



Date: _____

Series: God is Our Rescuer
Fall Year 2, Lesson 22

Stand Firm

Primary Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-18

Key Verse: Ephesians 6:10-11, “Finally, receive your power from the Lord and from his mighty strength. Put on all the armor that God supplies. In this way you can take a stand against the devil’s strategies.”

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Our kids are engaged in spiritual warfare. This is a Biblical fact, whether they realize it or not. Therefore, kids need to be trained to use weapons of the Spirit and all of the resources that God has to offer. They would then have victory in their life. Victory has been purchased by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As we stand firm on that fact, we are standing on conquered ground. We are standing on victory. This victory can be over sin, death, and the devil.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Through Jesus’ death and resurrection he has purchased a victory for us. He had defeated Satan and the powers of darkness by his might. He makes that victory ours through faith.

Jesus in us: As Jesus has promised his Holy Spirit to us, we have his presence within us. We call upon his presence in prayer, just as scripture reminds us, “Pray in the Spirit in every situation.” He will direct us where we should go.

Jesus through us: Spiritual victory is not for our benefit alone. Through the victory of Jesus in our lives, more prisoners might be set free from their spiritual slavery and live fully in his kingdom.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

The theme phrase that will be repeated today is "We stand on conquered ground." A pool of light will be focused on a certain area of the stage. This may be done with a floodlight or a lamp as long as the area of light is clearly distinguished. A semi-darkened room might lend to the effect. In the pool of light will be a cross cut out of paper. This area will be known as "conquered ground."

The key verses of Ephesians 6:10-11 can be read or summarized.

This calls us to put on the full armor of God so that we can take a stand against the devil's strategies. In worship, we come into the presence of the living God. As we do so, we find ourselves in this very light of Jesus Christ.

Just as I step into this light, it reminds me of stepping into a spotlight on a stage. Instead of a lot of people watching me, though, it is God who is watching me. When I come to worship, he is listening to the songs I sing and the prayers I give. He wants to know the thoughts on my heart. He wants to give me special attention.

Now when I look up at the light, I focus my special attention on God, just as he has focused his attention on me. I see him as God, the Father, who made me; God, the Son Jesus, who gave his life for me; and God, the Holy Spirit, who lives in my life. I am standing in a special place when I worship. That is where you are standing today, as well.

Prayer for worship.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

As I am worshiping God, remember how it is just like standing here in the light. One of the things about standing in light is that it would show any dirt that I have. For example, if I had dirty hands or a milk moustache and I stood in the light, everyone could see it. Because of that, I might want to go hide in a dark corner. God wants us to come to the light even if we have dirty hands or a milk moustache. The reason is so that he can clean us with his forgiveness. He wants us to see our sins so that he can show us our Savior.

Let's stop and confess our sins right now. Picture in your mind that his light is shining upon us. There might be things that the light is showing in our lives... ways of which we have not fully loved God or others.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Today we are talking about standing firm on conquered ground. See this space where the light lights up the floor? Let's imagine that as conquered ground. See the cross on it? What that means is that when Jesus gave his life for us, he conquered Satan, the power of death, and the power of sin. When we believe in Jesus, it is just like we are standing right on that space that he has conquered. We are standing on conquered ground.

We will soon find out more about what that means. Let's bring our offerings up and set it on this space that reminds us that Jesus has won the victory. We want to lay at his feet our offerings, just like we lay at his feet the offering of our love and service to him.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

“Stand Firm”

This game can be highly participatory with all of the kids partnering up. The game can also have only a few contestants and the other kids watching and sharing. A three-foot piece of rope or yarn will be used to mark the floor, dividing it into two territories. The two contestants would approach one another, both placing their right foot next to the line and touching their opponent's foot. Their back foot can be placed anywhere, but it must remain stationary.

The object of the game is to have them hold hands and see who can, by pushing or pulling, cause the other to move his feet. Who is it that can stand firm? Once a child has success, it can be fun to have other challengers come to see who can push or pull the champion off his feet.

Just like we try to stand firm in this game, the Bible tells us to stand firm on what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. We are to stand firm because the devil has all types of schemes and plans to try and push us off and make us fall. He wants to see us sin, and he wants to see us not love God or other people. He even wants to take our joy. Today, we are going to find out how it is that we can stand firm on this conquered ground and resist the devil trying to push us around.

Bible Reading:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Read the passage Ephesians 6:10-18. As you read, ask the kids to stand up and sit down every time they hear the word, “stand.” This will keep their attention, but it will also help teach them the truth of God's word. He wants us to stand firmly on what he has done for us. This means we stand firmly on conquered ground.

It will be helpful for the presenter to study this section of the Bible on spiritual warfare.

Our spiritual battle is primarily a defensive battle. Satan attacks us, but we respond by simply standing firm on what Jesus has done for us. If it is offensive in any way, even there the key is to go to those areas in which he seems to have control and reclaim it as conquered ground because of what Jesus has done. We stand on conquered ground.

Conquered ground needs to be explained as a spiritual reality. It is not just a physical place in the room where the light is shining and the cross is on the floor. Rather, it is a spiritual ground that is inside of us. Inside each of us is our soul or spirit. Even though we cannot see it, it is real. It is where Satan attacks us when he tries to get us not to believe in God. He tries to get us to feel embarrassed about Jesus. He tries to get us to lie or to steal. He wants to rob us of our joy or our peace. We have got to be ready to fight back.

