



## Level Up

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# Explorers Preteen Camp Bible Study Introduction

The theme for this year at Explorers Preteen Camp is "Level Up."

## Bible Study Sessions:

### **Lesson 1: Finding Treasure- Explorer/Tacky Hiker Day**

This lesson introduces the theme for the week and the Bible verse Luke 2:52. The story of Jesus' temptation shows how He values the Bible. Students are encouraged to study the Bible.

### **Lesson 2: Power-Up- 80's day**

This lesson on prayer uses Matthew 6:5-13 to help the students learn about powering up their prayer life.

### **Lesson 3: Whose Boss?- Water Rec Day for 4 day session- Video game day**

This is a salvation lesson. This lesson from Matthew 26 encourages students to decide who is the boss of their life.

### **Lesson 4: Multiplayer Co-op Mode- water rec day for 5 day session- Camp T-shirt for 4 day/**

Jesus shows us by His example and command in John 13 that we should serve others.

## Preparation

1. Prepare a colorful poster for your Bible Study area. Title the poster "Level Up." See Item 1-a, you may copy or enlarge this to use as your poster. Each Bible Study session will include a lesson title page and other visuals that you may add to the poster and Bible study area daily.
2. Each session list supplies that you will need to gather before camp. These items include making copies of visuals and activities for the lessons. Some items will be more effective if copied on card stock or colored paper.
3. Quiet time pages/books are available that encourage individual learning each day as well as time alone with God.
4. The Bible Study and quiet time material will use the NIV translation of the Bible. It is suggested that the Bible study teacher use the NIV translation.

# Master Supply List:

## Day 1:

- Copy of Bible study theme title poster “Level Up,” see item 1a
- Copy of lesson title page, “Finding Treasure,” item 1b
- Fun tac or tape
- Index card/student
- Pen or pencil/student
- Copy of Bible verse/student item 1c
- White board and markers or butcher paper and markers

## Day 2:

- Lesson title page “Upgrade” item 2a
- Fun tac or tape
- Large index card/child
- Pen or pencil/child
- Paper of different sizes and shapes
- One new can of “Play-doh”

## Day 3:

- Copy of lesson title page, “Whose Boss” item 3a
- Paper and markers if you want to post the steps of salvation
- Tape or fun tac
- Items as needed to do the demonstration during the transition to Bible study.
- A, B, Cs of salvation display pages, item 3b

## Day 4:

- Copy of lesson title page, “Multiplayer Co-op Mode,” item 4a
- Tape or fun tac
- Snack or drink to share with the students

# Level Up

## Session 1: Finding Treasure

### **Purpose:**

- To introduce the “Level Up” theme.
- To encourage students to think about what would help them “Level Up” in their Christian life.
- To introduce the memory verse Luke 2:52.
- To encourage students to spend time in the Bible.

### **Scripture used:**

- Matthew 4:1-11, Deuteronomy 6:13 and 16, 8:3, Psalm 91:11-12, Luke 2:52

### **Memory Verse:**

- Luke 2:52, “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.”

### **Supplies Needed:**

- Copy of Bible study theme title poster “Level Up,” see item 1a
- Copy of lesson title page, “Finding Treasure,” item 1b
- Fun tac or tape
- Index card/student
- Pen or pencil/student
- Copy of Bible verse/student item 1c
- White board and markers or butcher paper and markers

### **Teacher Preparation for Bible Study**

- Prepare teaching aids.
- Study the background teaching passages.
- Read the lesson and be ready to present it in your own words so that children understand the main idea.
- Pray for wisdom as you prepare and present the lesson.

**Main idea:** Christians should read and study the Bible and memorize scripture.

**Introduce the Bible Study:**

Welcome to camp and the first day of Bible study. This week our theme is “Level Up.” “What do you think of when you hear the expression “Level Up”?” Listen to responses and post the Bible study title poster, item 1a. Many people today think of video games when they hear the term “Level Up”.

What does it mean to level up in a video game? A game level is a section or part of a game. To complete a game level, a gamer usually needs to meet specific goals or perform a specific task to advance to the next level. "Level up" is a phrase often used in video games where a player goes to the next level because he has met certain requirements in the previous level.

Gamers may spend hours leveling up their characters so that they're stronger and faster and can defeat enemies more easily. What if we tried this in our Christian life? Perhaps we could think of ourselves as video game characters, leveling up day-by-day and building an awesome relationship with God.

So often, the last thing in our life that levels up is actually our walk with the Lord. We spend so much energy making good friendships, improving our school grades, or being great in sports and other activities that we forget what is most important – How is your relationship with the Lord? Are you moving to new levels?

This week we are going to look at scripture that should encourage us to “Level Up” our Christian life. Our lesson today is called “Finding Treasure.” Post the lesson title poster, item 1b.

**Transition to Bible Study:**

Discuss: If there was a video game about being a Christian what do you think you might have to do to move from one level to the next? Let’s say you are on level one of the video game called “Christian Takes on the World.” Let’s think of ten things that you might have to do to move to level two in this game. You may want to list these things on a white board or butcher paper at the front of the group.

