

“The NEW Normal” - LESSON 3

“A.C.T. Normal!”

Main Focus:

Greed opens the door to even more dangerous sins!



Power Verse:

“Follow God’s example in everything you do, because you are his dear children.”

- Ephesians 5:1



Watt’s Up:

“I Will ACT Like Jesus In Everything I Do!”

LEADER’S INFO

We don’t often associate GREED as a “dangerous” sin. However, the Apostle Paul lists it along with other dangerous actions as something to avoid.

Paul taught in Ephesians 5 about how we, as Christians, are to act. When we allow ourselves to be full of greed, it opens the door to even more self-ish actions.

In this lesson, the children will learn the importance of avoiding greed, cleaning up their thoughts and actions, and making sure there is not even a “hint” of impurity in their lives.

Through the story of Judas’ greedy mistake, the children will learn how to A.C.T. Normal.



“The Spark” Intro Video

“A Toy That ROCKS!”



“Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt’s Up?”



Character Skit

“Abby Normal”



Offering Time



Game On!

“ROCK and ROLL Relay”



Bible Story

“Judas’ Greedy Mistake”



Power Verse Video

“Follow God’s example in everything you do, because you are his dear children.”

- Ephesians 5:1



Call To Action

“A.C.T. Normal”



Brain Drain

PowerPoint Review Game



Small Group Experience

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Watt’s Up:

“I Will ACT Like Jesus In Everything I Do!”

ORDER OF SERVICE

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THE SPARK Intro Video **“A Toy That ROCKS!”**

Play “The Spark” Intro Video (found on the DVD or the Data Disc)

The video depicts a VERY wrong idea of what is the NORMAL way a Christian should act. After you play the video, say the following:

SAY:

“Wow, kids. That was a VERY messed up idea of what a Christian should act like, wasn’t it? That guy was acting very greedy. All he could think about was the toy he wanted. He ignored all of those people with needs and focused only on himself. Sadly, that is NORMAL for some people. They don’t realize how dangerous Greed can be. Greed opens the door to even more dangerous sinful behavior.

God has called us to change the way we act. When you become a Christian, you have to stay away from Greed. Don’t allow that selfish mindset to rule your life. Others may act like the boy on our video, but as Christians we must have a NEW NORMAL.

In today’s lesson, we are going to learn from Ephesians 5. The Apostle Paul teaches a NEW NORMAL of acting that we ALL should live by. What we just saw on this video is NOT the way we should be. We must avoid Greed. It always leads to a selfish attitude and dangerous, sinful behavior. That is exactly what we are going to learn about today!”



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Abby Normal” (eccentric, dreamy, and somewhat out of touch with reality. Her attitude is laid back and she seems generally disinterested in things, but she never comes across as sarcastic or mean. She is always smacking gum.)

(Abby comes walking out onstage, she is trying to hula hoop)

Leader: Hey everybody, it’s our friend Abby!

ABBY: *(stops what she is doing, holds the hula-hoop up to her face and starts talking to it)* Your name’s Abby? That’s MY name. You can’t have MY name.

Leader: No, I’m talking to YOU, Abby Normal!

ABBY: *(to the leader)* Sorry, I’m kind of in the middle of something. *(back to the hula hoop)* You have the same last name too? That’s identity theft. Are you going to try and steal my favorite color too?

Leader: Abby I don’t think you understand --

ABBY: *(Interrupts)* Too bad, you can’t steal my favorite color – because it doesn’t exist. Turtle isn’t a color. That makes the score Abby – 1. Spinny-Hoop-Thingy – 0. You’re even shaped like a zero.

Leader: *(turns to the kids)* Guys, in case you forgot, this is our friend Abby Normal. Her friends call her Ab.

ABBY: *(to the kids)* Yeah, Ab Normal, that’s me. *(turns back to the hula-hoop)* Don’t interrupt, that’s rude.

Leader: *(to the kids)* She’s a little...DIFFERENT. *(back to Abby)* Ab, why are you talking to a hula-hoop?

ABBY: This? *(looks at hula-hoop)* A Hula-hoop? I don’t like that name. It sounds made up. Hey – is this the dog pound?

Leader: Huh?

ABBY: The dog pound. I need a place to drop off my cousin.

