

Main Point: God makes our path NOT CURLY, BUT STRAIGHT

LESSON

Who knows the story of Moses? (Show of hands.)

Remember how God told Moses to lead the people out of Egypt? God had a special place He was going to give to His people, the Israelites. Moses led them.

They had to walk and it was pretty far. It should have taken them about 2 weeks to walk there. That's a long walk!

How long do you think it actually took them? (Let a few children guess. If they guess short, say "Good guess, but it was longer than that.")

It took them 40 YEARS! The Bible says...

Deuteronomy 2:7

"The LORD your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He has watched over your journey through this vast desert. These forty years the LORD your God has been

with you, and you have not lacked anything."

That's right, God led them the whole time. So why do you think it took them so long? (Pick a few to respond.)

They were scared of the people in that land and that God might not be strong enough. So God had to lead them on a windy, curvy, squiggly, curly path so they would have time to learn the lesson.

When you trust God, he makes your path straight. The Israelites had a real path, but we all have a path in life of things we do that God can make straight too! The Bible says...

Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

TRANSITION & VIDEO

Okay! So let's practice straightening our path. Everyone stand up and follow me! (Play follow the leader with the kids. Start out with a very curly path going around tables, chairs, toys, etc. Then ask God to make your path straight, read/quote Proverbs 3:5-6 again or start singing a favorite hymn of the class and straighten out your path.)

Transition alternatives:

- *Make a race:* Make 2 curly lines on the floor or put chairs in the way for the kids to go around. Going one direction, they have to circle the chairs, but going back they can say "Not Curly, But Straight" and they can go straight back.

- *Separate paths:* Have the children all walk around the room with curly paths. Then, when you say "Not Curly, But Straight", they all straighten out their paths and walk straight. Alternate between curly and straight paths with "Curly!" and "Not Curly, But Straight."

Have the children sit down and introduce the video explaining they're going to learn about someone else who had a curly path that needed to be straightened.

QUESTIONS

Who can tell me...

1. Who had a curly path? (Poodle Boople)
2. Where had he been? (ALL OVER!)
3. What did his new friends think he needed? (A straight path)
4. And who did they see about that and where did he look? (Bah, Bible)
5. What did the Bible say to do? (Repeat Proverbs 3:5-6)
6. And how did Bah suggest Poodle do all that? (pray, read Bible, etc.)
7. What are some ways that you/we can do the same thing? (Take responses from the kids)

Yes, those are all great ways we can trust and obey God. Many times we don't know the right thing to do. But when Jesus and the Holy Spirit live in our heart, they lead us. By trusting in God and living for Him, He leads us down our path. And He makes that path straight! So we should all... (repeat verse)

(Bible quotations taken from NIV).