Some answers students mention might be:

Read the Bible, pray, learn memory verses, go to church, help someone, go to camp, tell someone about Jesus, give offerings (money), stop lying, honor parents, obey God, worship God, forgive someone, praise God, love people, love God, invite friends to church, share with others, do good, etc. If students have a difficult time thinking of things offer some suggestions.

All of these are good things for a Christian to do. If we are just starting in our Christian life what do you think might be some of the most basic things that you should do? Listen to student responses and then say, “Reading, studying, and learning the Bible is a very basic thing that all Christians should do.” If you are a new Christian reading the Bible will teach you more and more about God and what He expects from us.

Reading the Bible could be compared to finding treasure in a video game. Sometimes in a video game you must find treasure to be able to move to the next level. The Bible is full of information that we can treasure and that will guide us forward in life. If you want to level up in your Christian life start by mining treasure from the Bible.

**Teach the Bible Lesson:**

“Why do you think it is so important for a Christian to know what the Bible says?” *The Bible helps us to learn about God, be obedient to God and say no to wrong choices.*

Effective Christians are effective because their lives are powered by the Word of God.

Today we want to look at a story about Jesus and how He used scripture to do what was right.

Have the students open their Bibles to Matthew chapter four. Before class you might want to select a few students or another guide to look up and be ready to read the additional scripture verses of Deuteronomy 6:13, 6:16, 8:3, and Psalms 91:11-12.

Read Matthew 4:1-11 with the students. Help the students understand the scripture. Ask, “What is a temptation?” *It is anything that invites or encourages us to do something we know is wrong.* Have students give examples of temptations they may have faced. If they cannot or do not want to share make sure and give them some examples from your own life.

Look a little more closely at each temptation mentioned in this passage. The Bible tells us Jesus had not eaten for forty days. “If you had not eaten for one day how would you feel?” *Hungry, grumpy.* In verses one through three, the devil tries to get Jesus to turn stones into bread. “Could Jesus do that?” *Yes, Jesus is God and can do anything.* “Did Jesus do it?” *No.* “Why not?” *Jesus quotes scripture that basically says that obeying God is more important than eating.*

Have the selected student read Deuteronomy 8:3. “How do you think Jesus knew Deuteronomy 8:3?” *Jesus had read, studied, and memorized scripture.*

Turning stones into bread was a physical temptation. In our video game *Christian Takes on the World*—If your character is starving—you might be tempted to turn stones into bread. Jesus could have done that. A video game character maybe could do that. We cannot do that. We are still tempted physically. Sometimes we are tempted to do something like eat cookies when we know we are not supposed to or eat too much junk food or sit around and be lazy. Physical temptations still happen and we still need to know that the Bible says, being obedient to God is more important than giving into temptation.

In verses 5-7 there is another temptation. The devil says, “Throw yourself down from this building because the Bible says God will protect you.” Have someone read Psalms 91:11-12. The devil knew God’s word too and sometimes he uses it to tempt us. Jesus knew how to respond with more scripture. Compare verse seven with Deuteronomy 6:16. Jesus used scripture He knew to resist the temptation.

This is a spiritual temptation. Christian, in our video game (Christian Takes on the World) will be tempted like we are to play video games, watch television, or play with friends when we need to spend time with God or read our Bible. If we do not know what the Bible says we will easily give in when tempted.

In verses 8-11, one more time the devil tempts Jesus. The devil showed Jesus the world and promised to give it all to Jesus if only He would worship the devil. “What did Jesus say?” Read and compare this to Deuteronomy 6:13. Jesus knew scripture and used it each time Satan tempted Him.

This is a material temptation. A temptation where we would get something is often hard to reject. “Are you ever unhappy with what you own, do you bug your parents to buy you things, do you sometimes take things that aren’t yours?” *Answers will vary.* People often want more things and we can make bad choices to get more things. But we are to worship God and not more things. God and His Word are the treasure we should seek.

Jesus was tempted three times in this passage. Each time Jesus quoted scripture to remind us of the right response. “Can you quote scripture when you are tempted? Do you know what treasures are in the Bible? How can we learn about God, be obedient to God and say no to bad choices?” *We must know scripture.*

### **Apply the Lesson:**

In this level of our video game we must know what God says and that knowledge empowers us to make right choices in more consistent ways. We must resist temptation because we have God's Word on our hearts and on our minds. We should be able to stand up for right, give right advice, and say the right thing at the right time because we know what right is, we can even quote it.

You cannot be very effective as a Christian (in preserving your faith or sharing it with others) if you do not know and obey the Word and you cannot know it if you do not read it. Effective Christians begin to pull away from immaturity and entanglement with sin and the world to the degree that they develop the habit of reading the Bible on a regular basis.

