

**READY?** *The What of the PowerUP lessons*

This is the third in a series of lessons designed for you to present throughout the PowerUP year. The lessons focus on a Bible character and an ongoing contemporary story.

*The Why of the PowerUP lessons*

1. To supply directors and leaders with Large Group Time lessons centering on PowerUP
2. To remind the clubbers of the PowerUP goals
3. To remind clubbers of the importance of Scripture memory

*The When of the PowerUP lessons*

The third lesson is planned to be presented at the club-year halfway mark. For many clubs that will hit around Christmas break or sometime in January.

*The Who of the PowerUP lessons*

Each of the five PowerUP lessons has two distinct parts and work best if told by two people.

1. A leader to play a boy (or girl – you can change it to fit your needs) who starts the year as a disinterested Awana clubber. He is basically there to mess around, NOT to learn his verses. This same “kid” will be talking to your clubbers at the beginning and end of each of the five lessons. The leader who plays this part should dress up in a distinguishable “costume.” Perhaps an old sweatshirt and baseball cap or overalls. If you are doing a girl character, the leader could put her hair in pigtails or wear a bow. You should duplicate whatever “costume” you used for the first two stories.
2. A leader who actually gives the lesson (*and in a sense, is also playing the leader in the story.*)

As you tell the contemporary story part of the lesson, insert details that personalize it to your club. The more you do this, the more you will reach the clubbers where they’re at.



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This can be a simple presentation – as described below – or you can get more elaborate by having the narrator actually sitting with another “clubber.” You could have the leader interact with the kid’s thought process.



- SET ...**
1. If your room is large, the characters will need microphones.
  2. Celebrate the halfway mark.
    - a. Hang half-circles from the ceiling in celebratory colors.
    - b. Serve half-cupcakes or half-cookies.
    - c. Stop a song the kids are singing exactly halfway into it.
    - d. Play games in which kids have to run halfway around the circle.



**GO! LEADER:** *(Play PowerUP song)* We’re already halfway through our Awana year. I’m so proud of those of you who are doing well in your books. You know that learning God’s Word gives you the power to honor God and the power to serve God. What does “power” mean? *(Give clubbers the opportunity to answer.)* Right. Power is “having the ability or knowing how to do something.” Remember if 80% of you get through your book this year, I’ll eat dog food on the last night of club. *(Or, whatever you have decided to do for your club – see suggestions in Lesson 1.)* I can tell by our wall chart (TruthTracker chart, contest poster, etc.) that many of you are doing well.

**KID:** Usually I like Awana, but this year, well .... Mr. Dan just goes on and on about us learning our verses. Doesn’t he ever get tired of it?

Dad found this cool place – an indoor soccer field. So I’ve been playing soccer three or four times a week all year. With all that soccer stuff I just don’t have time to learn verses. I wish Mr. Dan would get off my case.

Besides the Loser kid is still coming. Can you believe that? Nathan asked him for



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ONE night so he'd get the points, but the kid just keeps coming and coming and coming and ruining every SINGLE night of Awana. Maybe someday he'll get bored and quit coming. I mean this guy is beyond gross. Last week we had this special hamburger and French fry night for kids who did at least five sections last month. NO, I DIDN'T DO IT! Anyhow, Loser is over there sticking French fries in his hair so they look like they're coming out his ears. Then he ... nah, I won't even go there – it's too gross.

The Bible doesn't say anything about being friends with Loser, does he? I certainly hope not.

Wait a minute ... come to think of it ... how did LOSER get French fries anyhow? He didn't say five sections (*pause*) or did he? (*Kid gets thoughtful and leader starts talking.*)

**LEADER:** Have you ever been chased? Not just chased for fun when you're playing a game of tag, but chased by somebody you were afraid of? Even if you haven't been, you can probably imagine what it would feel like.

Would you cry? Would you be angry? Would you feel like you just didn't care anymore? Would you pray? How would you decide where to go and what to do?

A long time ago there was a young Israelite man named David who knew exactly how it felt to be chased. David was a shepherd, which means that he took care of his father's sheep. That might not sound like a big deal, but back then there were still lions and bears that enjoyed eating sheep for dinner. David had to protect the sheep and keep the wild animals away. He knew about danger.

David's older brothers went off with the Israelite army to fight a war against an army from the Philistines. The Philistines had a huge soldier named Goliath that David's brothers and all the men in their army were afraid of. David visited his brother and was angry when he saw how cowardly they were acting. He knew God was on the side of the Israelites, so he took his sling and a few stones and killed Goliath.



