



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** The Early Church  
Year 1, Lesson 8

# The Winning Church

**Take Home Point:** \*Winning is giving your best for Jesus.      \*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Acts 6:8-8:3 Stephen is stoned to death after being faithful even to the point of death.

**Key Verse:** Revelation 2:10 "But be faithful, even if you have to die. If you are faithful, I will give you the crown of life."

**We will help kids know:**

- Above all else, we need to be faithful to Jesus by doing our very best for Him.
- Stephen was faithful. Because of that he was a winner, even though he lost his life.
- Jesus was faithful, even though he gave his life. He won salvation for all of us so we could be faithful, too.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Passionate in their dedication to Jesus that they would do their best for Him even if it hurts.
- Comfort when they lose at certain games, knowing that they win when they have done their very best for Jesus.

**We will help kids do:**

Game-like situations that help them get in touch with their feelings about winning and losing. To demonstrate in every day life their faithfulness...doing their best for Jesus.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	The outcome of this warm-up is for the children to experience winning and losing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• blank tic-tac-toe boards (see appendix)</li> <li>• bowls of edible snacks for tokens</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	3  7-10	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> <i>I Won, You Lost</i> ---Dao Dao thinks “winning” means having the highest score in a game. He learns that winning Jesus’ way means staying faithful and doing your best for God.  <b>Video:</b> <i>The Visual Bible: Acts</i> , (Acts 6:8-7:15, 7:51-8:3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dao Dao with a sport’s medal.</li> <li>• football with cross</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	5-6	Kids play another version of tic-tac-toe and learn that winning is giving your best for Jesus. Winning is being faithful to Jesus.  <b>Memory Verse Learning:</b> “Covered With Flour” For lesson 55-57, Rev. 2:10 will be memorized to encourage every child to be faithful to do more for the Lord Jesus Christ.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tic-tac-toe boards with questions (see appendix)</li> <li>• bowls of edible token snacks for markers</li> <li>• two sets of tiny scrolls for each group</li> <li>• two large bowl of flour for each group</li> <li>• masking tape</li> </ul>

## Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

*Supplies needed:* blank tic-tac-toe boards (see appendix); bowls of edible snacks for tokens

*The outcome of this warm-up is for the children to experience winning and losing.*

Play tic-tac-toe using a blank tic-tac-toe sheet and two bowls of two different snack tokens such as mini chocolate chip cookies and mini Ritz crackers (or other appropriate small snacks).

Divide the children into two teams. Each time it is the team's turn to play, a new member from that team will place the edible token on the tic-tac-toe board. The winning team gets to eat all the pieces. On a draw, both teams get to eat.

After several games, or you are out of tokens, have the kids talk about when they won or lost. Ask each child to share one time they felt the best about winning. If enough time is left have them share one time they felt the worst about losing. Conclude with this question before going to large group:

**If you were to ask Jesus what it means to win, what do you think he would say?**

**Today we will hear about the winning church. We will learn that  
\*winning is giving your best for Jesus.**

## Large Group: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

*Supplies needed:* Dao Dao with a sport's medal ; football with cross

### Overview:

**Puppet Presentation:** *I Won, You Lost*---Dao Dao thinks “winning” means having the highest score in a game. He learns that winning Jesus’ way means staying faithful and doing your best for God.

**Video:** *The Visual Bible: Acts*, (Acts 6:8-7:15, 7:51-8:3)

# Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

## **Observation Questions: What happened?**

**How did Stephen show his faithfulness? How did he do his very best for Jesus?** *(Acts 6:7-7:60. Stephen kept his witness strong even though he was persecuted and eventually stoned to death.)*

**How did the people react to Stephen's witness?** *(Acts 7:54-60. They were angry and upset and stoned him to death.)*

## **Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?**

**How do you think Steven was feeling as he was stoned to death?** *(Acts 7:59 and 60. Even though he was probably scared, he remained faithful to God.)*

**Why do you think Steven wanted to do his best for Jesus?** *(He knew how faithful God had been throughout the Old Testament and through Jesus and had complete confidence that God would be faithful to him.)*

## **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

*Supplies needed: tic-tac-toe boards with questions (see appendix); bowls of edible token snacks for markers*

*Application questions will be discussed during another game of tic-tac-toe.*

For this version, use the tic-tac-toe board with questions on every square. The objective of this game is to help the other team get three in a row. Once again, you are playing with your snack tokens but each time a game is completed, ALL get to eat a token. To place a token on one of the spaces, one must read and answer the question on that square. Another option is for the shepherd to read the question for the entire group to hear while one person places the token on that square and answers the corresponding question.