Leader: What??? Why do you need a dog pound for your cousin?? Is your cousin a dog?

ABBY: No, if she were a dog she’d actually be useful. I could get her to sit, fetch, study astrophysics, bake cookies, y’know, dog stuff.

Leader: WHAT?! Ab, that is the WEIRDEST thing I have EVER heard!

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CHARACTER SKIT

(continued)

ABBY: Weirder than this? *(crosses her eyes and makes a strange howling noise)*

Leader: What was that supposed to be??

ABBY: That would have been the sound of my grandma at Sea World. AAAAAAAAnyway, are you sure this isn't the dog pound?

Leader: YES! I'm sure this isn't the dog pound!! Why do you keep asking me that?!

ABBY: You sure you wanna know? *(talks to the kids)* You guys REALLY wanna know? *(sighs)* Okay, well I was with my cousin, Imma. You know, Imma Weirdo? Well, we went to the mall and she was supposed to split up her spending money with me, but she was being a brat. She wouldn't let ANYBODY have it. She's SO GREEDY.

Leader: That's not very nice.

ABBY: That's what I said. Well, I actually THOUGHT it. Well...I didn't think THAT exactly. I thought about how I wish I could lock her up in a cage like at the dog pound.

Leader: Please tell me you didn't lock up your cousin in a DOG CAGE!

ABBY: Nah, I couldn't find any dog cages at the shoe store. Which is weird, you would think they would sell those, right? Aaaaaaaanyway, instead of locking her up, I reminded her that the Bible says we're supposed to follow God's example in everything we do, and she wasn't being very Godly.

Leader: Wow, good job Ab! *(turns to the kids)* Boys and girls, that's what we're talking about today! God wants us act just like Him. He doesn't want there to be a single HINT of sin in our lives.

ABBY: I know, right? So I told Imma what it says in the book of Ephesians, about how we shouldn't be greedy. She cleaned up her act, and she shared her spending money with me.

Leader: Did you buy that hula-hoop?

ABBY: Huh? *(looks down at the hula-hoop and acts surprised)* THERE you are! *(pause)* What do you mean you've been here the whole time? *(pause)* I don't believe you. *(turns back to the kids)* I'll see you later, boys and girls. We have an argument to settle. Like my neighbor always says "Two wrongs don't make a right, and never trust anything hoop shaped" or...something like that. Bye!

(Play "Abby Normal's Theme Music" from the DVD as she exits while trying to hula hoop)



GAME ON!

“ROCK And ROLL Relay”

Items Needed For Game:

ten small rocks; some “high energy” music

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Preparation:

Choose five boys and five girls to compete in this game. Line the teams up on one side of the room. Place five small rocks in a pile straight across the room from the boys and straight across the room from the girls.

Before the game say,
“Today, we saw a funny commercial about a ROCK on our video. So, we are going to play a crazy game using rocks.”

.....

How To Play:

When you say, “Go!”, start the high energy music. The children must run to the other side of the room, grab a rock, then drop to the floor and ROLL all the way back to their line on the other side of the room. When they reach the front of their line, they must tag the next person in line who then does the same thing. The first team to get down to the other side of the room, get all their rocks, and ROLL back to their original side of the room wins!



Bible Story

“Judas’ Greedy Mistake”

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; the PowerPoint presentation for Lesson 3; 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 Matthew 26:14-27:10 ; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

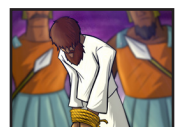
Jesus had twelve disciples that followed Him and learned from Him. Unfortunately, not all of them learned well. There was one disciple, Judas, who didn’t learn from Jesus’ example. *(show pic)* Judas was a very greedy person. He was always thinking of ways he could cheat and get more money.

One day, that greed led Judas to do a terrible thing. *(show pic)* He went to the religious leaders, the Pharisees, and asked them, “How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?” WHAT? He was going to turn Jesus over to the Pharisees so Jesus could be crucified. Jesus was his mentor, his teacher, and his friend. Yet, his greed led him to have such a selfish mind that he was willing to sell Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.

The time came for Judas to do the job. *(show pic)* He led the Pharisees to where Jesus was praying with the disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane. They brought soldiers with them, in case there was trouble. Judas walked up to Jesus and *(show pic)* kissed Him on the cheek. This was the sign he told the Pharisees he would give them to show them which person was Jesus.