“How much do you read your Bible? How much do you really study what it says? How often do you memorize scripture?” To collect the treasure in this level you must be reading the Bible, studying what it says and memorizing scripture. Give each child an index card and a pencil or pen. Have them write down a goal they would like to accomplish with regards to reading, studying and memorizing. Encourage them to start where they are—if they are not currently doing any of these activities then their goal may be to start working towards doing them a few times a week. Maybe the student already reads his/her Bible every day. They can set a goal to memorize a scripture each week or write down the things they learn each time they read. The goal should be a personal goal tailored to each student. Have them put their card in their Bible to remind them to work towards whatever they decided.

**Memory Verse:**

Our memory verse this week is Luke 2:52, “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.” Have all the students find that verse in their Bibles. Have several students read it out loud. Ask, “What four ways does this verse tell us about how Jesus grew?”

1. He grew in wisdom.
2. He grew in stature.
3. He grew in favor with God
4. He grew in favor with man.

Today let’s think about the part of the verse that says, “And Jesus grew in wisdom.” “What does it mean to grow in wisdom?” *Wisdom doesn’t just mean that we know more. It means we can use the things we know. Jesus knew scripture and He used it to fight off temptation. “How can we grow in wisdom?” Read the Bible, learn what the stories in the Bible mean, memorize scripture, use scripture when we are tempted to do something wrong.*

Give a copy of the Bible verse (item 1c) to each child. At the end of Bible study help them to post the verse on their bunk so that they can see the words often each day and start to learn it.

**Closing:**

Encourage students to start reaching the goal they set even while they are at camp. Pray for the students to be committed to reading and learning from the Bible.

**Extra Challenges (to add to the lesson anytime during the day):**

Throughout the day give the children example situations that have Biblical answers. Help them to think of what the Bible says and how they can do those things.

Use these example situations (or make up your own situations) with your group to show them how to make decisions based on what the Bible says.

1. Your mom made cookies for a church picnic but you want one now. What guidance could you get from the Bible? Obey your parents, don’t take things that don’t belong to you.
2. You're throwing a ball in the house and break something on the table. If you tell the truth, you know you will be punished. You could say you accidentally bumped the table. What should you do? Don’t lie, admit when you do wrong, ask for forgiveness.
3. Your Dad has been telling you to do stuff all day. You're tired of it. You want to say, "No" and "I don't have to" and "Leave me alone." You want to walk away and do what you want to do. What should you do? Honor your parents, do what you are told.

4. You got in trouble, and you're angry. Your parents punished you, but you think your brother should be punished. You could hit, pinch or trip your brother when no one's looking. You could hide or break one of his toys. What should you do? Be kind, forgive him.
5. You're with friends when they start teasing an unpopular kid, taking his things and calling him names. What will you do? Be kind, do good, do what you would want done to you, treat him with respect.
6. Some of your friends have started using bad language and they call you a baby because you won't talk like them. What should you do? Always honor God's name; don't let anything evil come out of your mouth.

# Level Up

## Session 2: Power-Up:

### **Purpose:**

- To help students know how to pray.
- To encourage students to pray.

### **Scripture used:**

- Matthew 6:5-13, Luke 2:52, Philippians 4:6

### **Memory Verse:**

- Luke 2:52, “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.”

### **Supplies Needed:**

- Lesson title page “Upgrade” item 2a
- Fun tac or tape
- Large index card/child
- Pen or pencil/child
- Paper of different sizes and shapes
- One new can of “Play-doh”

### **Teacher Preparation for Bible Study**

- Prepare teaching aids.
- Study the background teaching passages.
- Read the lesson and be ready to present it in your own words so that children understand the main idea.
- Pray for wisdom as you prepare and present the lesson.

**Main Idea:** We need to power-up our prayer life.

**Introduce the Bible Study:**

Today our lesson is called “Power-up.” Post lesson title page, item 2a. If we are thinking about video games what would it mean if I used a power-up? An “Power-up” in video games is an item that gives you special abilities or makes you more powerful. Power-ups sometimes only last for a limited time. What would help you power up your Christian life?

**Transition to Bible Study:**

Time to do a little acting. Prepare in advance to do the following or have another guide do this skit.

Have a new can of play-doh. Open it and take the blob of play-doh out and hold it in your hand. Say, “See this blob of play-doh represents my problems. I really want to find solutions to the problems I have.” To move to a new level in our video game, Christian Takes on the World, I need to find solutions to these problems.

Name five things that might be problems in your life. For example: my boss is very demanding, my neighbors are not friendly, life’s not fair, my cat is sick, and I cannot find time to read my Bible. You can use these problems or make up your own. Name and explain very briefly what the problem is. As you talk about each problem pull off a piece of play-doh and roll it into a ball until you have several small balls of play-doh on the table instead of the blob in your hands. Ask the students what they think you should do about these problems. Say, “What do you think I should do about my problems?” They will probably offer various ideas hopefully some will say you should pray about it. If not that is fine just continue with the skit.

