

## ETHICS &amp; RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION

# Living to Please God



## THE ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION

OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

www.erlc.com

### Leader Preparation

#### Today's Words

Obedience to God



#### Study focus

(1) To help boys and girls learn that they are to be obedient to God even when others tell them something different

(2) The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission helps to make us aware of issues that lead away from the teachings of the Bible.

### Things to have ready for Session 6:

#### Take the Challenge

- Bibles



#### Huddle

- Paper cups (2 for each child)
- String cut to 6 ft. lengths

#### We're a Team

- 3 balls (2 the same size; 1 smaller)

### Bible Passages

#### > Proverbs 3:5-6 (HCSB)

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths.

#### > Acts 5:29 (HCSB)

But Peter and the apostles replied, "We must obey God rather than men."

#### > 2 Chronicles 1:7-12 (HCSB)

That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him: "Ask. What should I give you?" And Solomon said to God: "...grant me wisdom and knowledge so that I may lead these people, for who can judge this great people of Yours?" God said to Solomon, "Because this was in your heart, and you have not requested riches, wealth, or glory, or for the life of those who hate you, and you have not even requested long life, but you have requested for yourself wisdom and knowledge that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king, wisdom and knowledge are given to you. I will also give you riches, wealth, and glory, such that it was not like this for the kings who were before you, nor will it be like this for those after you."



## Warm Up

### (Activities for early arrivers)

As the kids arrive, greet them and welcome them to the session.

**When three or four arrive, BEGIN THE ACTIVITY BY SAYING:**  
***When we need to make a decision or seek advice, it is important to look for help in the right places. We need to make choices that agree with the teachings of the Bible.***

Tell boys and girls to line up shoulder-to-shoulder facing you. Say that you will read a list of people or places they could turn to when they need help. Tell the children that as you read each choice, they should decide if it is a good place to seek help. If the choice is a good one, the kids should take one step toward you. If it is not a good choice, the kids should take one step backward.

**Read aloud each of these choices. Before you read each choice, ASK THE QUESTION: *What can you do when you need help?***

- > **Call your pastor.**  
(Good choice)
- > **Pray to God.**  
(Good choice)
- > **Read teen magazines.**  
(Poor choice)
- > **Ask Christian friends for advice.**  
(Good choice)
- > **Talk to your children's minister.**  
(Good choice)
- > **Ask a non-Christian friend for advice.**  
(Poor choice)
- > **Call your Sunday School teacher.**  
(Good choice)
- > **Watch TV talk shows.**  
(Poor choice)
- > **Read your Bible.**  
(Good choice)
- > **Visit unsupervised internet chat rooms.**  
(Poor choice)
- > **Go to church.**  
(Good choice)

Commend the kids for making good choices. State that many times it is hard to know what choices are based on what the Bible teaches. But the Bible tells us that God promises to meet all of our needs, and we can depend upon Him in times of trouble. We need to be careful and seek help from people who follow what the Bible teaches.

## WHAT IS THE ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION (ERLC)?

With offices in Nashville, Tennessee, and Washington, D. C., the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) is dedicated to addressing social, moral, and ethical concerns, with particular attention to their impact on American families and their faith. They also provide printed resources that offer scriptural responses to the moral and ethical problems of our culture.

Through its Washington office, the ERLC secures a Southern Baptist presence on Capitol Hill and represents the views and concerns of the over 16 million members of Southern Baptist churches. ERLC staff works to keep the American public informed on critical issues facing the family and the nation. Staffers communicate breaking news from Capitol Hill to constituents throughout the country, encouraging them to contact their elected representatives when necessary.

The radio broadcast, *For Faith & Family*, is broadcast from the offices in Nashville, Tennessee, and is heard weekly by 1.5 million listeners around the country. The Research Institute, in Washington, D.C., in collaboration with the ERLC's Print Communications Team, develops printed materials to educate the public on issues such as upholding the sanctity of human life, protecting religious liberty, restoring the biblical family, fighting substance abuse, and eliminating the devastating effects of gambling, pornography, and world hunger.

These efforts are undergirded by commitment to putting love in action through our participation in CP.



## THE ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION

OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

**For more information about the work of the ERLC, visit [www.erc.com](http://www.erc.com).**



# Take the Challenge

(Large group learning)



As the kids move into a semicircle, **REVIEW THE WARM UP ACTIVITY BY ASKING: *Is it always easy to make good decisions that agree with the teachings of the Bible?***

After the boys and girls share their responses, say that many people make important decisions in life without following what the Bible says. **ASK the children if they know why people would do this.**

(Some of their responses may include:  
They don't know what the Bible teaches.  
They do what their friends encourage them to do. They don't ask God to help them make the decision.)

Choose three children who are good readers. Give each child one of these Scripture references and ask them to (1) find the verse in their Bible and (2) be prepared to read the verse(s) to the group when you call on them.

