

**Learning to
Avoid Foolish
Mistakes**



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“How To RUIN Your Life” - LESSON 1

“Resist Authority”

Main Focus:

We must honor the authority God has placed in our lives



Power Verse:

“For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.”
- Romans 13:1b



Watt's Up:

“I Will Keep Myself Under Authority!”

LEADER'S INFO

God has put people of authority in our lives to help us grow and to keep us on the straight and narrow. If we want to have the life God has planned for us, then we have to honor and obey their authority.

In fact, the most important authority in your life – the one that you NEVER want to resist – is God. His authority is a strong protection from the evil in this world. “Resisting Authority” is one of the quickest ways to ruin your life.

In this lesson, your children are going to learn about how Adam and Eve chose to resist God's authority. They are going to learn how Adam and Eve SHOULD have submitted and honored God's authority.

When you live your life under God's authority, there is protection and blessing. When you resist God's authority, you may “RUIN your life.”



“The Spark” Intro Video

“The Honk-A-Matic”



“Watt's Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt's Up?”



Character Skit

“Wacky Wally”



Offering Time



Game On!

“Noodle Joust”



Bible Story

“Adam and Eve”



Power Verse Video

“For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.”

- Romans 13:1b



Call To Action

“Under Authority”



Brain Drain

PowerPoint Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

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“The Honk-A-Matic”

“Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt’s Up?”

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Call To Action

“Under Authority”

Brain Drain

PowerPoint Review Game

Small Group Experience

ORDER OF SERVICE

- 1 _____
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- 2 _____
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- 3 _____
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CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “**Wacky Wally**” (A quirky young man who dreams of being a superhero. What he lacks in superpowers he makes up for with enthusiasm.)

WALLY: *(comes running in wearing a ridiculous homemade “superhero costume.” His arms are outstretched and he’s making “whooshing” noises like he’s flying around, making laps around the leader, before stopping and making a heroic pose)* Have no fear, citizen! *(goes back to running laps around the leader)*

Leader: Have no fear?! How can I possibly NOT freak out with you running around me all...all...WACKY?!

WALLY: *(stops, shocked)* You’ve heard of me?? Someone ACTUALLY knows who I am? *(yells up to the sky)* THANK YOU, LORD!

Leader: No! I’ve NEVER heard of you!

WALLY: But you called me by my name! Wacky! *(gets into a heroic pose)* It is I, WACKY WALLY! *(repeats “wally” over and over again like it’s an echo)*

Leader: Listen, Wally--

WALLY: I’m the greatest superhero EVER! Faster than The Flash, stronger than the Hulk, able to leap tall jungle gyms in a single bound! And I’m here to SAVE YOU!

Leader: Save me? I didn’t know I was in danger!

WALLY: Danger is ALWAYS afoot! And it STINKS like one, too! I’m here to stop you from the horrible, terrible clutches of...AUTHORITY!

Leader: Hold on! Authority isn’t bad!

WALLY: Don’t be fooled!! Authority is TERRIBLE! Teachers, parents, CAFETERIA WORKERS! They’re always telling you what to do! “Do your homework, eat your vegetables, STOP TAP DANCING IN THE MASHED POTATOES!” Well, I say NO MORE! Wacky Wally is here to SAVE THE DAY and rid the earth of Authority ONCE AND FOR ALL!!

Leader: Slow down there, Wally, you’ve got this all wrong! Authority isn’t bad! We NEED it! In fact, God is the one that puts authority in our lives!

WALLY: *(gasps)* Bouncing Batman, you can’t be SERIOUS! Are you telling me that God wants me to SUBMIT to authority?

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



CHARACTER SKIT

(continued)

Leader: Exactly. You see, God puts authority figures like teachers, parents, police officers, Sunday school teachers, and TONS more into our lives so they can PROTECT us! All those rules they give us are there for a reason! If you resist authority, you lose God's protection!

WALLY: But I have plenty of protection with my rock hard MUSCLES OF STEEL! (flexes)

Leader: *(pokes Wally in the ribs)*

WALLY: *(whines loudly, holding the spot where he was poked)* Owwwwwww. Okay, okay, I DO need God's protection. But do I really need to listen to people in authority ALL the time?

Leader: Yep. All authority comes from God, and when you honor them, you're actually honoring God!

WALLY: Wow...I do want to honor God! After all, He's the greatest hero IN THE HISTORY OF EVER! I guess I'd better go. There's an authority figure that I need to go honor RIGHT NOW!