After you have talked about each problem begin to look at the balls of play-doh again. With each ball talk about how you could pray about the problem—then mention a reason why maybe you would not pray about it. For example:

You know my boss really is very demanding. I think he wants me to work all the time. You would think when I come home I could just relax but I always seem to have homework. I think I should give this problem to God and let Him handle it. (Set the ball to the side.) Yes, I am going to pray about it. God will help me know what to do. Okay, this second problem---hum—you know maybe I should just talk to my boss. After all he is the problem. I should just tell him I will work when it is work time and I will not take home more work. Yes, that is a good solution. I do not have to pray about that. (Pick up the play-doh ball and put it back in the can.)

Now about my neighbors not being friendly. I definitely should pray about that. After all I know God wants us to love our neighbors and it is hard to do when they won’t even talk to you. So before I do anything else I will pray that God gives me a good opportunity to love my neighbors. (Set that ball to the side.) Yes this I will pray about. Oh, you know what I just had an idea—my friend always says you catch more flies with honey so I should just take my neighbors some cookies. If I take them cookies I am sure they will like me better and be friendlier. Wow—what a great

idea. Now I don't have to pray about that either. (Pick up the ball and put it back in the can.)

Okay so now this problem about life being not fair. Well, I know life isn't fair. Bad things sometimes happen to good people, but God can do something about that so I should pray about it. Except you know God already knows that life isn't fair and He already does what is best for us so maybe I don't need to pray about it. No I don't need to pray about it I just need to live with it. No problem, I can do that. (Put ball into can.)

So the next problem is my cat is sick. She has been sick for a while and I take her to the vet and he gives her a shot and then she is better for a while. I know we can pray for people when they are sick and I know God can heal them. Yes, but this is a cat and the vet can give her a shot so why do I need to pray about it. I don't. (Put ball in play-doh can.)

Okay, so the last problem I thought of was that I cannot read my Bible every day. I want to read my Bible. I want to find treasure. I want to learn more about God. Since I am not going to let my boss give me homework and since my cat is better right now, well, I will have more time to read my Bible. Besides that is such a little thing I shouldn't bother God with it. (Put last ball into can).

Wow, that was wonderful. I thought I had five problems but after talking them through I realize that I can handle those things. I don't need to pray about them. In fact I have time to read my Bible right now because I don't need to pray. (Open Bible and read Philippians 4:6 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.")

Read slowly—"In every situation **by prayer**...present your request to God. **Every situation...pray**"

### **Teach the Bible Lesson:**

If we want God to power up (change, shape and mold) our lives we need to share with Him in prayer. Jesus, our example, prayed at every step of His ministry. The habit of prayer is what keeps us powered-up. Without the habit of prayer the noisy demands of the world and the impulses we feel are all we can ever hear. The effective Christian succeeds in keeping the faith and growing in faith because he powers-up through prayer.

Jesus teaches about prayer in Matthew 5:6-13. Have students open their Bibles to this passage. Read verses 5-8. Asked the students to tell you two things from those verses that we should not do when we pray.

1. Don't pray for show—just so others see you pray or because you are trying to impress others. Instead most of your praying should be done in secret.

2. Don't think you have to use a lot of words and pray a long prayer. God wants you to pray, but you do not need to go on and on about something—He knows what you need.

Now, in verse nine, Jesus begins to talk about what we should include in our prayers. This is often called the Lord's prayer. Some people memorize it and pray it over and over. It is really intended to be a model for how we should pray, not the only prayer we pray. Prayer is the way we talk to God. It is something every Christian should do. We use prayer to power up our Christian life. In the skit earlier, we saw that we should pray about everything. So, we never have to ask, "should I pray about this?" Prayer is not just for emergencies. We should pray about everything.

Read Matthew 6:9-13. Talk about each verse and what we can learn from it.

Verse 9—Who do we pray to? Our Father. The first thing to learn is that we need to have a good relationship with God. A personal relationship where He is our father not just God. We need to treat God with the respect that is due to Him. Hallowed means holy. Our Father is a holy God and is worthy of our praise, worship, and honor. So, when we pray, one thing we can do is praise God. How do you praise God? Think about what God is like and thank Him for those things. Think about what God has done; worship Him and tell God that you love Him.

Verse 10— We pray that God changes the world! We worship God when we give Him our lives every time we pray. Jesus teaches that when we pray, we should commit ourselves to God's will. We need to want God to use our lives in the way that He knows is best. We should want to do what God wants. We should want God to be more and more the King of our lives and our world. How would you pray this?

Verse 11—we pray for our physical or spiritual needs. We pray for whatever we need for that day. Have the students give some examples. We can include physical and spiritual needs that we know about for others.

Verse 12—We ask for forgiveness for anything we have done wrong. Notice with this verse that others are going to do wrong to us, and we need to forgive them the way we want God to forgive us. (verses 14-15). How would you ask for forgiveness from God? Encourage students to be specific about sins when asking forgiveness.

Verse 13—Protect us and keep us away from evil. Again, we can pray this for ourselves and for others. We learned yesterday that the devil even tempted Jesus, so we need God's power to keep us safe.

### **Apply the Lesson:**

Hand out a large index card and pen or pencil to each person. Have them write their own Lord's prayer. Remembering that the prayer in Matthew is a model. Lead them through the steps of the model.

