








LESSON 2 AT A GLANCE

In Opposition

ACTIVITY	MINUTES	GRADE LEVEL	FOCUS	PITstops	*OTHER SUPPLIES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPENING ACTIVITY Who Should I Listen To?	5	1-6			chairs, blindfold
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LESSON In Opposition	10	1-6			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MEMORY VERSE	5	1-6			small empty boxes/plastic bottles, bean bag/foam ball
REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITY (Choose One Option)					
<input type="checkbox"/> OPTION 1 Modern Day Bible Stories	10	1-6			simple costumes and props (optional)
<input type="checkbox"/> OPTION 2 Brainstorm	5	1-6			
<input type="checkbox"/> WORSHIP PROGRAM Be Strong	10	1-6			
<input type="checkbox"/> LET'S DO IT! (LDI)					
The First Stone	5	1-2			
Fishing Line Find	5	3-4			
Almost Stoned	5	5-6			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DIALOGUE FOLDER					
iSPEAK	5	1-2			
iSPEAK	5	3-4			
iSPEAK	5	5-6			

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOME

This lesson will help junior soldiers understand that Jesus experienced opposition during His life, but stood firm and continued to follow God's will and purpose for His life.

YOU ARE HERE!



Place the timeline marker on **30 A.D.** on the **New Testament** timeline.

*In addition to materials listed in this chart, you need Basic Classroom Supplies.

In Opposition

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE LEADER

BIBLE REFERENCES:

This lesson is based on the following Bible references:

Matthew 12:1-14; 21:12-17

Luke 6:1-11

John 4:1-42; 8:1-11

UNIT AIM:

This unit will help junior soldiers understand that, while Jesus is God, He is man as well, and that He experienced the same feelings and temptations that they do. They can learn how to handle these things by following Christ's example.

THROUGHOUT JESUS' public ministry, He faced many obstacles and much opposition. Not only did He face individuals who didn't believe He was the Son of God, He faced groups of people determined to end His ministry. Through it all Jesus remained faithful to His Father and His purpose.

Money Changers in the Temple

John places this incident at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. The other three gospels put it toward the end. This incident illustrates the dishonesty, hypocrisy and prejudice of Israel's religious life. The real issue wasn't that they were selling animals, but that they were cheating and overcharging worshipers. These merchants were a part of the religious leadership. Even in this time of opposition, Jesus used the situation to teach the people about the proper way to treat God's house.

Healing on the Sabbath

Jewish interpretation of the fourth commandment had become laden with so many petty rules and restrictions that its primary purpose was lost. The Sabbath was intended for the physical and spiritual well being of man. It was a day to focus on worshiping God, and resting from work. Read Matthew 12:1-14 and Luke 6:1-11.

The Woman of Samaria

Traveling from Jerusalem to Galilee, Jesus passed through Samaria. Jews normally avoided this route because, after over 700 years of religious and racial prejudice, they didn't want contact with non-Jews. Jesus, however, stopped to talk with someone who was not only a non-Jew, but also a woman. She was surprised when Jesus told her more about herself than anyone else knew. When He explained that her needs weren't physical but spiritual, she was amazed. She told everyone about Him and many Samaritans believed because of this encounter at the well. Read John 4:1-42.

Accusers of the Woman Caught in Adultery

The accusers who brought the woman caught in adultery to Jesus were trying to push Him into contradicting the laws of Moses, but Jesus didn't condemn the woman. Instead He gave her a second chance. The Pharisees were loveless and moralizing. They cared nothing about the woman. Jesus saw that she needed forgiveness and acceptance. He used this situation to teach the people once again. Read John 8:1-11.

Use these examples to show your junior soldiers how Jesus continued His ministry even when He suffered opposition or ran into obstacles. Help your junior soldiers understand that the Holy Spirit will help them through times of opposition too!



OPENING ACTIVITY

Who Should I Listen To?

Before class, clear a large area in the center of the classroom. Place several chairs randomly throughout the space. Explain to the junior soldiers that one of them will have to find their way around the chairs blindfolded. Blindfold one older junior soldier and ask them to walk around the obstacle course of chairs. Instruct the other junior soldiers to shout out directions, some of them being false. The blindfolded junior soldier will find it difficult and confusing.