Once Judas kissed Jesus’ cheek, *(show pic)* the soldiers arrested Jesus. They took him to court and sentenced Him to be crucified. All of this happened because Judas was full of greed. Judas ended up feeling bad about what he did. Judas killed himself as a result. It was a sad ending to his life.

Often, we think greed is not that big of a deal. However, as we will learn in our lesson today, the Apostle Paul lists it along with some very dangerous and harmful sins. Greed opens the door of our life into living a life of selfishness. Selfishness leads to all kinds of sinful behaviors. That is why it is so important to get rid of greed in our lives. We must learn to have a NEW NORMAL in our lives that does NOT include greed.





Call To Action

“A.C.T. Normal”

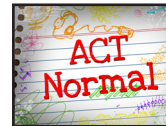
Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; The DVD; a large stack of money; a dry-erase board, eraser, and marker; large bag of candy (with enough for everyone in the room to have a piece)

Preparation:

Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled “Lesson Three,” begin with the slide titled “A.C.T. Normal.” Cue the video titled “A Toy That ROCKS pt. 2”

The Message: *(title slide)*



Today, we continue learning about “The NEW Normal” as it relates to our actions. We are going to use the letters “A.C.T.” to learn about three things that the Apostle Paul teaches in Ephesians 5. They are three important lessons to learn if we are going to A.C.T. in the “NEW Normal” way that God wants us to act.

First, I want to show you something, then I want you to tell me how it makes you feel. You ready? *(hold up the wad of money)* Money! Looks good, doesn't it? Just looking at it makes most of us think of all the things we could do with it. Some of you immediately think about all the video games you could buy, all the candy you could buy, or all the clothes you could buy with this money. Money's good. It's not evil. We need money to survive and to live.

Some people get a little confused about just HOW important money and possessions should be in their lives. They live their lives trying to get as much money and possessions as they can, thinking that will make them happy. Judas was that way. That is called “greed.” *(divide the dry-erase board in half and write the word “GREED” on the left side of the board)* A greedy person lives their life trying to get as much stuff as they can and keep it for themselves. A greedy person doesn't like to share and doesn't like to give. *(pull out the bag of candy)* See all this candy? It's a lot! It tastes good! I bet you all want some, don't you? *(let the children respond)* Well, too bad! You can't have any. It's mine, and I don't want to share! *(allow the children to react)*

That's the way a greedy person thinks. They don't want to share or give of their possessions to others. They don't want to give any of their money to the church or to help other people in need. They are greedy. Do you know what the Bible says about GREED? It's the first letter in the word A.C.T. that we will study today...

A - Avoid Greed *(slide)*



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Call To Action (Continued)

Paul teaches in Ephesians 5:3, “But among you there must not be even a hint of...any kind of impurity, or of GREED, because these are improper for God’s holy people.” Why? Because being greedy is a terrible way to live. When a person lives a life of greed they say, “This is MINE!” (write “SELFISHNESS” on the dry-erase board underneath the word GREED) Greed is all about selfishness. Greed is sin. It’s totally not the way God wants us to live. What’s worse is, just like we learned in the story of Judas, greed leads to even more dangerous sinful behavior. (Draw an arrow coming from the word “GREED” and pointing to the other side of the dry-erase board. Then, write the words “MORE SIN” at the end of the arrow) Obviously, that is not what you want in your life. So, what if you discover that your life has some of these sinful behaviors? Well, you need to...

C - Clean Up Your Act (slide)



Remember, Paul says in Ephesians 5:3, “But among you there must not be even a hint of...any kind of IMPURITY, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people.” If we are going to A.C.T. Normal - the NEW Normal - then, we have to make sure that these sinful behaviors are not a part of our lives. We must do everything we can to ACT like Jesus. Our actions must not be focused on self, but on God. If there is sinful actions in our lives, we must clean them up - quickly! (take the eraser and erase the entire board)

You might be thinking, “Well, I really don’t have any BIG sins in my life. So, I am probably OK.” First of all, there is no such thing as BIG sins and LITTLE sins. Sin is sin. All sin breaks God’s heart. You can’t allow ANY sin to remain in your life. In fact, Paul teaches us...