1. Address your prayer to God in some way and show honor for Him.
2. Praise God for something.
3. Ask God to meet the needs in your life and in other people's lives.
4. Express forgiveness for something you have done wrong.
5. Ask for protection and deliverance from evil for yourself or others.

If time allows, let some of the children share their prayers.

**Memory Verse:**

Have the students look up Luke 2:52, "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." Have several students read or say the verse. See if anyone can say the entire verse from memory yet.

When you learn a Bible verse, it is important that you know what the verse means and not just say the words. Today we want to focus on the section of this verse that says, "and stature." What is stature? **Stature** can refer to a person's height or the high level of respect with which one is regarded. As children get older, they grow physically in height and weight. Did you ever think about each year you grow, how you should grow in the amount of respect others have for you? What do you think Jesus did to grow in respect? Worked hard, obeyed His parents, learned what He was taught, did His best at everything, treated other people with respect, etc. Answers will vary.

What can you do in your life so that as you grow physically, you also grow in the level of respect others have for you? Students today grow in respect by doing the same kind of things we mentioned that Jesus did. Students should work hard at whatever task they are doing (schoolwork, learning about God, sports, etc.) They should obey their parents and others in authority like their teachers and coaches. They should treat others with respect and value.

If you have time, you might want to pass around a ball and let each student say one word of the verse and then pass the ball to the next person. Time how quickly the students can say the verse.

**Closing:**

To close, you may want to take a prayer request since the lesson is on prayer and then pray for the entire group. Remind students that we need to power up our prayer lives. Without praying, they will not be able to level up their Christian life.

**Extra Challenges (to add to the lesson anytime during the day):**

Do a prayer web—using a ball of yarn. Start with praise and say something you can praise God for, and then toss the ball to someone else and let them name something they can praise God for. You can also do the web by thanking God for things or asking for needs or doing all three and let the students decide which they want to do.

Make a praise area inside or outside of your cabin. Have a stack of paper of different sizes and shapes available for the student to write what they praise or thank God for. Be creative in where these will go or what you will make with them. Maybe each student should post them on their bed, or you could try to fill up the windows of the cabin or a table or counter or use a rope to hang them in the cabin or outside.

# Level Up

## Session 3: Whose Boss?

### **Purpose:**

- To help students understand the plan of salvation.
- To show that Jesus was obedient to God
- To encourage students to make a decision to let God be the boss of their life.

### **Scripture used:**

- Matthew 26:36-45, Romans 3:23 and 10:9, John 3:16

### **Memory Verse:**

- Luke 2:52, “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.”

### **Supplies Needed:**

- Copy of lesson title page, “Whose Boss” item 3a
- Paper and markers if you want to post the steps of salvation
- Tape or fun tac
- Items as needed to do the demonstration during the transition to Bible study.
- A, B, Cs of salvation display pages, item 3b

### **Teacher Preparation for Bible Study**

- Prepare teaching aids.
- Study the background teaching passages.
- Read the lesson and be ready to present it in your own words so that children understand the main idea and the plan of salvation.
- Review the plan of salvation.
- Pray for wisdom as you prepare and present the lesson.

**Main idea:** God wants to be the boss of your life.

### **Introduce the Bible Study:**

At the end of a level in some video games, you will encounter a boss or a big boss. “What does that mean?” *The boss is an opponent character in a video game that is typically much more difficult to defeat compared to normal enemies.* Today our lesson is called “Whose Boss?” Post item 3a, lesson title page for “Whose Boss?”

While we can jump into the virtual world, take on all the bad guys, and save the world. Real-life is a little more complicated, and to defeat evil, you will need help. Have you ever said, “You’re not the boss of me?” The question today is, “Who is the boss of your life?”

### **Transition to Bible Study:**

#### **Option 1: Discussion**

“In video games, what are some things you have to do to defeat the big bad boss?” *Maybe use a certain weapon, strike the bad guy in a certain place on his body, have lots of extra lives, use magic or a spell, trick them, blow them up, get help from someone else in the game, etc.*

It is reported that there are more than 1.2 billion video “gamers” worldwide. Most of them are defeating bad guys in the gaming world but don’t know how to defeat the real-life big bad boss. Earlier this week, we saw that Satan came and tempted Jesus and Jesus was able to refuse to do what Satan suggested, but Satan was not totally defeated.

Satan continues to attack people today, getting them to disobey God and choose to do things that are wrong. We all need to choose which side we want to be on. “Do we obey God and do His will? Do we just do whatever we want to do? The big question today is who is really the boss of your life? You? Satan? God?”

#### **Option 2: Demonstration**

“In video games, what are some things you have to do to defeat the big bad boss?” *Maybe use a certain weapon, strike the bad guy in a certain place on his body, have lots of extra lives, use magic or a spell, trick them, blow them up, get help from someone else in the game, etc.*

It is reported that there are more than 1.2 billion video “gamers” worldwide. Most of them are defeating bad guys in the gaming world but don’t know how to defeat the real-life big bad boss. In this level of our video game, we must defeat the big bad boss. At this point, have a big bad boss join your group. This could be another guide that you just pretend he is the bad boss (tell the students you are pretending) or have them dressed up to play the part of a bad boss with weapons and armor.

