision. When we wake up in the morning we must ask ourselves, “Am I going to please God or am I going to please people?” It won’t just happen automatically. We must CHOOSE every day who we are going to live to please. Let’s let the answer to this big question be...I will choose to please God!

**ALTAR RESPONSE** *(play soft music)*

Pray with the children who have been struggling with living to please the crowd. Many of them may have been giving in to peer pressure lately. Many of them realize they need to change who they are living to please. Lead them in a prayer of consecration to God. Pray that they will daily choose to please God - not people!



## **BRAIN DRAIN**

### **Materials Needed:**

The Data Disc; The DVD

### **Preparation:**

Play the “Brain Drain” Video Intro off the DVD; Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled “Lesson One,” begin with the slide titled “Brain Drain”; there is a slide for each question

**1. Watt’s Up today?**

**Answer:** “I’m Gonna Please God, Not Please People!”

**2. Who were the three friends in our Bible Story?**

**Answer:** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

**3. What did the king command them to do?**

**Answer:** Worship The Statue

**4. What did the king order to be done with the men?**

**Answer:** Have Them Thrown Into The Fire

**5. Who did the 4th man in the fire look like?**

**Answer:** The Son Of God

**6. According to our lesson today, “If I Live To Please People, I Will \_\_\_\_\_!”**

**Answer:** Fail

**7. According to our lesson today, “If I Live To Please God, I Will \_\_\_\_\_.”**

**Answer:** Succeed

**8. According to our lesson today, “I Must Choose \_\_\_\_\_ Who I Will Live To Please.”**

**Answer:** Daily

**9. What is the name of the series we began today?**

**Answer:** 3 Questions

**10. Where was our Power Verse found?**

**Answer:** Galatians 1:10a

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