

JESUS DOESN'T WANT TO DIE ON THE CROSS... BUT DOES

MATTHEW 26:36-46; 27:27-56; 28:1-10

God's Power Wins in the End

Bible Background

- Read: Matthew 26:36-46; 27:27-56; 28:1-10
- In This Passage: Jesus knows he's about to die a painful death. He talks with God about it, with dread about what's to come. Even though he dreads it, Jesus goes through with the painful death for our sake, and three days later, he comes back to life!
- Bible Point: God's power wins in the end.
- Theme Verse: "A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power." Ephesians 6:10

Prepare Your Heart

- You'll Be Discussing: **God's power wins in the end.** This lesson focuses on Jesus' feelings of dread as he asked God to take away the suffering he was about to endure. Kids know the feeling of dread, whether that's with minor things like eating brussels sprouts, or bigger issues like working on a school project with a bully. Help them see that even though Jesus did go through the suffering he dreaded, he was victorious in the end. Going through the tough stuff can lead to God's victory.
- Think About: What's one thing you're not looking forward to? Imagine one way you could see God's power win when you experience that.
- Pray: for kids to find victory in Jesus.

1. Watch the ECBC KidsChurch Video -- eastcooperbaptist.com/children

2. Family Discussion Time

Say: Today we've learned that God's power wins in the end. But sometimes, like when Jesus was hanging on a cross ... God's power doesn't feel like it's winning. When we are full of dread that something bad is about to happen, we can feel powerless. Especially when we know that bad thing really is going to happen.



Ask:

- Describe a time you felt powerless. Share your own example first.
- Which stories of feeling powerless (from the video) have you experienced, too?
- Which examples of God's power from the video have you experienced?
- What other examples of God's power can you think of from your own life?

Say: God's power wins in the end. When we feel powerless, that's a great chance to look for ways God's power is actually winning!

3. Family Game

And the Winner Is . . .

Supplies:

- Upbeat music (optional)

Vote for Winners

Say: Today we're exploring how God's power wins in the end. Let's play a game where you'll evaluate who would win.

Read the following challenges and have kids vote. After each vote, the kids can explain their reasoning. It's okay if you don't get through the whole list.

- Who would win in a fight: a wolf or a tiger? If you think it's a wolf, sit down. If you think it's a tiger, stand up.

Use these other match-ups as kids sit or stand to vote:

- A mouse or an elephant? (After kids vote, you can share this fun fact: elephants are afraid of mice!)
- A bear or a buffalo?
- A rooster or a penguin?
- A pig or a goat?
- A dolphin or a sea lion?
- A mosquito or a house fly?
- A dog or a cat?

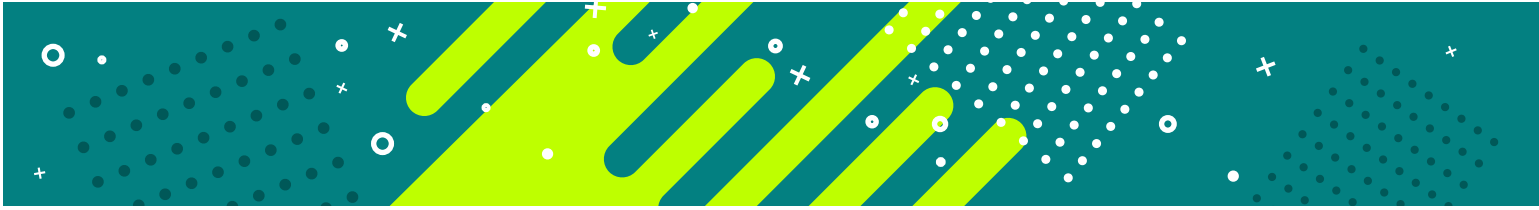
If you have extra time, let kids add their own animal match-ups.

Talk About It

Ask:

- Which matches were the hardest to decide on a winner for?
- Why didn't we all agree each time?
- Tell about a time the team or person you thought would win didn't. Share your own story first.
- How confident are you that God's power will always win?





Say: We may never know whether a bear or a buffalo would win in a fight. But here's what we do know: God's power wins in the end. No matter what we're up against, no matter what hard things we're dreading . . . we can count on God's power to win.