Leader: Really? Who's that?

WALLY: My dentist. I haven't brushed in weeks. I was trying to get SUPER BREATH...but now it just smells like a taco truck dumped all of its leftovers into my mouth. *(breathes into the leader's face)* Hey! That's a good idea for a superhero! "STANKBOY!" I'll see you later, boys and girls! If you ever need a hero, just call my name! WACKY WALLY, AWAAAAAAAAAAYYY!

(Wally throws both of his arms into the air and runs around making "whooshing" noises as he exits while "Wacky Wally's Theme" video plays from the DVD)



GAME ON!

“Noodle Joust”

Items Needed For Game:

Two “fun noodles” (*four feet long, styrofoam tubes used as a swimming pool toy*), two large hats

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Preparation:

Choose three boys and three girls to participate in this game.

.....

How To Play:

Choose one boy and one girl to compete against each other first. Place a hat on top of each of them (*make sure it is not tight on their head*). Have the contestants stand approximately 3-4 feet apart from one another, facing one another. Give each of the contestants a “fun noodle.” Have them hold the “fun noodle” in one hand, while placing the other hand behind their back.

When you say, “Go!”, the contestants must use their “fun noodle” to try to knock the hat off of their opponent’s head. The first one to do so is declared the winner. Do three rounds of the game, allowing the other contestants to compete against each other. The team who wins the best two out of three is the winning team!



Bible Story

“Adam & Eve’s Mistake”

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; the PowerPoint presentation for Lesson 1; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Genesis 3; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today, I am going to tell you a story that you may have heard before. It’s one of the most famous Bible stories ever. This story takes place at the very beginning of time. There was no earth, no moon, no sun. Everything was dark and empty. Then, God spoke and created the Heavens and the Earth. He created animals, plants, and finally - human beings. The first man was named Adam, and the first woman was named Eve.

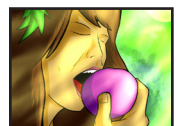
Adam and Eve had a wonderful life. They had everything they needed. God gave them only ONE rule. He said, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.” Well, that’s pretty easy. Just one rule. All Adam and Eve needed to do was come under God’s authority and He promised to provide for them and protect them.

(*show pic*) One day, while Adam and Eve were walking in the garden, Satan took on the form of a serpent and came up to them. Satan asked Eve, “Did God say you can’t eat ANY fruit in the garden?” Eve answered, (*show pic*) “We can eat any fruit EXCEPT this tree!” Satan responds, (*show pic*) “God just doesn’t want you to be as smart as He is.”

Eve made a terrible mistake. She listened to Satan’s lies and fell for them. She decided to come out from under God’s authority and do things the way SHE wanted. (*show pic*) Eve took some of the fruit and ate it. With that, she took the first step of resisting God’s authority. To make things worse, (*show pic*) Eve turned and gave some of the fruit to Adam. Guess what? (*show pic*) Adam made the same terrible choice. Adam resisted God’s authority and ate of the fruit. With that, Adam and Eve came out from under God’s authority and committed the very first sin.

It’s hard to believe isn’t it? Adam and Eve had a perfect life with only ONE rule. They could have and should have stayed under God’s amazing authority and allowed Him to provide for and protect them. If only they had listened to God instead of the devil. If only they had stayed under God’s authority and obeyed, then sin may never have entered into the world.

Today, we are going to learn from this story. We are going to learn about how we can make a better choice than Adam and Eve did. We can choose to stay under God’s authority instead of resisting it.





Call To Action **“Under Authority”**

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; a large umbrella

Preparation:

Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled “Lesson One,” begin with the slide titled “Under Authority”; if you wish, paint the word “AUTHORITY” in large letters on the open umbrella

The Message: *(title slide)*



Today, we began a new series called “How To Ruin Your Life.” Now, the goal of this series is not to REALLY help you ruin your life. Nobody wants to do that. Instead, the goal of this series is to highlight several foolish mistakes that people sometimes make. These foolish mistakes will ruin your life and keep you from experiencing the life that God has planned for you.

The first foolish mistake we are going to learn about is to “Resist Authority.” Certainly, the ultimate authority in our lives is GOD. We learned from Adam and Eve what happens when we resist GOD’S authority. But, there is something else you may not realize...