Have some students shoot nerf guns or water guns at the big bad boss. Select someone small in your group to try and punch the bad boss. Have all the students try to blow him out of the room or scare him out of the room or chase him. Whatever you want to use to get rid of him. Finally asked the students how Jesus defeated His enemy in our first lesson. Have students quote scripture they know. The bad guy should act wounded. Ask, “What else have we

studied that might get rid of this guy?” Have someone pray for protection from evil. Have the bad guy leave or pretend to die.

Thank the students for their help and remind them that Satan continues to attack people today, getting them to disobey God and choose to do things that are wrong. We all need to choose which side we want to be on. “Do we obey God and do His will? Do we just do whatever we want to do? The big question today is who is really the boss of your life? You? Satan? God?”

**Teach the Bible Lesson:**

Have students open their Bibles to Matthew 26:36-45. Read this passage to them.

In today’s Bible story, we see that Jesus is praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. The name Gethsemane comes from two Hebrew words that mean “oil press.” The Garden of Gethsemane was full of olive trees, so there was probably an olive press nearby. An olive press would squeeze the olives with a lot of pressure until the juice in the olives ran out. This Garden of Gethsemane was a place where Jesus and his disciples often came to pray. This time Jesus was under a lot of pressure. This scene in the garden is the last time Jesus is with His disciples before Jesus is arrested and put to death.

Jesus left most of the disciples in one area while He went to pray. Peter, James, and John went with Him farther into the garden. “How did Jesus feel?” *In verse 37, it tells us He is sorrowful and troubled.* “How sorrowful?” *Verse 28 says, “overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.”* Peter, James, and John were supposed to watch while Jesus went farther and prayed.

Three times Jesus went to pray, and three times, He came back to Peter, James, and John. “What were Peter, James, and John doing?” *Sleeping.* “What did Jesus ask them to do?” *Watch and pray.* “What did Jesus pray about?” *He prayed about a cup and about God’s will.* Let’s look a little more closely at those two things.

Jesus prayed that this cup be taken from Him. This was no ordinary cup. This cup was not a real cup that you would fill up with water. This was an imaginary cup that was filled up with the sins of the world and the suffering that Jesus would bear for people if He went to the cross. What Jesus was really praying about was should He drink the cup and bring salvation to all mankind through the cross, or was there some way that He could let the cup pass and save Himself. The cup symbolizes the suffering Jesus would go through and the sin that He would bear for us.

“When we talk about “God’s will,” what does that mean?” *It means that God is in control. He has a perfect plan for our lives and knows what will work out best for us.* Jesus prayed that God’s will would be done. Jesus came to earth to do His Father’s will, even though it meant Jesus would die on the cross. Jesus prays if there is any other way for men to be saved then do that, but Jesus never refused to do what God wanted Him to do.

There was no other way for men to be saved. Jesus took the cup that night because the next day He went to the cross to die for us. “What would have happened if Jesus had decided to not drink the cup?” *If Jesus had tried to save His life, then we would all have been lost.* All mankind would have no way to get to God and heaven. The world would be hopeless. Jesus let God be the boss of His life even though it meant He died on the cross. Jesus defeated Satan by doing God’s will, and we defeat Satan in the same way.

We have a similar choice to make. If we keep our lives for ourselves, we will be lost and not able to find a way to God, but if we give our lives to God, we will be saved. “What is your choice? Who is the boss of your life?”

**Apply the Lesson:**

If you have not made a decision before you still need to decide who will control your life. As we talked about in the lesson, everyone sins. “What is sin?” *Anything we do that is against what God would want us to do.* For example, lying, cheating, stealing, disobeying our parents, or using bad language are sins. Sin separates us from God, but Jesus died for our sins so that we can choose to let God be in charge of our lives.

Go through the ABCs of salvation so that the students know what choice they have to make. Read the scripture and talk about the steps of salvation. You may want to use the visuals of each step, posting them at the front of your Bible study area (see item 3b).

A—admit you are a sinner and ask forgiveness. Romans 3:23

B—believe with all your being (convinced that something is true—not just saying it.) that Jesus died for your sins and rose from the dead. John 3:16

C—confess or tell people that Jesus is now in control of your life (is the boss of you). Romans 10:9

Encourage students to talk to you or another guide after the lesson is over if they want to make a decision or learn more about this.

**Memory Verse:**

See if any students can tell you the verse address of the memory verse. Luke 2:52, “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.” Let several students try to say the memory verse to the entire group.

We have been looking at what a different section of the verse means each day. Today we focus on the section that says “in favor with God.” What do you think it means to be in favor with God? We increase in favor with God as we do the will of God as Jesus did in today’s lesson. God has a plan for me, and I need to do what God wants me to do. God also has a plan for your life that is different than mine. You must do what God wants you to do—be obedient to Him. Be faithful in whatever work He gives you to do. Continue to let God be the boss of your life.