4. Family Prayer

Your Will, Not Mine

Echo Jesus' Prayer

Say: God's power wins in the end. But that doesn't mean life is always amazing! Sometimes, we have to do things we dread doing, knowing that in the end, we'll see God's power. Let's talk with God about what we dread, and then we'll echo Jesus' prayer.

- Teach kids the prayer they'll echo: **I want your will to be done, not mine.**
- Have kids take a minute or so to talk silently with God about something they are dreading regarding their family. Then lead kids in praying: **I want your will to be done, not mine.**
- Have kids take a minute or so to talk silently with God about something they are dreading regarding their friends. Then lead kids in praying: **I want your will to be done, not mine.**
- Have kids take a minute or so to talk silently with God about something they are dreading regarding returning to school. Then lead kids in praying: **I want your will to be done, not mine.**
- Pray: **God, thank you that no matter what tough stuff we go through, your power wins in the end. Help us face what we dread excited to see how you'll win. In Jesus' name, amen.**

5. Family Devo for the Week (Use this easy follow-up devotional anytime this week to reinforce the lesson.)

What If It Doesn't Seem Like God Is Winning?

Supplies:

- Bible
- Deck of cards (1 ace for the adult leader, and one non-ace per child)
- Envelopes

Easy Prep:

- Place a non-ace card in an envelope for each child. Put an ace in an envelope and set it aside so you know that one's for you.

Compare Cards

Give each child an envelope with a card inside. Keep the envelope with the ace inside for yourself.

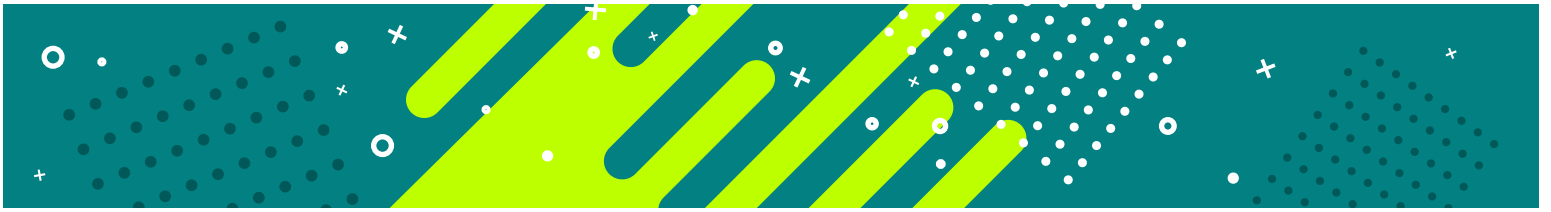
Say: On the count of three, we're going to open our envelopes to reveal a playing card inside. Hold yours up, and compare it to others. We'll see who wins with the highest card.

Have kids open their envelopes and compare cards. Then open yours and hold it up.

Ask:

- How do you think my card stacks up in this game? Do I win or lose?





Say: In some card games, an ace counts as 1. It's the lowest card. In other games, an ace is the highest card! So, whether or not my card wins all depends on your perspective.

We've been learning that God's power wins in the end. But what if it doesn't seem like God's power is winning? It sure seemed like God's power was losing when Jesus died on the cross. What about in our lives, when things just keep going wrong, or when we're dreading what's about to happen? Let's explore what the Bible has to say about that.

Explore the Bible

Read 1 Corinthians 1:26–28.

Ask:

- What are things most people consider foolish or powerless?

Say: The world values things like money and power. When we see people who have a lot of money and power, we think of them as winning. But these verses show us that God takes the weak, powerless things and makes them win. So when we feel like God's power isn't winning, it might just be because we're looking at things the world's way . . . like looking at the ace as a 1 instead of the high card.

Read Romans 8:35–37.

Ask:

- How can trouble or hunger or being threatened with death be signs of overwhelming victory?

Say: Even when we face really hard times like the things listed in these verses, overwhelming victory is ours. Why? Because Jesus loves us! And Jesus beat death for us! Being in trouble or in danger can make us feel like we're losing, but we can count on overwhelming victory because God's power wins in the end.