We fight back by putting on the full armor of God and standing firm on conquered ground. We stand firm believing what Jesus has done for us in his death and resurrection. We know that Jesus lives with us so that we do not have to listen or do any of the lies that Satan says.

The following scenario calls for an interactive drama. A person portraying a characterization of the devil will come and interact with a kid pulled from the audience. This devil-type character might present himself in a number of personalities and approaches. For example, he might be sly and sneaky in one, but sound harmless and innocent in another. He might be stern and serious in one, but laughing in another.

The child will be standing on the cross in the pool of light each time the devil approaches him. The devil uses a three-foot string as a visual line over which he challenges the kid to cross. The drama becomes more effective if the territory on the devil's side is marked with a sign signifying the area that he is attacking. The five areas are:

- Rebellion
- Fear
- Unforgiveness
- Envy
- Lying

Each time the devil approaches, he entices the student to step over the line and give in to his sinful desires. After he has made his enticement, the student is coached to respond with, ***"I stand on conquered ground by the power of the cross so, Satan, why don't you just get lost!"*** What that means is that since the child is professing faith in Christ, the child is forgiven and freed from having to do what the devil tells him. It might be visually effective to have five different places where the spotlight can be

moved and the kid can stand on conquered ground. This lends to some variety in the presentation, but it also teaches that the cross of Christ brings victory in many different areas of our lives.

The following scenarios are offered as synopsis from which the devil character can have a conversation with the child. This should give the audience enough information as to know the nature of the temptation. For example, the devil can give the background information in his conversation with the child. In each scenario, he attempts to reach into the child and pull him from the spotlight area. At that time the child responds with, ***“I stand on conquered ground by the power of the cross so, Satan, why don’t you just get lost!”***

Scenario 1: Rebellion

A friend asks you to go with her to the movies on Sunday afternoon. The movie is rated PG-13. When you ask your mom and dad they say no. You can only go to the PG movies at the theater. Your friend agrees to still go the movies with you and you will both go to a PG movie. The devil tempts you to be angry with your mom and dad, and to rebel by saying, “I don’t care what you say. I’ll do what I want anyway.” The devil wants you to go to the PG-13 movie. No one would know anyway. What do you do? After the child answers the audience joins in the chant.

“I stand on conquered ground by the power of the cross so, Satan, why don’t you just get lost!”

Lightning

Scenario 2: Fear

At night it is storming and raining badly. Lightning fills the sky with loud thunder and bright flashes. Satan seems to whisper to you, “This storm will get you, too. It will strike the house and everyone will be hurt.” You are suddenly afraid. What do you do?

“I stand on conquered ground by the power of the cross so, Satan, why don’t you just get lost!”

Scenario 3: Unforgiveness

Jim, who used to be your best friend, decided at recess that he did not want you on his team. He did not pick you first or second, or even third. He did not pick you at all, even though he had the chance. He was just being mean to you because sometimes he simply likes being mean. Satan whispers to you, “What a rotten thing to do. Think of the ways you can get even. You should never be Jim’s friend again. You should make him pay. Think of the mean things you could tell everyone about him. Maybe you could tell some of the secrets he

told you. Think about how often Jim has hurt you and that will make you feel better.”

“I stand on conquered ground by the power of the cross so, Satan, why don’t you just get lost!”

Scenario 4: Envy

Greta has a new bike and a new outfit. She just got back from her vacation and has a new hairdo. Everything about her seems to be new. When you compare yourself to her, everything about you seems to be old and boring. Satan wants you to compare yourself to her, feel sorry for yourself, and wish that she had broke out in the pimple plague and her pretty hair fell out. He wants you to wish that her dad got mad at her and took you on a vacation. If you just wished it long enough, maybe it would come true.

“I stand on conquered ground by the power of the cross so, Satan, why don’t you just get lost!”

Scenario 5: Lying

You forgot your homework. Your teacher asks you to pass it in. You don’t want to turn it in without it being done. The easiest thing to do is to tell her that you did it, but you left it at home. You know you can get away with it. It is only one little, bitty lie. You will do your homework, so it will not really matter.

“I stand on conquered ground by the power of the cross so, Satan, why don’t you just get lost!”



Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Use the Lord's Prayer as a model for prayer. Particularly focus on the section that says, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver from evil." (*The literal translation should be, "deliver us from 'the evil one'."*) Upon that, offer to the kids ways to pray for spiritual protection around lots of issues in their life. These are areas in which Satan attacks. This might include self-image, false pride, fighting with brothers or sisters, fighting with parents, or not praying every day. It would be especially effective if the kids can think of some of the areas of attack. Include in your prayer, "I stand on conquered ground by the power of the cross so, Satan, why don't you just get lost!"

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- floodlight or lamp
- cross cut out of paper

Learning Game:

- three-foot piece of rope or yarn

Bible Reading:

- lightning, ex: strobe light or something similar
- signs:
 - o Rebellion
 - o Fear
 - o Unforgiveness
 - o Envy
 - o Lying
- devil costume or cape