Next, instruct the blindfolded junior soldier to find their way through the obstacle course with one junior soldier whispering the correct instruction in their ear. When the blindfolded junior soldier completes the obstacle course, ask the following questions:

Say: **How did it feel the first time you tried to complete the obstacle course?** *(Allow response.)* **How did it feel the second time?** *(Allow response.)* **What made the difference?** *(Allow response.)*

Life can be confusing with so many people telling us what to do. Many times people tell us things that aren't right. They ask us to do things that are harmful for our health, or will get us into trouble. But, when we listen to the voice of God, and trust the Holy Spirit, we'll make good decisions. When we listen to Jesus we'll have the strength to do what's right!


BE AWARE!

Stay close and keep a watchful eye on the blindfolded junior soldier during this activity. The junior soldier's safety is your first priority in this activity.



LESSON

In Opposition


Before class, make one copy of  A for each junior soldier. Junior soldiers will color the pages during the lesson. At the end of the lesson cut out the pages and attach them to the booklet made during lesson one.

Say: **How did Jesus deal with temptation?** *(Allow response. Review lesson one.)* **During Jesus' ministry, He faced more than temptation. He faced much opposition. But, He didn't let them stop Him from following God's will.**

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- chairs
- blindfold

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- copies of  A
- crayons/markers



When Jesus went into the Temple in Jerusalem, He saw people buying and selling things, cheating each other out of money. Jesus was angry. Do you know why Jesus was angry? *(Allow response.)* The people weren't only mistreating each other; they were mistreating the Temple. The Temple was God's house. The people were disrespecting God.

Jesus said, "My house will be called a house where people can pray. But you are making it a 'den for robbers'" (Matthew 21:13 NIV). He overturned the tables, knocking money to the ground and driving away the animals. Then Jesus used the situation that upset Him to teach the people about respecting God and His house.

Instruct junior soldiers to color the page associated with this story.

Say: **At another time in Jesus' ministry He went to the Temple and saw a man who had a withered hand. The religious leaders were looking for a way to accuse Jesus of doing wrong, so they watched His every move. But Jesus knew what the religious leaders were thinking. He didn't let them stop Him from healing the man's hand.**

Jesus said to the man, "Get up and stand in front of everyone." The man got up. Then Jesus said to the religious leaders, "What does the Law say we should do on the Sabbath day? Should we do good? Or should we do evil? Should we save life? Or should we destroy it?" (Luke 6:8-9 NIV). He looked at their faces.

He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand" (Luke 6:10b NIV). The man followed Jesus' command, and his hand was healed! The religious leaders were angry, and they continued to plot against Jesus.

Even when people were planning to accuse Jesus of doing things He didn't do, Jesus remained faithful to God's will.

Instruct junior soldiers to color the page associated with this story.

Say: **Sometimes Jesus ran into opposition because He was a Jew. During the days when Jesus lived on earth, Jews and Samaritans didn't like each other. In fact, Jews didn't even walk through Samaria. They'd add miles to their trips so they didn't have to walk through Samaria. Jews and Samaritans didn't live together, talk to one another, or help each other.**

When Jesus and His disciples were walking to Galilee, they stopped by a well in Samaria. The disciples went in to town to buy food, and Jesus sat down by the well. While He was sitting there, a Samaritan woman came to get water. Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" She looked at Jesus and said, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (John 4:7b-9a NIV).



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Jesus answered, "You do not know what God's gift is. And you do not know who is asking you for a drink. If you did, you would have asked him. He would have given you living water." The woman said to Jesus, "You don't have anything to get water with... Where can you get this living water?" (John 4:10-11 NlrV).

Jesus said, "All who drink this water will be thirsty again. But anyone who drinks the water I give him will never be thirsty." The Samaritan woman said to Jesus, "Sir, give me this water. Then I will never be thirsty. And I won't have to keep coming here to get water" (John 4:13-15 NlrV).

Jesus said to the woman, "Go, get your husband and bring him here." The woman said, "I have no husband." (John 4:16-17 NlrV). Jesus told the woman many things about herself. She was surprised by what He knew. She asked Him if He was a prophet. Jesus told her that He was the Son of God, the Messiah. She ran into town to tell everyone that the Messiah was at the well.

When the disciples returned and saw Jesus speaking to the Samaritan woman, they were shocked.

Why do you think the disciples were shocked to see Jesus talking with the woman? (Allow response.) Jesus didn't let the opinions of others stop Him from doing God's will.

Instruct junior soldiers to color the page associated with this story.

