

## LARGE GROUP LESSON

### **BOTTOM LINE:**

God's Word can prepare us for the challenges of the school year.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will be encouraged to learn three verses to help them through the school year.

### **KEY PASSAGE:**

Joshua 1:9, Colossians 3:23, Philippians 4:13

### **INTRO:**

Have you ever noticed there's a certain section in every Target store that changes with the seasons? If you visit in October, it's filled with Halloween costumes. November 1, it changes over to Christmas. After Christmas comes Valentines, then Easter, and right after that, it's filled with all the essentials for summer.

No sooner does summer begins, something dark and terrible takes over that same section of Target. No, it's not yet time for ghosts and goblins and spookiness that comes with Halloween. It's something far more sinister and much more real. Some of you have already been there. Some of you may be there today. Mom or Dad will force you to tread those dark and terrible aisles with a list in hand to buy the things no kids wants to think about in July or August. Pencils. Ballpoint pens. Glue sticks. Folders with pockets. Note cards. Dry erase markers.

Yes, kids, it's almost time to go back to school. It's time to check the backpacks for holes, make sure the lunch boxes were cleaned out in the spring, see what school clothes are too small, and restock your school supplies. A new school year isn't all bad of course. There are new friends to be made, new discoveries to be had, and new sports to try. There will be field trips and field days along with the late night study sessions and last minute science projects.

There will be good days and bad, and as happens in life, there will always be unexpected challenges. One thing we can do to prepare for these challenges is to stock up not just on pencils and markers, but on the Word of God. We can take the Bible with us in our school bags, if we have one that fits, but even if we can't squeeze one more book into our bags, we can always load our minds up with Bible verses. We want to share three verses in particular with you this morning that we hope will help you have your best school year yet.

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## **READ JOSHUA 1:9**

This popular verse is part of a speech God gave Joshua when he became the leader of Israel. God knew Joshua was nervous about his new job, and God wanted him to succeed. God reminded him to be brave and to remember God would always be with him. That's great encouragement isn't it?

## **READ COLOSSIANS 3:23**

This verse has another important message for us. We need to always do our best, even at school work, because everything we do can be a service to the Lord! It isn't always easy to find the motivation to build a solar system or memorize vocabulary words we've never heard before, but when we commit everything we do to the Lord, we will dig deep and give it our very best, knowing we're not just working for a grade, but for God!

## **READ PHILIPPIANS 4:13**

If you haven't learned this memory verse already, you should. It's one of the best verses to learn, and one of the most encouraging. We can do all things through God who gives us strength. Even when we're tired, worn out, and ready for summer – sometime in mid-September – God will give us the strength to overcome any challenge.

### **MAIN POINT:**

Every week we practice memorizing scriptures. Every lesson series, we try to help you remember one verse that can help you build your faith in God. As much as we focus on them, we don't often talk about why we memorize these verses. When we memorize Bible verses, we can have God's Word on the tip of our minds. We don't have to search and hunt for inspiration or encouragement in a giant Bible. It's right up here, in our memory banks. The more verses we know, the better prepared we will be for any challenge. We want you to pack these verses into your minds this school year so that you will be ready to face any challenge.

### **DRIVE IT HOME:**

You can't take a fill in the bubble test without a number 2 pencil. That's why we buy them at the beginning of the school year. You can't color a map of the US without colored pencils. That's why we buy those. You can't face some of the challenges school throws at you without God. That's why we want you to learn these scriptures. Each one of them will give you direction, encouragement, and strength for the year ahead.

## **RE-READ JOSHUA 1:9**

God will be with you, so have courage!

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## **RE-READ COLOSSIANS 3:23**

Do your best because you want to do everything, even that hard-to-finish class project, for God!

## **RE-READ PHILIPPIANS 4:13**

Remember your strength comes from God!

School is full of challenges and opportunities. There are good days and bad, and every day, no matter what the day may be, is a chance to serve the Lord. Pack these verses in your mind. Prepare to serve God every day you attend class. Ask God to use you to do great things in your school. God will go with you, and He will give you strength to make this a great year!

## **CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Prepare us to live for you this coming school year.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*