*Be sensitive and not evaluate or comment much after the kids' responses. This encourages them to speak freely and honestly. Applications can come from the group's response to a child's answer.*

Read the Bible verse:

***“But be faithful, even if you have to die. If you are faithful, I will give you the crown of life.” (Revelation 2:10). From what you have learned today, what do you think this means?***

Repeat the take home point:

***\*Winning is giving your best for Jesus. Winning is being faithful to Jesus. What is it you want to do your very best for Jesus?***

## **Memory Verse Learning: 5 minutes**

***Purpose:*** Help kids to memorize and keep scriptures at heart. Using creative ways to help kids enjoy learning the key verse and in small group setting.

***Supplies needed:*** two sets of tiny scrolls for each group; two large bowl of flour for each group; masking tape

**Memory Verse:** Revelation 2:10 ~ “But be faithful, even if you have to die. If you are faithful, I will give you the crown of life.”

**MV Presentation:** “Covered With Flour”

Before Sunday school, hide the scrolls in the bowl of flour for each team. Set two parallel lines about 10 feet apart. One line will be the starting line for the teams and at the other end will be the bowl of flour. Divide the children into two teams and have them line up at the starting line. This is a relay so they are suppose to take turn to run to the bowl, dig inside for a scroll and then run back to touch the next person. Back at the starting line, they can open the scrolls to arrange Rev. 2:10. One thing each team must be careful is that they must not have much flour fallen out of the bowl. The team that has the most flour out of the bowl will be forfeited. Even though they have won or not, they must say Rev. 2:10 five times. Before indicating a start, recite the verse with all the children, and then begin the relay.

**Prayer Time:**

Ask each child to pray about one thing that they would like to win for Jesus.

**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.

## Large Group Presentation

### **“I Won, You Lost”**

#### Puppet Script

**Take Home Point: \*Winning is giving your best for Jesus.**

*Dao Dao appears with a sports medal around his neck. He is elated because he won. The skit begins with Dao Dao's voice from behind the stage...*

Dao Dao: Dao Dao! Dao Dao! He's our man! If he can't do it, no one can!

**Teacher: I wonder what I hear back here. Dao Dao, is that you chanting?**

Dao Dao: *(Appearing from behind the stage)* It sure is. Dao Dao! Dao Dao! He's our man! If he can't do it, no one can! Let's hear it, kids. Come on!

**Teacher: Okay, kids, let's try it. *(Together)* Dao Dao! Dao Dao! He's our man. If he can't do it, no one can. Well, I can see you are pretty excited today Dao Dao.**

Dao Dao: I sure am because I won! I won! I won! I won!

**Teacher: What did you win?**

Dao Dao: I won the soccer game!

**Teacher: You won the soccer game?**

Dao Dao: I sure did. I even scored a goal.

**Teacher: And what about your team?**

Dao Dao: Well, they helped me a little bit.

**Teacher: I am happy for you, Dao Dao, but I am wondering is that what it really means to be a winner? Just having the winning score?**

Dao Dao: Well, it means more than that. It means I won! I won! I won! And You lost! You lost! You lost! Loser! Loser!

**Teacher: You mean because you won that makes me a loser?**

Dao Dao: Well, I don't see a medal around your neck.

**Teacher:**           **What do you think boys and girls?** (*Takes comment from audience.*)

**Dao Dao, I would have to agree with the kids that winning and losing is much more than just whether you have the best score at the end of the game. Winning really means that you win at something much greater than a ball game.**

Dao Dao:           What could be greater than a soccer game?

**Teacher:**           **The way you live your life. Today we are going to find out from the Bible event about someone who truly was a winner, but he won at what Jesus says determines a winner.**

Dao Dao:           What's that?

**Teacher:**           **Watch the Bible event today from Acts chapter six and find out about Stephen and the winning church.**

Dao Dao:           I wonder if he is going to get as cool a medal as I got.

**Teacher:**           **Just watch, Dao Dao.**

Show *The Visual Bible: Acts*, (Acts 6:8-7:15, 7:51-8:3). Show Acts 6:8-7:15 then turn the video off and fast forward to verse 51. While the tape is advancing, the presenter can refer to God's faithfulness throughout the Old Testament; a summary of what Stephen is preaching to the Jewish council.