God Places Authority In Our Lives *(slide)*



Romans 13:1 says, “For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.” God places people of authority in our lives - parents, teachers, pastors, leaders, etc. He does this for a reason. God knows we don’t know everything. He knows we need guidance and leadership in our lives to help keep us on the right path. God places authority in our lives in order to protect us.

(open up the umbrella) Authority is kind of like this umbrella. Everyone knows what an umbrella is and what it is used for. If it’s raining, an umbrella protects you. As long as you stay under the umbrella, you are protected from the rain. If you come out from under the umbrella, you get wet. If you forget the umbrella, decide it’s not necessary, and leave it at home, you get wet.

Leaving your umbrella at home, when you know it’s going to rain is not smart. But, what would be even more foolish is if I walked down the street in the pouring rain, holding my umbrella out here *(hold umbrella out at an arm’s length)*. I’ve got an umbrella. I know what it’s for. It’s right here. The problem is, I’m not under the umbrella. I foolishly moved out from under its protection. That makes no sense, does it?

What if I walked down the street, in the rain, with my umbrella at my side, all nice and neat and folded
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Call To Action (Continued)

up? You would laugh and say, “Look at that ignorant guy! He’s got an umbrella right there, and he’s not using it!”

Or, how about this? It’s cold and pouring rain. I have my umbrella, but I decide, “I don’t need this old thing. I don’t need an umbrella. I can walk through the rain and not get wet. It falls on other people, but it won’t fall on me. I’m just going to put this umbrella right here on the sidewalk and leave it here. I’ve got a giant umbrella, but I’m going to face the storm without it. I’m good. No problem.”

And then, the ultimate foolishness. After I decide to go without my umbrella, I act angry and surprised that I got wet. “How could that happen? Why did that happen? It’s just not fair!”

It’s so easy to see and understand with an umbrella and a rainstorm. It’s a basic principle: God has placed authority in my life to protect me. When I am under authority, I am protected from the storms of life. But...

When I Resist Authority, I Lose God’s Protection (slide)



Romans 13:2 says, “So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished.” When you move out from under protection, bad things happen. You are exposed to the storm. Why is it so difficult to see in life? It’s one of the foolish mistakes people make. If you want to ruin your life, resist authority. When you resist authority, you are choosing to move out from under God’s protection.

If a parent tells a child not to touch a hot stove, but the child decides he doesn’t want to listen to his parent’s authority, what happens? The child is burned. No more protection. They resist authority and suffer the consequences. It’s the same with you and me. When we resist authority, we lose God’s protection. Protection is found when we live according to the way God has planned - by living under the authority He has placed in our lives.

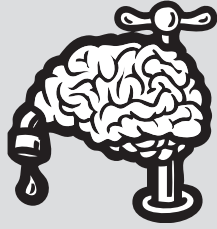
When I Honor Authority, I Honor God (slide)



Here is the great news! God has placed authority in your life to help you grow and become what He has created you to be. When you honor that authority, you are actually honoring God. When you honor your parents, you honor God. When you honor your teachers, you honor God. When you honor your pastors, you honor God. Choose to honor authority - don’t resist authority. You will save your life instead of ruin it.

ALTAR RESPONSE: (play soft music)

Have the children evaluate their lives. Are they resisting the authority God has placed over them? Are they determined to “do things on their own” instead of following the lead of the authority figures in their lives? If so, lead them in a prayer of repentance. Pray that God will help them submit to and honor authority daily.



BRAIN DRAIN

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; The DVD

Preparation:

Play the “Brain Drain” Video Intro off the DVD; Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled “Lesson One,” begin with the slide titled “Brain Drain”; there is a slide for each question

1. Watt’s Up today?

Answer: “I Will Keep Myself Under Authority!”

2. What was the product that Vinny was trying to sell in our video today?

Answer: Honk-A-Matic

3. What was the name of the girl who taught us in our Intro Video today?

Answer: Ashton

4. Who did we learn about in today’s Bible Story?

Answer: Adam and Eve

5. What did God tell Adam and Eve not to do?

Answer: Eat the forbidden fruit

6. What form did Satan take in order to trick Adam and Eve?

Answer: a serpent (snake)

7. According to our lesson today, “God Places _____ In Our Lives.”

Answer: Authority

8. According to our lesson today, “When I Resist Authority, I Lose God’s _____.”

Answer: Protection

9. According to our lesson today, “When I Honor Authority, I Honor _____.”

Answer: God

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Romans 13:1b

Small Group Experience

LESSON 1 - “Resist Authority”



Watt's Up:

“I Will Keep Myself Under Authority!”