T - There Must Be No HINT Of Sin (slide)

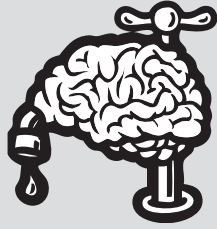


God wants us to set a good example for others. He wants us to stay away from greed and sinful behavior. That’s why Paul says in Ephesians 5:3, “But among you there must NOT BE EVEN A HINT...of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people.” Not even a hint! That means NONE! We must do our part to A.C.T. in the way that Ephesians teaches us is the NEW Normal.

Remember the kid in our video at the beginning today? Remember how he was so full of greed that it led him to even more dangerous sinful behavior - stealing? I wonder what it would have looked like if he lived “The NEW Normal” when it comes to avoiding greed and any HINT of sin. Let’s watch and see. (play the video titled “A Toy That ROCKS pt. 2”)

ALTAR RESPONSE: (play soft music)

Pray with the children that God would help them get rid of “The OLD Normal” way of greed and selfishness and replace it with “The NEW Normal” of avoiding greed and keep our actions clean - with not even a HINT of sin.



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 Three,” begin with the slide titled “Brain Drain”; there is a slide for each question

1. Watt’s Up today?

Answer: “I Will ACT Like Jesus In Everything I Do!”

2. What was the commercial all about on our video?

Answer: the MEGA Rock

3. What was the name of the disciple we learned about in today’s Bible Story?

Answer: Judas

4. How much money did Judas receive in exchange for betraying Jesus?

Answer: thirty pieces of silver

5. What did Judas do to show the Pharisees who Jesus was?

Answer: kissed his cheek

6. What did the soldiers do to Jesus?

Answer: they arrested Him

7. According to our lesson today, you should “Avoid _____.”

Answer: Greed

8. According to our lesson today, you should “_____ Up Your Act.”

Answer: Clean

9. According to our lesson today, “There Must Not Be A _____ Of Sin.”

Answer: Hint

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Ephesians 5:1

Small Group Experience

LESSON 3 - "ACT Normal"



Watt's Up:

"I Will ACT Like Jesus In Everything I Do!"



Power Verse:

"Follow God's example in everything you do, because you are his dear children." - **Ephesians 5:1**

SUPPLY LIST:

None needed

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the Bible Story from the excerpt provided. Throughout the story the word, "**GREED**" will appear in the script. To add a twist say it with a sinister sounding voice. Tell the kids to listen for you to say the word "**GREED**". When they hear you say "**GREED**" they should respond aloud by saying "was getting in!" Encourage them to say their part with a sinister voice as well.

Say - "There's something sneaky in our room today. It's even in our story! DUN DUN DUNNN!!!! I am going to read the lesson, and your job is to listen for the sneaky word. Are you ready to find out what the sneaky word is? The sneaky word is "**GREED!**" Every time you hear the word "**GREED**" I want you to answer me in your most sinister voice by saying, "was getting in!" Do you think you can do that for me? Ok! Here we go..."

*Jesus had twelve disciples that followed Him and learned from Him. Unfortunately, not all of them learned well. There was one disciple, Judas, who didn't learn from Jesus' example. Judas was full of **GREED**. He was always thinking of ways he could cheat and get more money.*

*One day, that **GREED** led Judas to do a terrible thing. He went to the religious leaders, the Pharisees, and asked them, How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?" WHAT? He was going to turn Jesus over to the Pharisees so Jesus could be crucified. Jesus was his mentor, his teacher, and his friend. Yet, his **GREED** led him to have such a selfish mind that he was willing to sell Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.*

*The time came for Judas to do the job. He led the Pharisees to where Jesus was praying with the disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane. They brought soldiers with them, in case there was trouble. Judas, full of **GREED**, walked up to Jesus and kissed Him on the cheek. This was the sign he told the Pharisees he would give them to show them which person was Jesus.*

*Once Judas kissed Jesus' cheek, the soldiers arrested Jesus. They took him to court and sentenced Him to be crucified. All of this happened because Judas was full of **GREED**."*

Ask - "Why do you think Judas gave into greed?"

Say - "Greed is like so many sins - it is sneaky. It creeps into your life one small step at a time. Once you take that first step, greed entices you to go deeper and deeper on a path towards a life totally trapped in sin."

