

Game Day

A 20-minute lesson for Sunday school, VBS or midweek kids · Galatians 6:9

Questions or a church request: hello@ljandfamily.com · ljandfamily.com

AGES	4–10 (adaptations for 3–5 and 10–12 at the end)
YOU NEED	A screen for the episode · a soft ball · a small target (a box, a laundry basket or tape on the wall) · paper and crayons · the coloring page
EPISODE	Ep 5, Game Day (2:10) · youtu.be/gmeEn_kbmII
MEMORY VERSE	“Let’s not be weary in doing good, for we will reap in due season if we don’t give up.” Galatians 6:9
GRANDMA’S BIBLE STORY	David and the giant, 1 Samuel 17:32–37
THE ONE THING THEY TAKE HOME	Missing doesn’t make you a quitter, and winning isn’t what makes God love you. Keep going. God sees every try.

The class plan

MIN		WHAT HAPPENS
0–2	Welcome	Ask: “Who has ever wanted to quit something because it was hard?” Hands up, you too.
2–5	Watch	Show Ep 5, Game Day (2:10).
5–10	Talk	Three questions below. Let them answer before you do.
10–14	Bible	Tell young David from 1 Samuel 17:32–37.
14–18	Activity	Kick after kick (below).
18–20	Pray	Close with the episode prayer.

Talk about it (5 minutes)

1. Why did LJ want to quit? What was he really feeling?

Listen for “embarrassed”, “he let his team down”, “sad”. Quitting was about the feeling, not the soccer.

2. Who helped LJ try again, and what did each of them actually do?

Mom prayed and hugged him, Dad told him Grandpa’s words, Coach Davis stayed late. Each did something different.

3. What is something hard for you right now?

Take answers without fixing them. Ask what one small practice step could look like this week.

Open the Bible (4 minutes)

“Let’s not be weary in doing good, for we will reap in due season if we don’t give up.”
Galatians 6:9 (WEB)

How to tell it

Everyone thought David was too small. But out in the fields, guarding his father’s sheep, he had practiced with his sling for years, and when a lion or a bear came, God helped him. So when the giant came, David said: “The Lord who delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, will deliver me.” Point out that David didn’t get ready on the day. He got ready on all the ordinary days before it.

Going deeper with older kids

With older kids, read Galatians 6:9 and ask what “reap in due season” means. A farmer doesn’t plant on Monday and harvest on Tuesday. Ask what they are planting right now that won’t show for a while, and who in the story kept doing good for LJ when it was inconvenient.

Activity: Kick after kick (4 minutes)

- Set the target at one end of the room. Each child gets three tries to roll or toss the soft ball into it.
- After each miss, the whole group says together: “Don’t give up!”
- After each try, hit or miss, cheer. We celebrate showing up, not only scoring.
- Finish by saying Galatians 6:9 together, one phrase at a time.

A WORD OF CARE

Keep it gentle. The activity is about trying again, so never keep score or rank children, and make sure every child gets the same number of tries. If a child gets upset after missing, that is the lesson happening. Kneel down, the way Mom did, and let them try once more.

Close in prayer (2 minutes)

Have the children fold their hands and repeat after you, one line at a time:

God, when I miss and I want to quit, remind me that You see me trying. Help me keep doing good and not give up, whether I win or whether I lose. Thank You for the people who stay late for me. Amen.

Adaptations

Ages 3–5

Move the target close so everyone scores at least once. Say “God sees you trying!” after every turn.

Ages 10–12

Do the Going Deeper section. Have each child write one hard thing and a five-day practice plan.

Large group

Run the activity in teams of five at several targets. Take three answers to each question.

Short on time (10 minutes)

Watch (2), one question (2), tell David's story (3), say the verse and pray (3).

A note for teachers

Don't tell children that if they practice hard enough they will always win. LJ practiced and scored, but the lesson is Mom's line: God loves you winning or losing. A child who practices and still loses has not failed the lesson.

Send the family guide home with every child so families can watch and talk about it together. It is free to print and share at ljandfamily.com.