

Submit To God, Resist The Devil

1 Peter 5:5-11

MEMORY VERSE

1 PETER 5:6

“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A broomstick and music.

Strips of construction paper to make “paper footballs” and masking tape.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Limbo – How Low Can You Go?

Humility suggests lowering yourself, and taking yourself below what your “rights” allow. Demonstrate this by the simple and fun game of Limbo. One must go under a broomstick while looking up (no bending forward!). Begin with the stick high to make it easy for everyone to pass through. Lower the stick a little bit each time the group goes through. Keep going round and round with music playing. You are out if you touch the stick.

Explain to the children how this is an example of humility.

LESSON TIME!

A lot of people today may say or think, “Don’t be so old-fashioned. This is the computer age. With all the modern technology everything has changed. All those old rules don’t apply anymore.” Many today feel that anything goes. If it feels good, do it. No matter who it hurts. They think that sin is fun. Yet, they are extremely unhappy and they really don’t understand why. Unfortunately, more and more young people are feeling this way.

Our lesson today starts with Paul telling the young men to submit to the older, experienced believers in the church who can help and guide them. We too, should listen to the older believers, to our parents and our grandparents. They have a lot to offer us in experience and knowledge about the world, telling us what is really important. They can help us to understand the ways of God and know how to live. God's rules can keep us from being hurt. Only if we follow God and resist Satan can we find real happiness. **God wants us to resist the devil when we are tempted.**

1 PETER 5:5

Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

We should follow the advice of older people. An easy mistake for us to make is to think that we know more than everyone else does. Be humble, work together and help each other. God is against the proud but blesses the humble.

Think about the word submission for a moment. Not only are we to respect our elders, but we are also to submit to them. What this means is that we are to listen to their wisdom and apply it to our lives. People who are older than us have experienced so much more than us and can help us to avoid making mistakes in life that will cause us a lot of pain.

In many ways, our culture does not respect its elders, but this goes against what the Lord would have us to do. Especially as Christians, we should have a respect for and submit to our elders. Humility is so important, and it helps us to do this. We need to set aside our own opinions and thoughts in order to listen to what older Christians have to say.

1 PETER 5:6

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

Humble yourself under God's leadership so that He can help and bless you. If we humble ourselves, He will be the One who exalts us. Pride wants to exalt itself or show off. Pride wants to be the center of attention. Humility allows God to have first place in our hearts.

Humility never means that we are down on ourselves. Actually, that is false humility because we are still drawing attention to ourselves when we do that. Humility is having a proper view of our condition and place before God, submitting to His will and plan for our lives. Humility is also focusing on the needs of others as being more important than our own. Jesus is the perfect example of humility for us to follow.

The "High" King

Choose one child to be the king. Long ago, when kings were more common, everyone knew that his or her head could not be up higher than the king's head. This was to show respect. (There is a great video clip of this in the movie "The King and I"- which is a true story of the lady who introduced Christianity to Siam through her friendship with the king. This scene might be an appropriate option for older kids to watch.)

Let the child designated as "king" sit, stand, tie a shoe, bend over to pick up a coin, or just go up and down somehow. The rest of the children can never allow their heads above the "king's." If your head is ever above the king's head you're out.

We are to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, and He will lift us up in His timing!

1 PETER 5:7

casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

Take all your problems and worries to God. He cares all about you. He has promised to be there to help you with every concern. Isn't it great to know that God cares so much for us that we can take every care and concern to Him?

Do you ever get worried about different things in life? We don't have to be worried because we trust in the God who created the universe and everything in it. And as this verse says, He cares for us. So because He cares for us, He has our best interest at heart. Everything He does is for our care and benefit. He is so good to us.

1 PETER 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Be very careful. Stay away from anything you know to be wrong. Watch out for attacks from Satan. He tries anything he can to make you sin and to destroy you and your faith. It is important to remain strong in the Lord. Being sober and vigilant means that we always have to be on guard. We should take the things of the Lord seriously.

Satan is compared to a roaring lion in this verse. Maybe you have watched some nature shows on lions and how they attack. When they attack a herd of animals they never go for the strongest in the group. They will watch for a while and find the weakest or the slowest, and then, just at the right moment, they will pounce on them and take them by surprise.

This is how Satan works. He will attack us when we are the weakest. That is why it is so important to remain strong in the Lord. How do we do that? By continually praying, reading His Word and asking

that He continually fill us with the Holy Spirit to grow big and strong in Him. The stronger we are in the Lord, the easier it is to resist the devil. **God wants us to resist the devil when we are tempted.**

1 PETER 5:9

Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

Resist Satan. Stand firm when he attacks. Stay true to your faith in Jesus. Trust the Lord. He has promised to be with you and to help you. Remember that other Christians all around the world are going through the same things you are.

We can resist Satan, as we trust in the Lord. Whenever you are tempted remember Jesus when Satan tempted Him. How did He respond? He knew the Word of God and responded to Satan with the Word. The best way to fight the devil is to know the Word and memorize Bible verses. This way, when he tries to attack, you can fight back and win with the Word of God. **God wants us to resist the devil when we are tempted.**

1 PETER 5:10

But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

Remember God has called you and given you eternal life through Jesus Christ. He will help you and will give you strength, as you need it. After you have suffered for a while, He will pick you up and will restore you. He will use these experiences to make you stronger and to make your faith grow firm and steady.

1 PETER 5:11

To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

God is all-powerful. He is over all things forever. We can trust Him. God cares about us. We are His children. He has a plan for our lives. The only way we can be happy is to resist the peer pressure and the ways of Satan and to follow God's way. He is all-powerful and will keep us in His loving hand if we obey Him.

Be encouraged to submit to God and resist the devil. We can all do it in the strength and power of the Lord. He is faithful and when we ask Him, He will help us. 1 Corinthians 10:13 is a good verse to memorize to help with temptation. It says, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." With God's help we can say no to temptation and live for Jesus! **God wants us to resist the devil when we are tempted.**

For application, ask a few of the children to share a time when they were tempted and how the Lord helped them to have victory.

Grasshopper in the Garden

Resistance is a great "warfare" word! For smaller children you may want to play a game of Red Rover to demonstrate. For the older children, Grasshopper in the Garden is a version of paper football and is a great way to demonstrate this concept.

Form pairs. Just fold a piece of paper accordion style into a strip, then fold the strip into a triangle, tucking the end inside the "football." Most kids already know how to do this, so let them if they know how. Give the defense or "gardener" some masking tape to make a 12" square on the carpet or desk (be sure to remove at

end of game). Have them stay a certain distance apart (you judge according to age). The offense tries to thump the “grasshopper” or football with his finger into the garden. Allow children to take turns being the “gardener” or the “grasshopper.”

The “gardener” should try to keep the “grasshopper” out. Just like protecting our gardens from predatory insects we should resist (or keep out) Satan when we are tempted.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to resist the devil whenever they are tempted. And have them ask the Lord to fill them with the Holy Spirit to help them to have strength in temptation. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.