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Game/Activity

SUPPLY LIST:

- * “Maze” print piece (*provided; print one per child*)
- * Markers or crayons (*enough for the group to share*)

Teacher Instruction:

Give each child a maze and something to write with. Explain that they are to work their way through the maze without getting hung up on greed or trapped in sin. This activity is simply for fun and to reinforce the concept of staying away from GREED!

Say - “How many of you have ever worked a maze puzzle or walked through a maze? The object is to get from start to finish without getting lost or trapped. I have a maze puzzle for you! Your goal is to get from the start to the finish without getting trapped by greed and sin. I will give you a few minutes to work your maze puzzle.”

- Allow the kids time to work their maze puzzle. -

Group Sharing

SUPPLY LIST:

- * “Get Away” print piece (*provided; print one per child*)
- * Crayons or markers (*several for the group to share*)
- * Scissors (*several pair for the group to share*)
- * Colorful scrap paper
- * Glue or glue sticks
- * Other various craft supplies that might be used to decorate the print piece

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before class begins print the Get Away print piece, preferably on card stock so it can hold the weight of the decorations. Give each child a copy of the print piece. The object of this group sharing is to talk about ways to get away from greed. Tell the kids that you will give them a few minutes to design a “Get Away From Greed” suit for their person. They can draw whatever they want but every piece of gear must have an explanation. Some of the suit may contain humorous pieces, but each suit must contain some legitimate ways to avoid greed. After they have designed their suits allow them to present them to the group and share their getaway methods!

Say - “Every good soldier needs some sort of protective gear to keep them safe. A soldier in God’s army is no different! As Christians we are in a war against sin. It wants to overtake us with things like GREED. To fight back we must be fully prepared with our ‘Getaway From Greed Gear!’ I have given you a picture of a person who really needs some gear. I will give you a few minutes to design a suit that will protect them from sneaky enemy greed attacks. Label your gear so you can explain to us what each piece does. After you have completed your gear I will give you a chance to share it with the class. Be creative and have fun!”

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-Allow the kid’s time to design their Getaway From Greed Suits-

Ask - “Would anyone like to share their design with the class?”

Say - “Allowing greed in our life can set us on a path to being trapped by sin.”

Ask - “How do we recognize greed trying to sneak into our life?”

Ask - “What are some situations when we might be tempted to be greedy?”

Say - “What should we do when we feel greedy?”