Power Verse:

“For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.”

- Romans 13:1b

SUPPLY LIST:

- * “Finger Puppet” print piece, one set
- * Tape

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print and cut the finger puppets. Choose several kids to help you with the re-telling of the Bible story. Parts can be assigned to five different individuals or multiple parts can be played by one person. Instruct your helpers to tape their finger puppets, so they are able to slide them over one of their fingers. Read the lesson excerpt and have the “puppets” act out the story. Pause throughout the story to give the puppets time to act out their parts. Encourage the volunteers and have fun with this activity!

Say - “Here we are at the start of another amazing lesson series. There are all kinds of stories in the Bible. Some are full of God’s love, people making great choices, and being brave. Other Bible stories aren’t so happy. They are full of people being selfish or making bad choices. You might wonder why God would want those stories in the Bible. It sure doesn’t seem like anyone would want to read about lives that were ruined. However, there is a great reason these stories are in the Bible. They are there to help us! If we learn from the mistakes that others made it can help keep us from ruining our lives. Now that sounds like a great plan! Today’s Bible story is a perfect example of a really important lesson to learn. I need a couple of volunteers to help me with this story. Each of my volunteers will have a finger puppet. Tape your puppet so that it will slide over your finger. I am going to read the story. When I read the part for your puppet, you should act out the words I am saying!”

Read the lesson excerpt...

Read - “This story takes place at the very beginning of time. There was no earth, no moon, and no sun. Everything was dark and empty. Then, **God spoke** and created the Heavens and the Earth. He created animals, plants, and finally - human beings. The first man was named **Adam**, and the first woman was named **Eve**.

Adam and Eve had a wonderful life. They had everything they needed. God gave them only ONE rule. **He said**, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the **tree** of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”

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Well, that’s pretty easy. Just one rule! All Adam and Eve needed to do was come under God’s authority, and He promised to provide for them and protect them. One day, while **Adam and Eve** were walking in the garden, Satan took on the form of a **serpent** and came up to them.

Satan asked Eve, “Did God say you can’t eat ANY fruit in the garden?” **Eve answered**, “We can eat any fruit EXCEPT this tree!” **Satan responds**, “God just doesn’t want you to be as smart as He is.”

Eve made a terrible mistake. She listened to Satan’s lies and fell for them. She decided to come out from under God’s authority and do things the way SHE wanted. **Eve** took some of the fruit and ate it. With that, she took the first step of resisting God’s authority. To make things worse, **Eve turned** and gave some of the fruit to Adam. Guess what? **Adam** made the same terrible choice. Adam resisted God’s authority and ate of the fruit. With that, Adam and Eve came out from under God’s authority and committed the very first sin.”

Ask - Why do you think Adam and Eve made the choice to disobey God?

Say - “God created you. He loves you and wants you to be safe under his protection. His plan for your safety means placing authority in your life. God doesn’t force you to obey, it is your choice.”

Ask - How do you think Adam and Eve felt when they realized they had made the wrong choice?

Game/Activity

SUPPLY LIST:

- * “Umbrella” print piece, one per team
- * Glue, several sticks or bottles for each team to share
- * Small pieces of torn paper or tissue paper

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, cut or tear small pieces of paper or tissue paper. A good estimated size to shoot for is 1-2 inch pieces. Divide the group into teams and give each team an umbrella print piece and glue. Explain to the teams that the kid in the picture is trying to stay dry but there is a small problem with their umbrella, it isn’t complete! To complete the umbrella teams must answer questions. For each correct answer, the team will be rewarded a certain number of pieces of paper. The teams will collect paper throughout the Question and Answer time. At the end of Q & A time, have a contest to see which team can successfully cover the empty umbrella, so the kid underneath it will be protected! The first team to successfully complete their umbrella wins.

Say - “I am dividing you guys into teams. Each of your teams has a picture of my friend Arthur Underman. Arthur is a smart kid. Arthur wants to be under Gods protection by submitting to the authorities in his life, but there is just one problem! His umbrella is not complete! I have some pieces of paper that would be perfect to complete Arthur Underman’s Umbrella. I am going to ask you some review questions. If your team thinks they know the answer, they should raise their hands. I will call on the first hands in the air I see. For each correct answer, your team will be awarded a few pieces of paper. Hang on to those papers! At the end of question time, you will have a chance to use them to complete your umbrella.”