Scripture references: **2 Chronicles 1:7-12**  
**Proverbs 3:5-6**  
**Acts 5:29.**

Ask the other boys and girls to find the verse **Acts 5:29**. Invite older children to help younger ones find this verse.

Share the following story before asking for the Scripture passages to be read.

## Solomon Asks for God's Help

After King David died, his son Solomon became King of Israel. The Bible calls King David "a man after God's own heart." This did not mean that David never made mistakes, because he did. He was a man who grew up loving God, but he was often tempted to sin against God.

David must have taught Solomon to love God, too. Perhaps David taught his son the wisdom that is recorded in **Proverbs 3:5-6**. (Ask the child who has this passage to read it aloud to the group.)

Solomon loved God, and he knew that he must trust God to help him be a good king. After Solomon became king, God appeared to him one night.

Call on the child you asked to find **2 Chronicles 1:7-12** to read it for the group while the other children listen. Remind the boys and girls you will be asking them some questions about these verses.

After the passage is read, ask for responses to these questions:

**(1) When God appeared to Solomon, what did He ask Solomon?**

*"Ask what I shall give you."*

**(2) What did Solomon ask of God?**

*To give him wisdom and knowledge*

**(3) What are some of the things Solomon could have asked God for?**

*Riches, wealth, honor, victory over his enemies, to live a long life*

**(4) How do we know God was pleased with Solomon's answer?**

*Because God gave him wisdom and knowledge plus riches, wealth, honor, victory over his enemies, and a long life.*

**(5) How do you think Solomon knew how to respond to God's question?**

*Solomon loved God and wanted to follow God's plan for his life. By asking for God's wisdom and knowledge, Solomon knew he could be a godly king.*

—Proverbs 3:5-6



## Take the Challenge

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

**CONTINUE:** *Because being a good leader is so important, leaders need to have the same commitment to follow God's leadership as Solomon had. Leaders need to be obedient to God. Being obedient is not always easy. Many times leaders must take a stand that is not popular with the people they lead.*

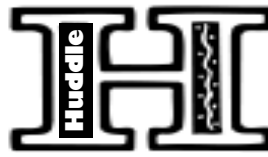
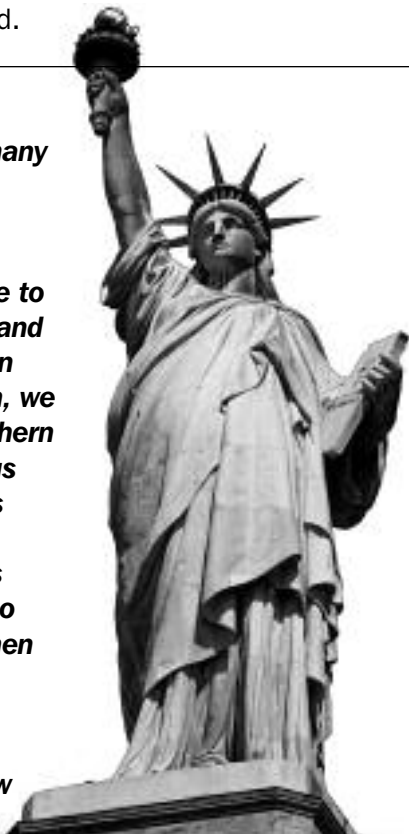
*Sometimes leaders must make decisions that are unpopular with people who have authority over them. The Bible tells about a situation like that. Soon after Jesus went back to heaven, His followers were telling everyone about Jesus. Many miracles were being performed, and large numbers of people were being saved.*

*The Jewish religious leaders were disturbed by all of the things that were happening in the new Christian church in Jerusalem. In fact, they had Peter and Jesus' disciples put in jail! When the Jewish leaders demanded that they stop teaching about Jesus, what do you think Peter and the disciples said?*

**Ask the child who found Acts 5:29 to read the answer.**

Encourage the others to follow in their Bibles. Reinforce the concept of the Bible verse by saying that we must always be obedient to God.

**CONTINUE:** *In the United States today, there are many laws and government policies that are not consistent with what the Bible teaches. As we give to God through our church and our church participates in the Cooperative Program, we help to support the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. This commission helps us to know about these issues and what the Bible has to say. They let us know when we need to contact our senators and representatives to encourage them to follow God's way.*



## Huddle

(Small group learning)



### Dialing for Decisions

Remind the kids that it is easy to make a decision based on what everyone else is doing. But it is difficult sometimes to make a choice based on what God says we should do. Making a choice that would please God is always the best choice!

**ASK:** *How do we know what choice God wants us to make?*

The Bible is full of wonderful truths to guide us in making wise choices. We just need to remember to seek God's help in making decisions and not just do what may seem to be the right thing.

Enlist one of the children to read **Proverbs 3:5-6**.

**"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths."**

Discuss the meaning of this verse with the group.

Give each child two paper cups and a length of string.

**SAY:** *Let's make a string telephone as a fun way to help us remember to check our decisions with what the Bible teaches.*

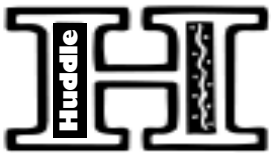
Give the following instructions:

On one of the cups write, **"Do not rely on your own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5)**.