Say: **Throughout Jesus' ministry, the Pharisees wanted to catch Jesus doing something wrong. They asked Him questions, trying to get Him to say something against the law so they could arrest Him.**

One day when Jesus was teaching, the Pharisees and religious leaders led in a woman who had been caught sinning. They said, "Teacher, this woman was caught [sinning] with a man who was not her husband... the Law... commanded us to kill such women by throwing stones at them. Now what do you say?" They were trying to trap Jesus. Jesus said, "Has any one of you not sinned? Then you be the first to throw a stone at her" (John 8:4-5, 7b NlrV).

The people left one at a time Jesus said to the woman, "Where are they? Hasn't anyone found you guilty?" She said, "No one, sir." Jesus told her, "Go... and leave your life of sin" (John 8:10-11 NlrV).

Jesus knew what God's law was and what it meant. Even when people were trying to accuse Him of breaking the law, He followed God's will.

Instruct junior soldiers to color the page associated with this story.



Say: **Do you think it was always easy for Jesus to stand up to others?**
(Allow response.)

Say: **Jesus trusted God's plan and continued to teach even when people tried to stop Him. As Christians we must stand up for our beliefs. Sometimes it's not easy to be a Christian, but with the help of the Holy Spirit we can stand firm in our faith, and do God's will.**



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- small empty boxes/
plastic bottles
- bean bag/foam ball

MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 33:11 (NIV) 

"But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever. What he wants to do will last for all time."

Set up a pyramid of several small empty boxes or plastic bottles on a table. Review the memory verse several times with junior soldiers. Ask junior soldiers to raise their hand if they can say the memory verse. As junior soldiers recite the memory verse, allow them to try to knock down the pyramid by tossing a beanbag or foam ball at the pyramid. Set up the pyramid again. Allow each junior soldier to recite the memory verse and knock down the pyramid.

When all junior soldiers have recited the memory verse, recite the verse as a brigade, and then lead junior soldiers in the following discussion:

Say: **Was it easy to knock down the pyramid?** (Allow response.) **The pyramid is made of boxes/bottles, which are easy to knock down. The Word of God is very strong. It's like a rock. In the Bible God tells us His plan for our lives. God's plans are strong, they can't be knocked down like a pyramid of boxes/bottles.**



REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

(CHOOSE ONE OPTION)

Modern Day Bible Stories (Option 1)

Say: **Today we learned how Jesus stood firm in His faith when it was difficult. There are many times in our lives today when it's difficult to stand firm in our faith. What kind of situations would Jesus run into today that are similar to the situations from today's Bible stories?**

Divide the brigade into four groups. Assign each group one of the stories presented in today's lesson. Don't let the groups know which stories you have assigned to the other groups.

Have the groups modernize their Bible story. Allow each group to present their modern story to the entire brigade. Provide simple costumes and props to add to the short presentations.



SIZE WISE:

If you have a small brigade, divide into only two groups and assign one story to each group. If you have only one or two junior soldiers, use option 2.

Brainstorm (Option 2)

Say: **Today we learned how Jesus stood firm in His faith when it was difficult. There are many times in our lives today when it's difficult to stand firm in our faith. What kind of situations would Jesus run into today that are similar to the situations from today's Bible stories?**

Allow time for junior soldiers to brainstorm. Write their answers on the board or a piece of poster board. Pray for the situations on the list. Many of your junior soldiers face these situations daily. Pray for God to strengthen them and help them to stand firm in their faith just like Jesus stood firm in times of opposition.



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Bibles
- simple costumes and props (optional)



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- board or poster board
- markers



WORSHIP PROGRAM

CHORUS: Song #64: "Be Bold, Be Strong"
(Track #14, *Great Big Praise* CD 2)

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 33:6-11 (NIRV)

CHORUS: Song #11: "You Are My All in All"
(Track #11, *Great Big Praise* CD 1)

DEVOTIONAL

Be Strong ?

Say: In the Bible we read about many people who wanted to hurt Jesus. They were jealous of Jesus and who He was. The Pharisees wanted the people to look up to them. They wanted to be powerful, rich, and respected. The Pharisees tried to do many things to hurt Jesus and His name. Can you think of some ways the Pharisees tried to hurt Jesus? (Allow response.)

Say: The Pharisees made up things and claimed that Jesus said them. They tried to trick Jesus into saying something against God and God's law. But Jesus didn't let the Pharisees get to Him. Jesus trusted God's plan for Him. Jesus explained God's law and followed God's law. He was strong in His faith.

With the help of the Holy Spirit we can be strong too! What are some times when it's hard to do what God wants you to do? (Allow response.) By asking the Holy Spirit to help you, you can stand up for Jesus and what you believe in.

PRAYER



Remember to fill out
the *What Do You Think*
Evaluation on page 382.