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

- Q. What was the name of the first man and woman on Earth?
A. Adam and Eve (This answer is worth 2 pieces of paper.)
- Q. What was the name of the tree God told Adam and Eve they must NEVER eat from?
A. The tree of knowledge of good and evil (This answer is worth 3 pieces of paper.)
- Q. True or False, Satan took the form of a snapping turtle and came to Adam and Eve?
A. False (This answer is worth 1 piece of paper.)
- Q. Satan took the form of a serpent and asked Eve what question?
A. “Did God say you can’t eat any fruit in the garden?” (This answer is worth 3 pieces of paper.)
- Q. What did Wally say that he was, “here to stop you from the horrible, terrible clutches of?”
A. Authority (This answer is worth 1 piece of paper.)
- Q. What terrible choice did Eve make?
A. She listened to the lies of the serpent and ate the fruit (This answer is worth 2 pieces of paper.)
- Q. Whp places authority in our lives?
A. God (This answer is worth 5 pieces of paper.)
- Q. WackyWally changed his mind about authority and decided to honor which authority figure first?
A. His dentist (This answer is worth 1 piece of paper.)
- Q. What causes us to lose God’s protection?
A. When we resist authority (This answer is worth 4 pieces of paper.)
- Q. Complete this phrase, “When I honor authority, I honor _____.”
A. God (This answer is worth 3 pieces of paper.)

Say - “Now that you have answered all my questions and each team has some pieces of paper, I will give you time to complete Arthur Underman’s Umbrella. Glue the pieces of paper on the umbrella to fill in the gaps. The first team to complete the umbrella and hold it in the air wins!”

-Allow the teams time to complete their umbrella pictures.

Group Sharing

SUPPLY LIST:

- * “Under & No So Under” print piece, one per kid
- * Pens, pencils, or markers

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Give each kid a copy of the Under & Not So Under print piece and something to write with.

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Say - “We are learning about honoring authority. We have also learned that all authority comes from God. I want us to take a few minutes and talk about what that means in our daily life. I gave each of you a picture. One kid is under authority and one is not so under. Let’s start with the not so under side. The rain drops are empty. I want you to take some time and think of things that can take you out from under authority. Write your answers in the rain drops.”

Ask - Would anyone like to share what they wrote?

Say - “Way to really think that through! The choices that we make with our attitudes, words, and actions DIRECTLY affect Gods protection in our life. I think we can all agree that we want to be UNDER Gods protection. So how do we honor authority? Write your answers in the umbrella.”

Ask - Would anyone like to share what they wrote?

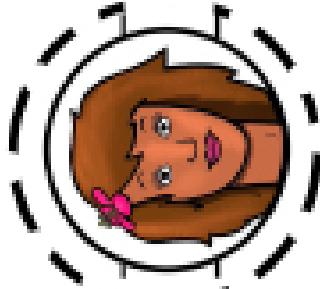
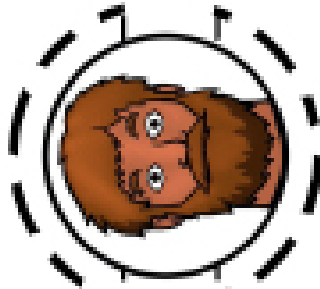
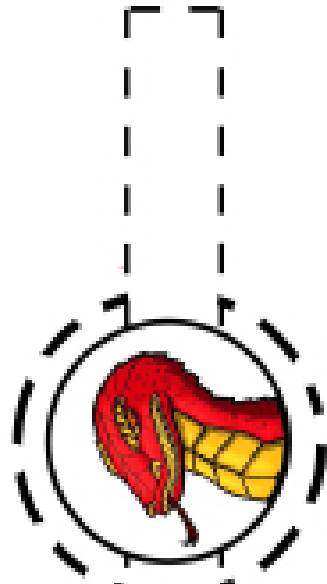
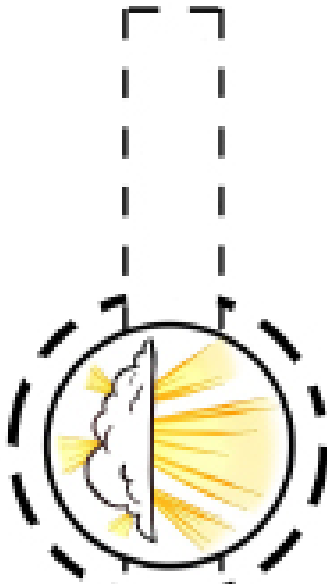
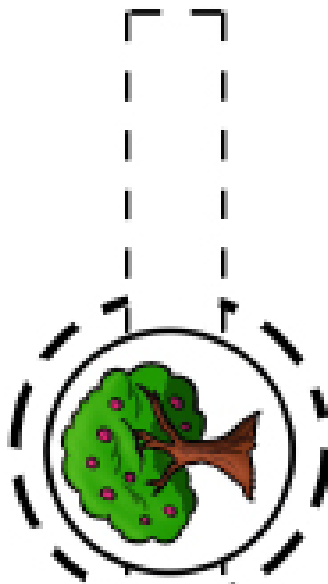
Say - “Sometimes in life it can feel like there are rules, more rules, and then rules on top of rules! It can especially feel this way when you are young. It’s true; there are a lot of rules to follow in life. However, today we learned that authority comes from God and honoring that authority keeps us protected! Being a rule follower has it’s perks.”