Using the football with the cross on it from fall's curriculum, the presenter can refer to passing the promise. Dealing interactively with the kids by asking questions about some of the Bible events in Acts 7:16-50, the presenter can help the children tell brief highlights of the story of God's faithfulness to Abraham, Jacob, Moses and David. This is done to share the content of Stephen's speech in Acts 7:16-50.

*Stephen's main point here is that God was faithful to His people and these leaders were faithful to him (Stephen) in presenting a witness. All the promises came true in Jesus, who is faithful even to the point of dying for our sins. Jesus did his very best no matter what.*

*Puppet script continues:*

Dao Dao: Wow, Teacher! He didn't get a medal for winning. He got a rock in the head.

**Teacher: That's right. But he won the way Jesus says we can win.**

Dao Dao: I don't understand. It didn't look at all like he won.

**Teacher: Dao Dao, the Bible says, "But be faithful, even if you have to death. If you are faithful, I will give you the crown of life." Boys and girls, why don't you say that with me? "But be faithful, even if you have to death. If you are faithful, I will give you the crown of life."**

Dao Dao: The crown of life? Is that when you get hit in the head?

**Teacher: No, it means that you get heaven as long as you are faithful to Jesus.**

Dao Dao: What does it mean to be faithful?

**Teacher: It means that you do your very best for Jesus.**

Dao Dao: I don't understand. If you do your very best for Jesus how could He let you die?

**Teacher: Remember He made it possible for us to live with Him in Heaven. Think about Jesus. Did He die?**

Dao Dao: Yes, He died on the cross.

**Teacher: Does that mean He lost?**

Dao Dao: No, He didn't lose. He beat the devil. He paid the price for our sins.

**Teacher: Yes, he won. He won everlasting life for us.**

Dao Dao: That's right, even though He died, Jesus is alive now.

**Teacher: The same thing happened for Stephen. He was doing his best for God just like Jesus did. That is what it means to be faithful. Jesus was faithful and so was Stephen. Now what about you?**

Dao Dao: Me? I've got a soccer medal.

**Teacher: Well, Jesus wants you to have a more important medal and that is a crown of life that lasts forever -- Heaven. To be a winner**



**for God means being faithful. It means doing your very best for Him no matter what.**

**Dao Dao:** Can I still win soccer games?

**Teacher:** Yes, you can still win soccer games but you can even be a winner if you lose a game. Dao Dao, we are going to say a closing prayer.

**Dear God, Thank You for sending Jesus who defeated death for us by giving His best for God on the cross. Help us to be faithful so we can win the crown of life just like Stephen. Help us to do our best for you even when we have the losing score in games like soccer or tic-tac-toe. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Goodbye, Dao Dao!**

*(As Dao Dao exits you hear)*

**Dao Dao:** I still won! I still won! I still won!

# Supplies:

## Quantity (✓)

### Small Group Warm-up:

- blank tic-tac-toe boards
- bowls of edible snacks for tokens; such as mini chocolate chip cookies and mini Ritz crackers (or other appropriate small snacks).

### Large Group:

- Dao Dao with a sport's medal.
- football with cross

### Small Group Application:

- tic-tac-toe boards with questions
- bowls of edible token snacks for markers

### Memory Verse Learning:

- two sets of tiny scrolls for each group. Photocopy into two colour paper for each team and cut out the word strips to be rolled into scrolls with thread to hold it.
- two large bowl of flour for each group. Have the bowl contain about 1kg of flour each.
- masking tape

faithful,	you have	to die.	even if	give you
But be	are	faithful,	Revelation 2:10	I will
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If Jesus said, "Do your best for me at home," what do you think that would mean for you?

You are in a baseball game. You are up to bat. There is a runner on third base. If you hit the ball, your team wins. And now you swing but...oh no, you strike out! Your team loses. What do you think Jesus would say to you?

What one thing do you try the hardest to win? What do you think Jesus would want you to try harder so that you could be his kind of winner?

If you could have the power to ask Jesus to do something great to serve him, what would that be?

Have you ever wanted to win so bad that you felt like cheating? Tell about it.

What would you like to be best at now? What would you like to be best at when you are your parent's age?

One of your friends is sad about losing a student council election. What do you think Jesus would like you to say to this person?

What is the best thing that God could give to you? What is the best thing you could give to him?