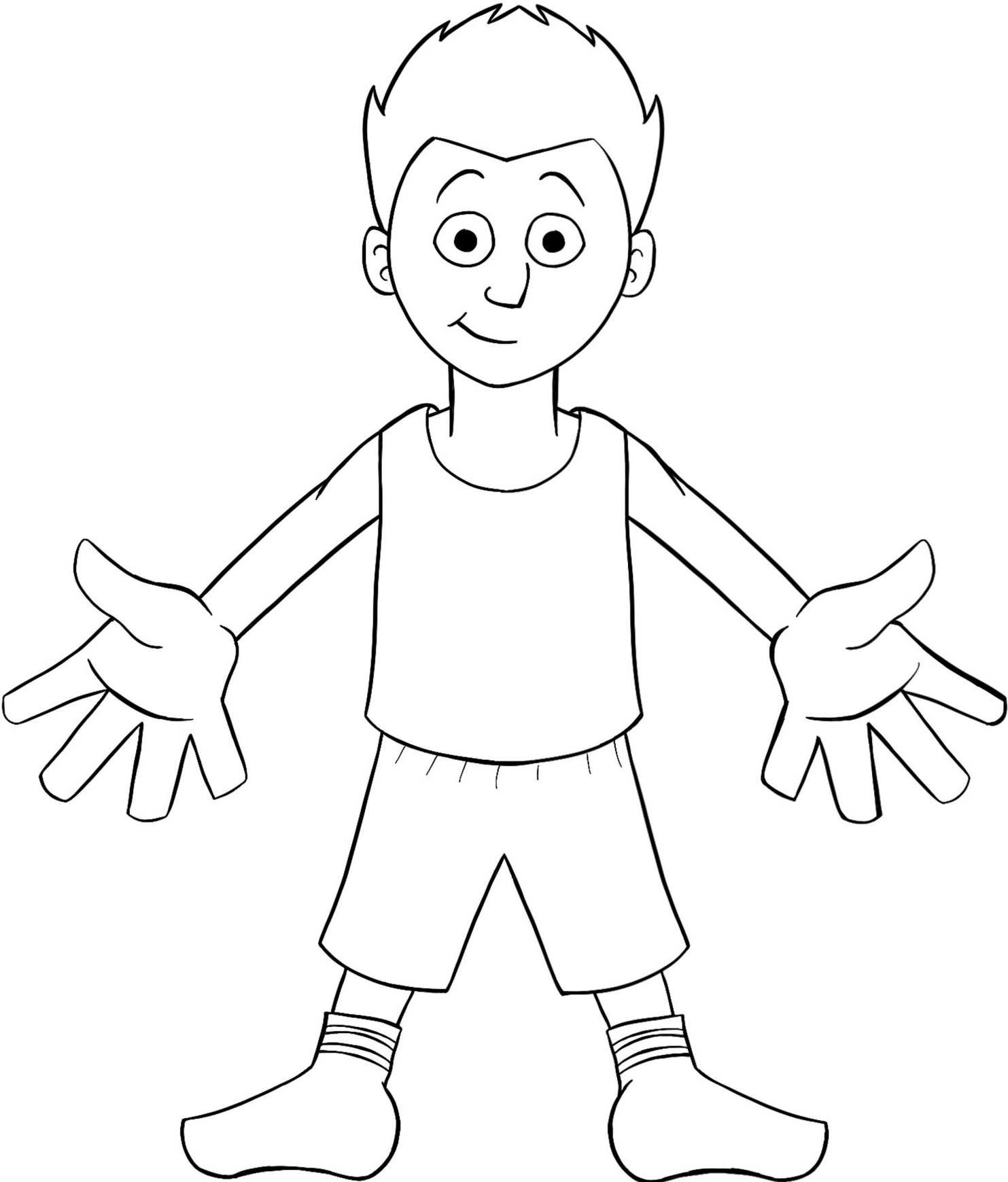
Ask - “Keeping sin in check is something we must do every day. We cannot let even the smallest sin stay in our life. I am sure that Judas never thought that his greed would lead him to turn Jesus over to be killed. His greed probably started with something small. He wanted just a little more money or a few more things. Maybe he was jealous of something that someone else had a time or two, that’s no big deal right? **NO WAY!** Sin is always a big deal! We must **GET AWAY** from sin as soon as we see it in our life. **NEVER** let sin stay, always **GET AWAY!**”

Prayer Time

Say - “No one is immune to greed. At some point and time in everyone’s life they will struggle with greed. Today as we pray let’s ask God to help open our eyes to see when we might be getting too close to greed. Then let’s pray and ask God to help us get away from sin every day!” (PRAY)

Closing

Say - “I sure am glad that you guys were here to learn this lesson with me today! That’s right, I said with me. This is a lesson that is important for every single person to learn. The world is full of greed, and that is nothing new. Judas allowed greed to take over his life. We see the same thing happening in the world today. People think that to be happy they need to have more stuff. More electronics, more clothes, more toys, more cars, more more more! Normal for the world is to have more and not be happy unless you’re always getting more. That may be the world’s normal, but that’s not God’s normal! The New Normal is to be happy with what you have and to get away from greed!”