Prayer Time

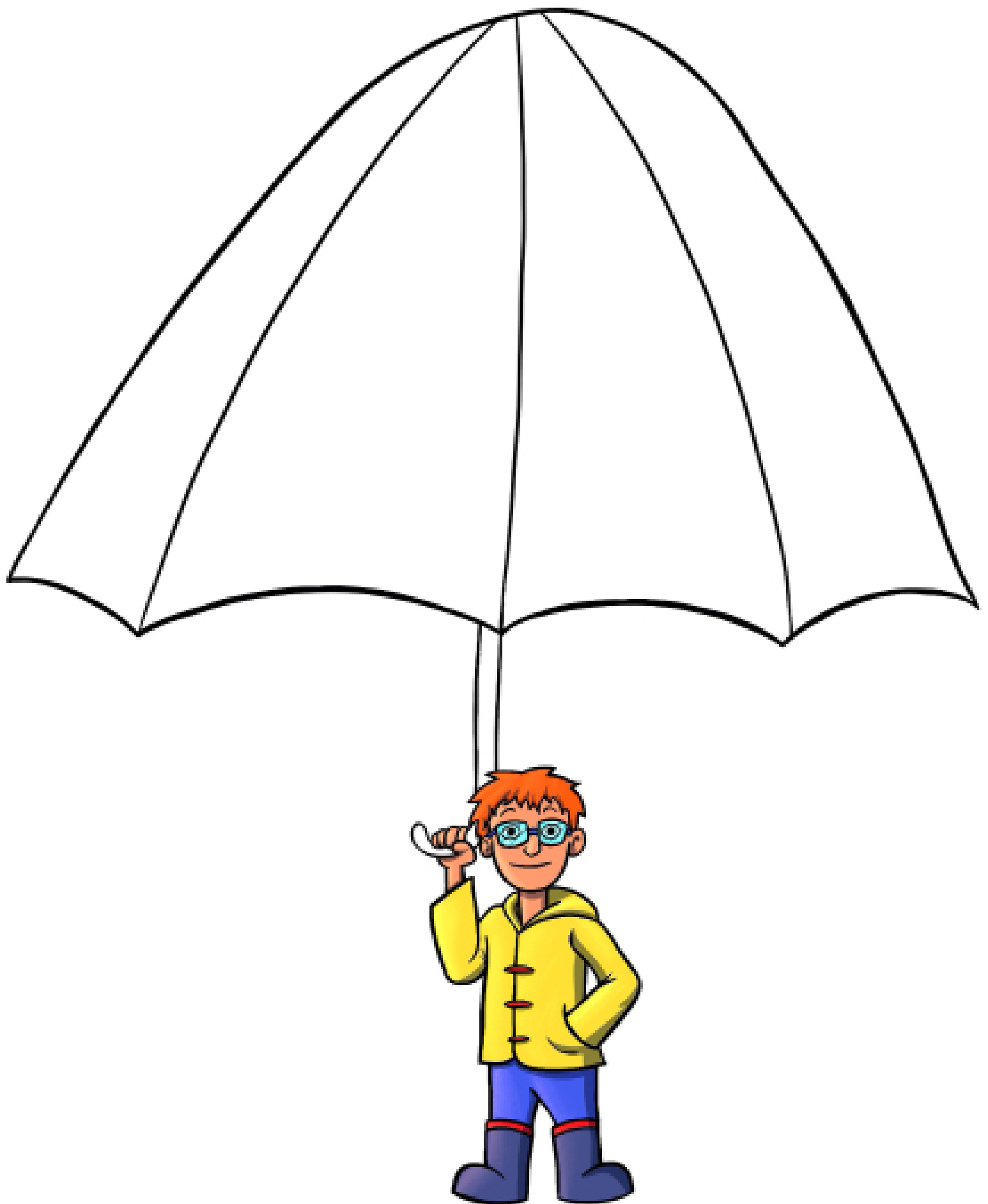
Say - “Obedience and honoring authority doesn’t always come naturally for us. As we pray, let’s ask God to help us make choice to honor the authorities in our life!” (PRAY)