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The king of the Israelites was a man named Saul. When Saul heard that David had killed Goliath, he called David and made him a captain in the Israelite army. He was very popular with the people and the women even made up a song about him. They sang, *Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands (1 Samuel 18:7)*. When Saul heard the song, he was jealous because the people thought David was a better warrior than Saul was.

Saul decided that the best way to get rid of David was to kill him. One day, without warning, the king threw a spear at David. He missed, but David knew he had to get out of there QUICK!

For the next several years, Saul chased David all around Israel. David couldn't stay in one place for very long – he had to keep running. Sometimes he hid in caves. At other times, he would hide with Saul's enemies from other nations. The whole time, David had just a few men with him and Saul had an entire army.

How do you think David felt? Do you think he was afraid or discouraged? Do you think he ever wanted to give up? We know he did because he wrote about his feelings in the book of Psalms.

One time, Saul came into a cave where David was hiding. David had a chance to kill Saul, but he knew that would be wrong. Psalm 57 is David's diary of how he felt at that time. He says, *My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword (Psalm 57:4)*.

At another time, he wrote, ... *Man would swallow me up; he fighting daily oppresseth me. Mine enemies would daily swallow me up: for they be many that fight against me ... (Psalm 56:1-2)*.

David did feel fear and sadness and discouragement. But he didn't decide what to do based on what he felt. He KNEW something, and what he KNEW was more important to him than what he felt.

David KNEW God was with him. He KNEW what God wanted him to do. He KNEW right from wrong. Even though he sometimes felt angry and discouraged, he did not allow himself to be controlled by what he felt.



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Just because Saul was being mean to him, David did not “get back” at Saul even though he had the chance.

He knew that he shouldn’t allow his feelings to control him. He KNEW he had the power to trust God. He KNEW God would give him strength to do the right thing. ***(Leaders, if you have extra time, you could have your clubbers read Psalm 34. Ask: How does David show he trusts in the Lord? Did life always go well for David? Did David always have an easy time doing right over wrong? What can we learn from David?)***

God also gives us the strength to do what is right. That’s why memorizing verses is so important. If we don’t know whether God says something is right or wrong, how can we follow His instructions? Remember God talks to us through the Bible. The Bible is how He communicates with us, His children.

But wait a minute. Maybe you haven’t trusted Christ as Savior. Maybe you aren’t a child of God. ***(At this point, present the message of salvation and ask if anyone has any questions or would like to talk to a leader about trusting Christ.)***

***(Wait until you’ve given ample time for everyone to respond before having the “Kid” continue.)***

**KID:** ***(with eyes closed)*** Everyone is so quiet waiting for someone to raise their hand to go talk to a leader about trusting Christ. We’re all supposed to have our eyes closed, but I’m sure at least some of the kids are peeking. They always do.

I was thinking about that whole right and wrong thing. I think I usually do right. I mean I don’t cheat at school, well ... except for that one time when I needed the last answer to that math test. But one time doesn’t count, does it?

I’m always nice to people, too. I mean, if I LIKE them, I’m nice. Does God really expect me to be nice to a gross kid like William Loser?

Oh, well. Once our leader said that while we’re bowing our heads – those of us who are Christians should be praying for those who aren’t Christians. I guess I could do that ...



## PowerUP LESSON

### LEADER CLOSES IN PRAYER

**KID:** (*Opening his eyes and looking VERY surprised*) Wait a minute! Is that William Loser himself going with the leader to talk about being a Christian? The Super Loser a Christian! Now, THAT is something else.

Whoa! That means he's ... like my brother in Christ! I'll have to think about that one ... not sure how to take that.

**LEADER:** Have a great week, kids. See you next week for \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert theme*) night. (*Walks over to the KID and sits down.*) How's the section saying coming? I checked your record and see you're a little behind. Your mom will be at church tomorrow night for the Ladies Luncheon meeting. My wife will be going to that, too. Why not come over to church with your mom and we can work on some of your sections? Nathan is coming with his mom, too.

**KID:** Ummmm ... I'll have to check. (*Gets up and walks away.*) This year is getting weirder and weirder. William Loser becomes a Christian and my leader wants to spend extra time helping me with my verses ... Doesn't he have other things to do with his time? (*Voice trails off as he tries to figure things out – and he walks out of the room.*)