



BETTER THAN BASIC: Week 3

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BETTER THAN BASIC

WEEK 3: Better with God.

Bible: Psalm 56:11 (NKJV)

Bottom Line: There is no one better than God to guide you through the issues of school life.

SUPPLIES

- Chalk
- 4 Orange cones (or some type of marker)

OPENING GAME: JUST KEEP TALKING TAG

GAME PREP

This game requires an ample gameplay space.

Use four cones to mark the corners for the game and then use a piece of chalk to draw the perimeter.

Next, draw a line across the middle of the space to create two halves.

Divide your students into two teams of equal size.

Have each team stand on one side of the space.

HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

Say: Raise your hand if you know someone that talks a lot.

Keep your hand raised if that person is you... you will do really well in this game.

This game is called "Just Keep Talking Tag."

When each round of the game begins, I will choose one person from each team to be "talkers."

As soon as I say GO, the talkers will begin to say "blah blah blah blah blah..." in ONE single breath, until they run out of breath.

While they are blah blah-ing, they will run to the other teams' side and try to tag as many people as possible, before they run out of breath.

BEFORE they run out of breath, they must make it back to their team's side.
If they run out of breath before they make it back to their team, then everyone that they tagged will remain right where they are.

If they make it back to their team's side before they run out of breath, then everyone that they tagged is now on their team.

No one can run out of bounds during the game, or you will automatically have to join the other team.

The game is over when everyone on has been tagged and is on one side of the line.

TEACH

Say: Some of you can talk for a really long time without taking a breath!

And for some of you, that game was a little harder because you aren't used to talking that much.

The last few weeks, we have been talking about the things that make you unique and how being BASIC is the opposite of who you are as God's creation.

The first week we said that when you understand how much God values you, it will change the way you view yourself and others.

Last week, was all about attitude and how it impacts your interactions with people at school.

Your attitude also affects how you reach others as a follower of Jesus.

Today, I want you to know that life can be tough; school and relationships can be tough – you more than likely already knew that.

But there is no one better than God to guide you through the issues of school life.

Have you ever had a friend that always seems to know exactly how to handle things?

They know the right things to say, when to encourage you, stand up for you, give you a hug, or even cry with you – guys, maybe not so much.

Because school life can be complicated.

Tell me if you can relate...

You finally have a group of friends that you enjoy hanging out with, but now your grades are on a downward spiral so you dread going to school.

Or your grades are going really well, but you have no social life.

How about this? One day everyone loves you, the next day there's a rumor flying around that you said something that you didn't say, and now you feel like everyone is against you.

Those are all very normal situations in the life of a teenager.

But did you know that God can use those types of situations to make you into the person He wants you to become?

Raise your hand if you have ever created anything out of clay.

Clay is not very valuable unless you can create remarkable things.

But porcelain is very valuable.

A porcelain vase can cost thousands of dollars.

You can buy a clay pot at Walmart for \$1.50.

What's the difference?

Porcelain is clay that has been compressed and fired to extremely high temperatures.

A clay pot sitting in the sun will always be a clay pot.

It has to go through the white heat of the furnace to become porcelain.

Some days at school might feel like you are in the fire – you are being tested, and the heat is almost too much to handle, but God is with you.

Ask: So, how do you make it through each school day?

How do you keep your chin up when things are tough?

Allow a few responses from students.

One thing that can really help is to determine if the situations you are facing are temporary or permanent.

Here's a clue... they are all temporary.

Even the absolute worst things that happen to you are only temporary.

Are you being bullied or tormented? That won't last.

Are you having the best hair day ever? Unfortunately, that won't last either.

Surrounded by friends? Surrounded by enemies?

All of those are temporary, but they are also very real.

That doesn't mean it's always easy to remember that when you are in the middle of those times.

But you **can** remember... There is no one better than God to guide you through the issues of school life.

God can use the situations and people that seem like "trials" in our lives to build strength and character.

Listen to this story...

One weekend, two guys decided to climb to a popular nearby hilltop.

While the one guy had been there dozens of times, it was a completely new experience for the other guy.

When they approached the bottom of the hill, the new guy pointed out that it wouldn't be an easy climb – it looked steep and rough.

He was surprised because he knew there were people there every weekend that climbed this horrible hill.

The new guy said, "I thought you had been here before. You should have warned me.

There isn't a smooth spot anywhere. It's all bumpy and stony, and there's no way I could climb this."

"Yes," said the other guy, "but how else would we ever climb to the top of it wasn't? The stones and bumps are what we step on to get there."

The stones and bumps of your life are the trials and situations you face every day.

They might seem unnecessary to you, but they just might be the things God is using to take you to the place He wants you to go.

Read Psalm 56:11.

I trust in God, so why should I be afraid? What can mere mortals do to me?

Every day is a new opportunity to trust God like never before.

You are never alone, even if it feels like it.

God is always with you and He can place people in your life to encourage you during the difficult times.

He can also use you to encourage those who are struggling.

Don't try to do it on your own – trust in God.

Close in prayer.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Name a situation in your life right now that you are thankful is only temporary.

How does have that point of view change the way you feel about your circumstances?

2. What "stones and bumps" in your life have helped you grow closer to God?
3. How do you think people that don't depend on God make it through the tough situations in life?
4. What fears do you face during difficult times?

Do you usually encounter those fears during other times, when life is less complicated?

Answers might include: fear of failure, disappointing other people, falling away from God, etc.

5. How do you help other people who are overwhelmed with the trials of life?
6. Do you feel like God gives you the right things to say to other people at the correct times?

Name a time when God told you what to say or do and you were obedient.

7. What is one thing that God is teaching you through this series on identity?
8. How is it helping you to look at others differently – as made in the image of God?
9. What is the most challenging situation your family has ever faced?

Did it bring you closer together? Explain how it affected all of you.

10. What is one of the most significant issues that people encounter at school?

How do most people handle it?