**Closing:**

Tell students who they can talk to if they would like to know more about letting God be in charge of their life.

Pray for all the students thanking God for Jesus and praying that the students will do God's will for their life.

**Extra Challenges (to add to the lesson anytime during the day):**

Share your story. How did you come to know Jesus? It helps us to hear how others came to realize their sin, believe in Jesus, and confess Him as Lord. Find a time today to tell the students your story and ask about theirs.

Help children to evaluate where they are with God. Help them to think of Christianity at different levels and ask which level they want to be at next year? Share about what you are doing to level up.

# Level Up

## Session 4: Multiplayer Co-op Mode

### **Purpose:**

- To help students understand that they should serve others.
- To show that Jesus valued service.
- To encourage students to find ways to serve others.

### **Scripture used:**

- John 13:4-17, Luke 2:52

### **Memory Verse:**

- Luke 2:52, “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.”

### **Supplies Needed:**

- Copy of lesson title page, “Multiplayer Co-op Mode,” item 4a
- Tape or fun tac
- Snack or drink to share with the students

### **Teacher Preparation for Bible Study**

- Prepare teaching aids.
- Study the background teaching passages.
- Read the lesson and be ready to present it in your own words so that children understand the main idea.
- Pray for wisdom as you prepare and present the lesson.

**Main idea:** Jesus teaches us to serve others.

### **Introduce the Bible Study:**

As you introduce the Bible Study and transition to Bible Study, do things that will give the students an opportunity to serve. Here are some examples, but add anything that will give students an opportunity to help:

1. Drop things on the floor so that someone needs to pick them up—make sure and wait to pick them up to see if the students will do it for you.
2. Leave some papers or your lesson title page in a different area. When you get ready to post it, say, “Oh, I think I left that over there.” See if someone volunteers to get it for you.
3. You might say, “I sure wish I had a chair to sit in during the lesson.” See if a student will bring you one.
4. Have problems holding the title page and tearing off some tape—again, see if someone volunteers to help you with it.
5. “Forget” your Bible on your bunk and see if a student volunteers to get it for you.

Review each day and see what the students have learned so far this week. On day one, our lesson was “Finding Treasure,” what did you learn that day? Day two, our lesson was “Power-up.” What did you learn that day? Yesterday we talked about “Whose Boss?” What did you learn yesterday?

Today our lesson title is “Multiplayer Co-op Mode.” Post lesson title page item 4a. What is a multiplayer game? It is when two or more people play the game together. They can play the game as opponents, or they can play “Co-op,” which is short for cooperative. What does it mean to play a co-op game? It means two or more players cooperate in solving a task and do not compete with each other. Sometimes players are even able to share items or powers to help each other level up or advance in the game. So, in multiplayer, you can take on harder quests with groups and have people to share in your adventure.

Imagine multiplayer co-op in real life. Whenever you see a challenge or task (a quest in video game terms) that needs to be done, you can join with others to accomplish that challenge.

### **Transition to Bible Study:**

Have students open their Bibles to John 13. As everyone is opening their Bibles, guides or other helpers bring around drinks or snacks. Ask each student what they would like, and make a big deal about giving it to them.

Ask the students how it feels to have someone serve them a snack or drink. It is pretty great when you can just sit there, and someone else takes care of what you need. Did it make you feel good? It was not a big deal to get a small snack, so why does it make you feel special? It is always nice when someone does something for you when they do not have to serve you. No one had to serve you today. You would have been all right if you hadn’t received anything out of the ordinary. But someone served you, and that made your day better. Some people also served to help me when I was starting the Bible study. We could consider Christians as a

multiplayer co-op group. We can work together to help and serve to complete our quest in life. Let's take a look and see what the Bible has to say about serving each other.

The Bible tells us to love and serve each other. Think of loving and serving others as a quest that you are on. You can love and serve on your own, but you can also do multiplayer co-op loving and serving.

If you need an example of serving, you can read stories about Jesus. He spent His life loving and serving others. Can you think of some times when Jesus served others? He healed lots of people. He provided lunch for large groups of people that were hungry. He spent many hours teaching others about God. He listened to people. He washed the disciples' feet. He died for us.

Today we are going to look at one time Jesus served others, but remember that your Bible is full of examples of Jesus serving.

**Teach the Bible Lesson:**

Read John 13:4-17. Encourage the students to listen to see what Jesus did and what He wants us to do.

Jesus was having a meal with His disciples. "What did Jesus do?" *Got up from the meal and got a towel and water and begin to wash and dry His disciples' feet.*

In Jesus' day, people wore sandals and walked everywhere they went, meaning their feet became dusty and dirty. Because of this, custom dictated that someone wash the feet of a visiting guest. Yet, when Jesus and His disciples gathered for this meal, apparently no one was present to do that task. Washing people's feet was a job no one wanted to do. But Jesus showed humility by doing the task that no one wanted to do. He washed the disciples' feet -- a dirty job usually performed by the lowest ranking person in the room. "Was Jesus the lowest ranking person?" *No.* He was Lord and Teacher.