On the other cup, write **"Dialing for Decisions."**

Lead the kids to make a small hole in the bottom of each cup and thread the string through each of the holes. Tie a knot in each end of the string. (Make sure the knot is at the end of the string.)

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)



## Huddle

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

Encourage the boys and girls to each find a partner in the group and use their telephones. Instruct each child to hold one end of the phone and move away from his partner until the string is tight. Give them a few minutes to talk with each other on their string telephones.

Recall the “good choice/poor choice” game from the Warm Up activity. Ask the kids to choose a partner. Using the string telephones they just made, ask them to role play how the Bible says they can know how to make good choices. One of the pair will make a statement about a choice they need to make. Their partner will answer with “good choice” or “poor choice.” Some of the statements could include:

- > **I don't understand a certain Bible verse. I will ask my pastor to explain it to me.**  
(good choice)
- > **Nolan and I don't get along. I will pray and ask God to help me be kind to Nolan.**  
(good choice)
- > **Kellie doesn't wear nice clothes. A magazine I saw makes me think I should not want her to be my friend.**  
(poor choice)
- > **I didn't make the basketball team. Ryan is a great basketball player and a good friend from church. Maybe he could help me learn to play better.**  
(good choice)
- > **I have an important decision to make. Maddie is really popular, but she doesn't go to church or act like she knows Jesus. I think I'll ask Maddie for advice.**  
(poor choice)

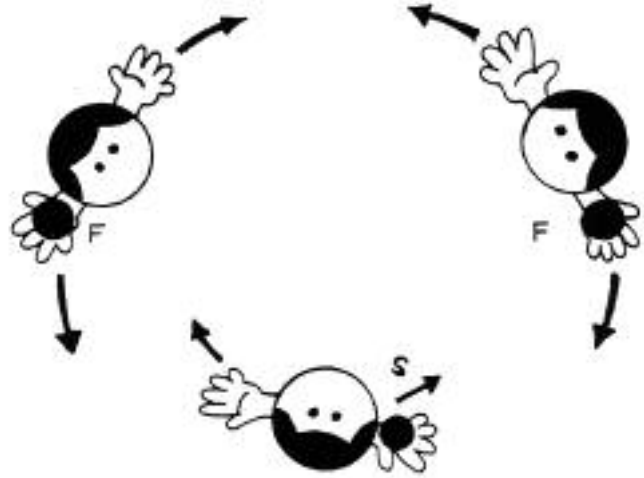
Help the kids by discussing some of the real life problems and decisions they face and how they can “lean not on my own understanding” in making good choices.

**CLOSE BY SAYING:** *We know we can always trust God's Word when we have to make a choice. Let's remember that is the ministry of our Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. They help the leaders of our state and nation to know what decisions will be pleasing to God.*



## We're a Team

(Recreational activities)



**TONIGHT'S GAME: “Foxes and Squirrel”** (from *Missions Games and Activities for Children Grades 1-6*, published by the North American Mission Board, SBC, p. 51)

### Items needed to play the game:

three balls (two balls the same size and one smaller ball)

- > Players stand in a circle. Explain that the two balls the same size represents the foxes, the one small ball represents the squirrel. The object is for a fox or both foxes to catch the squirrel. This is done when a person holding the fox ball tags the person holding the squirrel ball.
- > The game begins by passing the foxes around the circle from one person to another. The person passing it must say “fox” as they pass it. Fox balls can be passed in either direction, but not thrown across the circle.
- > The squirrel ball is added to the game. It can be passed or thrown across the circle. The person passing it must call out “squirrel” as he passes it.
- > When a “squirrel” is caught, that player is eliminated.

The game can be played very quickly. Players try to catch others off guard.

**LIFE LESSON:** *We must always be careful to obediently to follow God's way. Many things may distract us from doing that. Remember the Bible verse: “We must obey God rather than men!” (Acts 5:29, HCSB).*



## Finish Line

(Closing)

Dismiss the group with prayer. Ask God to help people everywhere to make decisions based on what the Bible teaches.



## Home Team

(From learning to action)

This activity is suggested to be done at home to reinforce what was learned in this session about the ministry of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. Make copies of the following letter and send a copy home with each child.

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Resources for Session 6, Item 1. Duplicate one per child. Send home with child at end of Session 6.

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### Dear Parent,

In this session, we learned about the ministry of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. The ERLC is dedicated to addressing social, moral, and ethical concerns that impact families in our country. One of the ways the ERLC accomplishes this is through its radio broadcast, *For Faith & Family*. Visit [www.erc.com](http://www.erc.com) for a listing of broadcast stations and times.

Spend some time with your child this week thinking of good choices and poor choices kids make. Help them recall the Bible verse we studied in this session at church: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6, HCSB).



**COOPERATIVE PROGRAM**

Love In Action

[www.sbc.net/cp](http://www.sbc.net/cp)