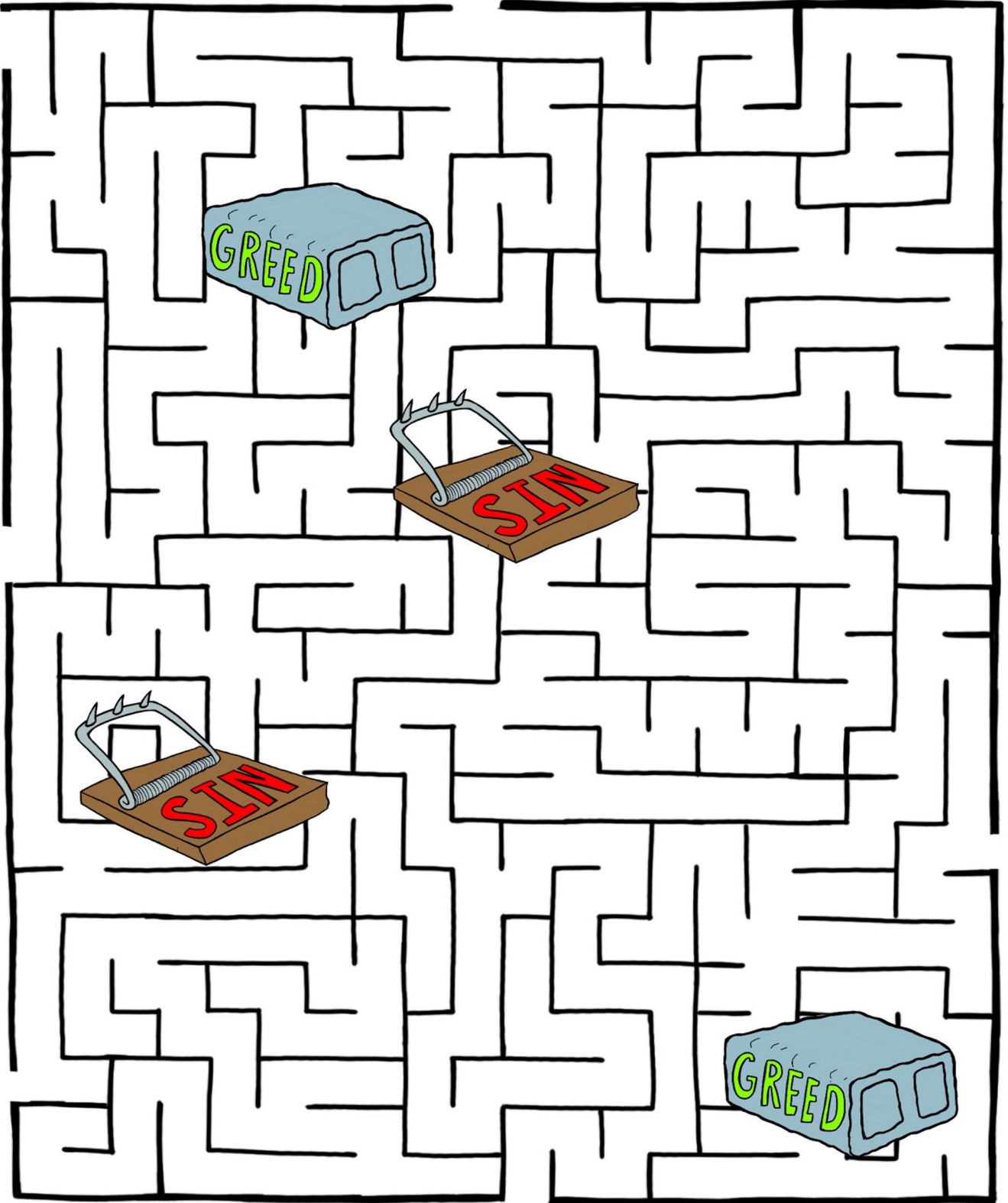


START

START

START

START



START

FINISH

Family Devotion

“A.C.T. Normal”



Watt's Up:

“I Will ACT Like Jesus In Everything I Do!”



Power Verse:

“Follow God’s example in everything you do, because you are his dear children.” - **Ephesians 5:1**

This week the children learned from Paul in Ephesians 5 that we must avoid impurity in our lives. One of the areas that Paul addressed was that of GREED.

Read Ephesians 5:3 together.

Ask:

- Why do you think Paul included greed among the other sins in his list?
- Can greed really be that dangerous?
- Why? Or why not?

Say:

Paul teaches that greed is just as destructive to our lives as any other sin. He goes on to say, “...such sins have no place among God’s people.”

Ask:

- Have you ever found yourself desperately wanting a toy you saw in a commercial?
- Did you buy that toy and/or ask for it as a gift from someone else?
- After you had the toy for a few months, did you get tired of it?

Say:

Greed has a way of making us want things that we really don’t need. We end up wanting more money, more toys, more clothes, etc. We become totally focused on ourselves and getting what we want that we end up ignoring the things that really matter. Sometimes, we even end up ignoring God. We must pray and ask God to give us self-control to avoid being controlled by greed in our lives.

Pray:

Ask God to help every member of the family avoid greed. Instead of thinking of themselves, let everyone think of others and their needs above their own.