Closing

Say - “Adam and Eve made a super bad choice. They resisted God’s authority and decided that their own way would be better than God’s way. They found out real quick that our way is never better than God’s way! God has a plan to protect you. Part of that plan is placing authorities and rules in your life. The next time you are faced with a “to honor or not to honor,” moment, choose HONOR! Don’t think of it as being forced to follow, think of it as choosing protection! I will see you all next week.”

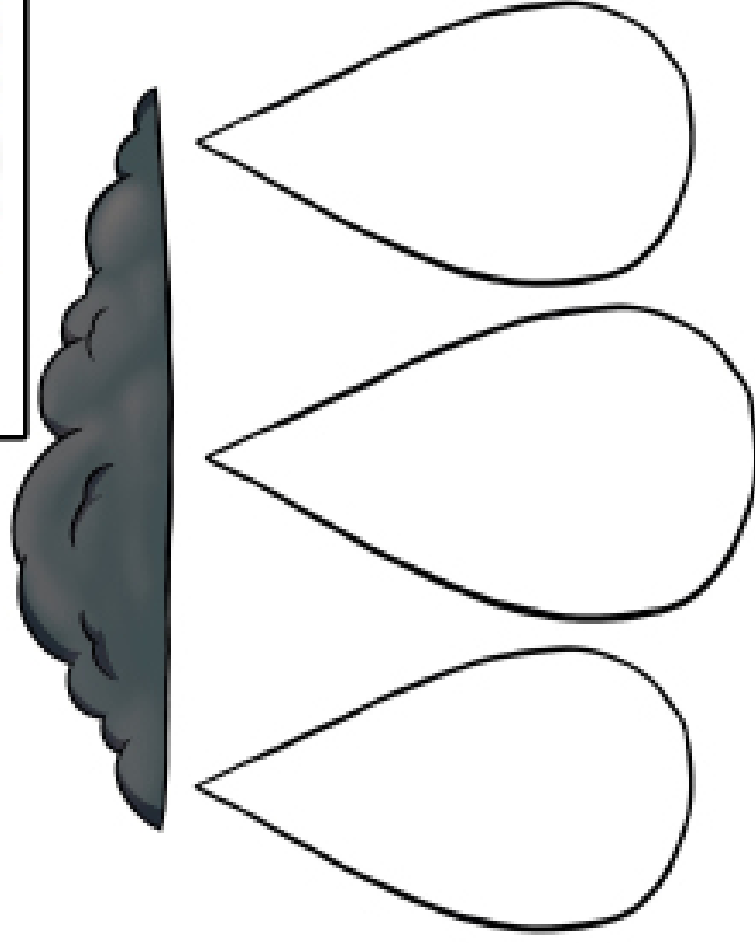


“Finger Puppet”