When it came time for Peter's turn, he was not thrilled! In fact, he told Jesus, "Not my feet, Jesus; I should be washing yours!" Jesus agreed but then went on to explain why He did what He did. He told His disciples that following Him meant being a servant to His people and doing all kinds of things that others would think were not normal but would give glory and honor to God. Peter agreed, then, to have Jesus wash his feet because he really did want to follow Jesus with his whole heart.

"What do you think Jesus was trying to teach us by washing His disciples' feet?" *Jesus wants us to serve others; he wants us to think of others.* Say: "Jesus was showing His disciples how much He loved them, and that they should serve others (John 13:15)." He shows the most beautiful picture of what it means to serve by getting grimy and dirty and washing their feet.

In life, people usually think they are more important than others. One way people do this is by trying to get others to do things for them and by avoiding lowly jobs that people don't

want to do. But Jesus turned that upside down. “Is there a job in your house that no one wants to do?” It might be taking out the trash, or washing the dishes, or folding the clothes. “Have you ever volunteered to do that job or at least helped the person who is doing it?” When you do that, you will be following Jesus’ example of serving others.

It is not just at home that we should do whatever we see that needs to be done but we should do that at church and at school and at camp. “What are some jobs you could do at your church?” “What are some ways you could serve others at school?” “What are some things you can do here at camp to help others?” People like to serve in important, glamorous, or respected ways. They like to leave the dirty jobs to someone else. “Did Jesus think foot washing was not important enough for Him to do?” *No*. “Are there tasks that we won’t do because they are lowly? Because they are dirty? Because they are unpleasant or hard? But aren’t those the jobs that most need to be done?” We need to be willing to do whatever is needed.

Jesus was the only one who could make a way for us to go to heaven, but He didn’t say: “I’m too important for that, I’m not going to do that!” No! Even though He is the Son of God, He humbly served us by taking away our sin. Jesus wants us to humbly serve others as well. It isn’t part of our culture to wash each other’s feet, but there are other ways that we can serve.

Jesus showed His disciples—and His followers for centuries to come—that being dedicated to serving God means serving other people. He also demonstrated His willingness to put aside who He was to help others. Jesus even expressed His love and servanthood for Judas, the disciple who eventually turned against Him. Jesus was the ultimate servant. Though He was God Himself, He took the position of a slave—and then that of a criminal—to serve us, to provide the only possible way we can have a relationship with God that brings us eternal life!

**Apply the Lesson:**

Tell the children that Jesus explained to the disciples that even though He was the Savior, He still served them. He wanted them to understand that they should serve each other. Read aloud John 13:15 and explain that Jesus wants us to follow His example and serve others.

We’re not better than anyone else, and not one of us is too good to serve others. We have to come to terms with the fact that if we want to be like Jesus, it means we’re going to have to be a servant. We need to serve others because it’s what God wants us to do. “Is that going to be hard?” *Of course, it is*. No one wants to act thrilled about emptying the trash or have a joyful attitude about sacrificing something they want so that someone else can have what they want. But imagine how amazing the world would be if we all did that. If all of our actions really were the same ones, we would do it for Jesus if we were serving Him. If every time someone asked us for help, we responded as if Jesus was on the other end of the conversation.

It’s not common to serve other people. It’s not common to sacrifice something and expect nothing in return. It’s not normal to go out of your way to help someone else. And that’s

what makes it so powerful. If we did these things and treated these people like we'd treat Jesus, can you imagine the difference we would make in the world?

“When you think of things that Jesus wants you to do, what comes to mind?” Probably things like loving each other, telling the truth, and obeying your parents. But serving is something that is obviously also very important to Him. Serving people is not going to be easy, but if your goal is to be more like Jesus, then it's a huge step in that direction.

**Memory Verse:**

Review Luke 2:52, And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. Encourage some students that have not said the Bible verse to say it to the group.

Today we are looking at the last area that the Bible tells us Jesus grew in. He grew in favor with man. What do you think that means? We grow in favor with man when we take care of the responsibilities we have and do not leave others to do them. When we are willing to help others and to serve others willingly and unselfishly, we grow. When we keep our word and follow through on our promises, we grow in favor with man. God wants us to love and serve others. He wants us to build relationships and tell others about Him.

What kind of things would make us not be in favor with man? When we cannot be trusted, or we destroy others' property. If we are rude with others or uncaring, people will not think favorably about us.

**Closing:**

Encourage students to stop settling for where they are now and level up in their Christian life. Pray for the children to have a desire to serve God and others.

**Extra Challenges (to add to the lesson anytime during the day):**

Encourage students to look around today and find ways to serve others. Maybe it is something like picking up trash they see here in camp, holding the door at the cafeteria, allowing someone to go before them, or anything they see that they could do to serve.

Catch them serving—tell them you will be watching to see who serves today. Watch your group and see how many times you can catch the action of service. Maybe set a number of times you want to see them serve.