Redemption Church/ Children’s Ministry 3/18/17

**The Full Court Press**

**Objective:** Students will learn how making daily time in God’s Word and prayer a priority prepares them for spiritual battles.

**Materials Needed:**

* Bible for children (page 176)
* Colored pencils
* Markers
* Index cards
* Stickers
* Prayer coloring sheets

**Opening:** The teacher will go through a review about past lesson of the series “Champion”

* God promise that He is with us
* God calls us to be servants
* We need to stop focusing in the problem
* Full Court Press/Fight

**Teacher:** We will learn today that life is like a basketball game, where each player confront, develops a strategy to win the game, and he/she is willing to work as a team.

I am not going to give up one inch to the enemy. I am going to get right in the enemy’s face. I am going to stand my ground. Wherever the enemy is, I will be right there denying his presence and advance.

**Discussion:** Is there anyone today that is ready to take their stand and demand the opponent give back what is rightfully yours?

1 Samuel 17:48 (NIV2011) As the Philistine moved closer to attack

him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him.

1 Samuel 17:49 (NIV2011) Reaching into his bag and taking out a

 stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

1 Samuel 17:51 (NIV2011) David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine’s sword and drew it from the sheath. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran. David on the other hand, pressed on the battlefield.

What did the word say? It said that Goliath moved closer. Can you picture a big slow lumbering giant? But how did it describe David? It says David ran quickly toward the battle.

As David was running to meet Goliath he reached into his bag for a stone. He slung that stone and hit the giant in the forehead. The giant falls down. Then what did David do? It says David ran and stood over him to finish the job.

Does it sound like David pressed? Does it sound like David had energy and passion? David was not reluctant to apply aggressive pressure?

**The teacher needs to emphasize that:**

**There are times for strategy.**

**There are times for wise counsel and advice.**

**But there are times when it is simply time to press**.

Are you running at your dreams? Are you attacking the obstacles? Are you putting pressure on your doubt and fear?

**God loves effort**

• Jesus said there are some things in God that ONLY come with the effort of prayer and fasting.

• The word says if you will take the effort to draw close to God, He will draw close to you. God blesses effort!

• God makes the promise that if you will honor your father and

mother, He will bless you.

• When you give it will be given back to you in a greater degree.

• If you sow you will reap.

Your theology is faulty if you think God does not value your pressing effort.

Your prayer matters! Your worship matters! Your effort matters!

**Do you want the supernatural in your life?**

God is Supernatural. That means God is beyond the natural. This is awesome. God we want your supernatural power!

But just because God is SUPER-natural, does not mean that He does not

value your natural.

People who don’t press look like they have made the mistake of thinking they have already won.

Don’t act like you aren’t in the fight of your life. Don’t just stand around with a giant walking toward you. PRESS! What if David didn’t press? What if he didn’t run to that Giant and let loose that stone? What if David didn’t run up to Goliath to finish the job? What if he would have allowed the giant to get back up?

You are in a fight! Fighting for your life, your soul,

your family, your future, your friends, your calling, your purpose, your health, your mind, your school, your spiritual life...

YOU ARE IN A FIGHT!

ACT LIKE IT! PRESS!

Do not stand around like you are not in a fight!

Philippians 3:14 (NIV2011) I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

**Decision**

You know the pressure is coming, so before it ever arrives that point guard has made the decision to pass the ball and to whom he will pass the ball.

Guess what? Today, somebody might need you to pass the ball, be ready and in position in order for you to be able to win the battle.

Now the enemy –Who is the believer’s enemy? What are the enemy’s weapons?

* Lies/accusations
* Insults

What are the believer’s weapons?

* Prayers
* Word of God
* Fasting

**Transition:** The teacher need to tell the students that they are about to move the next activity.

**Activity: Learning Activity #1:**Create military name tags.  Students can make a tag that identifies them as a soldier in the military by choosing titles (examples:  Captain, Colonel, Lieutenant, etc.)

**Activity #2:** The children will be provided with the “praying sheet” for them to colored it and to write on it their prayers. **The teacher needs to emphasize that a prayer is a powerful to overcome our battles.**

**Closure:** “Until we are in Jesus’ presence we will be in enemy territory.  A good soldier stays in shape and listen’s closely to the orders of his/her captain.  A believer can stay in shape for the spiritual battle by daily reading/studying God’s word and praying. Any prayer requests?” **The teacher should guide students into a prayer.**

**Snack time:** Please check for allergies.

**Treasure Box** for the students, especially those who showed good behavior through the whole class.

**Free play time**