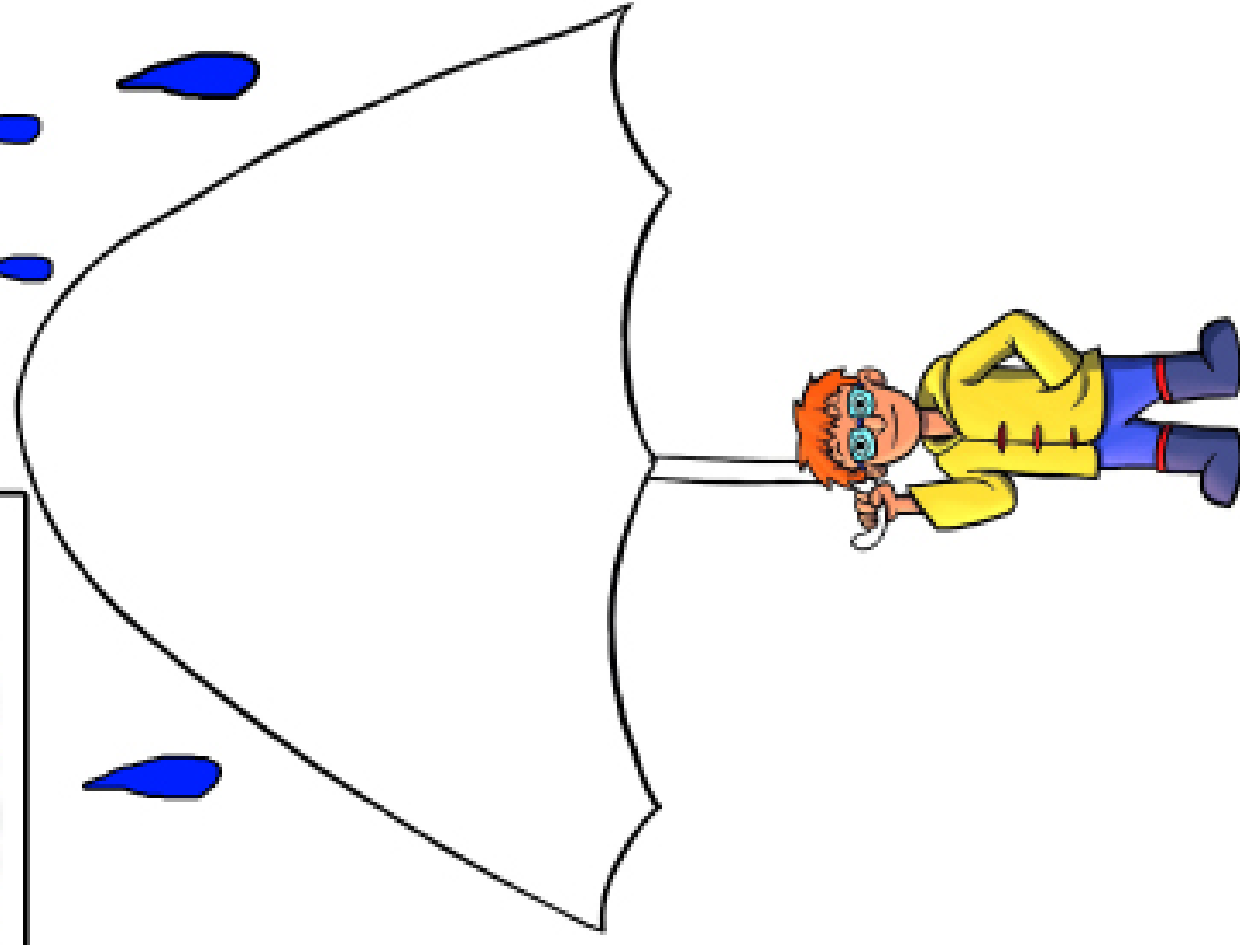


ARTHUR UNDERMAN

AUTHORITY



Not So Under



Under

Family Devotion

“Resist Authority”



Watt's Up:

“I Will Keep Myself Under Authority!”



Power Verse:

“For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.” - Romans 13:1b

This week we start a new series “How To Ruin Your Life.” It’s easy to make foolish mistakes that can make your life more difficult or can get you in trouble. God wants to help protect us and keep us on the right track! This week we talked about the importance of submitting to and honoring authority!

Ask:

- What does the word “honor” mean to you?
- What does it mean to “honor authority?”
- Why can this sometimes be a hard thing for us to do?

Say:

It’s important that we honor authority in our lives. One of the most important authorities in our lives is God. In our bible lesson this week we talked about Adam and Eve. Eve thought she knew what was best and decided to follow her own plan for her life. *(If time permits read this story as a family in Genesis 1 & 2)*

Ask:

- Have you ever been like Eve and thought you knew what was best for your life?
- Why is important to trust God as the ultimate authority in your life?

Say:

When we live under God’s authority, we also live under His protection. We want to have God protecting and watching over us!!!

Activity:

Have each member of the family make a list of the areas they might be trying to handle on their own or ignoring God’s authority or the other authorities in their lives.

Pray:

Pray as a family that each of you will work harder to submit to and honor the authorities God has placed in your lives!