TITLE: “CHAMPIONS FOR CHRIST”

LESSON One – WHO’S A CHAMPION?

PURPOSE

This lesson is an introduction to the Olympic Games, their motto and purpose. Discussion centers on “what does it take to be an Olympic winner…a champion? How can we be “winners” or “victorious” in our lives? The Bible teaching is based upon 1 Corinthians 15:57-58. As the teacher, be familiar with the Olympic games, go on-line and read for information...be knowledgeable.

CRAFT – A CHAMPION’S DUFFLE BAG (10-15 Minutes)

Supplies:   _____ A Duffle Bag and/or Book bag for each child
             _____ Puffy Paint for material of all different colors
             _____ Wet Wipes

Children will receive a duffle bag and/or book bag to put their athletic equipment in and keep the rest of the summer. Each child will choose a color of puffy paint and write their name on the duffle bag. It will need to dry.

SNACK – (5 – 10 minutes)

_____ Fruits (Bananas are best)
_____ Water (can use water bottles with names and/or a thermos & cups

This snack can be available during the craft time or as the children finish their craft, they can get a snack.
OBJECT LESSON (15 Minutes)

_______An Earth Globe  _______ A book on the Olympic Games

_____Various pictures of various sports placed on cards to become “sports cards”, like skiing, soccer, gymnastics, etc. (get pictures from internet)

With the use of the globe, the teacher will ask the children the following questions. The questions can be directed at a child who can come up to the globe and answer the question. Each child should somehow have a chance to come up and touch the globe.

1. What is this sphere? (Earth)
2. Who created the earth? (God)
3. What did God create on the earth? (oceans, land, plants, animals, sky, the moon and the stars, man and woman) Genesis 1-2
4. How do we know that God created these things on Earth? (The Bible – Genesis 1)
5. What are the bodies of land that are on this globe? (the continents)
6. What are some of the names of the continents? (Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, South America, Australia and the Antarctica)
7. Do people live on these continents? (yes)
8. Where do we live? (North America – the United States, state of Ohio)
9. Would we like to become the Champion of the World? (of course)
10. What is a champion? (the dictionary meaning of champion – A champion is a person who fights for another or for a cause. A champion is a winner of first place in competition.)
11. What are the OLYMPICS? (A worldwide competition of athletes from different countries.) (Teacher will show pictures of the Olympic Games, the athletes and the sports involved, and the Olympic flag.)
12. Would we like to win the Olympic Games and receive a GOLD MEDAL to be the best ATHLETE IN THE WORLD? (yes)
13. What games would we like to play? (Teacher will hand out the Sports Cards to the students.)
14. How do we feel when we are a winner? (We have to train physically and mentally, learning how to have good sportsmanship.) A loser? (We have to learn how to accept losing to others and continue to have a good attitude.)

15. VICTORY is a word we use for winning! The motto of the Olympic Games is “Citius, Altius, Fortius” which is Latin and means “Faster, Higher, Stronger”. The motto has changed to “Not to win, but to participate”! The privilege of participating in the Olympic Games is more important than actually winning. How would we feel if we were asked to represent our country and compete with the best athletes in the world? (Let children respond.)

16. As Christians, we have a choice to participate in God’s work or the world’s work. Describe God’s work versus the world’s work. As Christians, we need to train, to compete, to be the best that we can be, and to do what God tells us to do. That is God’s motto for us. Look at “I Corinthians 15:57-58 and see that victory lines in God’s words, “But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” (We must thank God for all He has done for us, especially when He sent His only begotten son to die on the cross for all our sins in order to have victory over sin. When we accept this, we must stand firm in our faith and belief and let no one or anything change that belief. God tells us that we need to do His work of obeying and bringing others to His belief throughout our lives, even as children. Then we will know that God will bless us in our lives!)

17. How can we have victory through our Lord Jesus Christ? (Jesus died for our sins to help us get to heaven) We need to thank God for the way He saved us from sin. We need to be strong and stand on our belief. Do not let others tell us that Jesus does not matter. (Let nothing move you) We are to continue doing the work of the Lord, being like Jesus, loving, kind and telling others.

18. How can we put others first and ourselves second? (By practicing and doing...for example, open the door for others) Can we think of other ways to be like Jesus? (Have a discussion.)
PRAYER – 5 Minutes (Have children gather in a circle and hold hands.)

Dear Lord, Thank you for giving us the chance to have victory over sin. Help us to learn how to be champions for Christ.

TRAINING EXERCISE – 30 Minutes

While the children are in a circle for prayer, have them drop hands, spread out, and from the center teach them some simple warm up exercises, like...head roll, shoulder roll, twist right and left, reach up and down, toe touches, sit down stretches. Spend only 5 minutes...do fast and blow the whistle.

_____ Timer
_____ Envelopes with precut puzzle pieces (See page 5)
_____ Mats (construction paper 8” x 11”)
_____ Glue for each group
_____ Make up a puzzle already done for a sample.

ACTIVITY - Explain that the children are going to get into groups, making sure there are younger children with older children. They are going to play “BEAT THE CLOCK”. Each group will be given an envelope with puzzle pieces, a mat and glue. The timer will be set for 15 minutes and the group has to glue their puzzle pieces onto the mat before the timer goes off. The teachers will help the children understand how champions take the pressure of being timed and keeping their cool in an effort to win – to have good sportmanship.

The children need to help one another put the Bible Verse Puzzle together and raise their hands when they are done. Then, give those children a reward. Teachers can monitor the students, making notes of who is helping the other and practicing giving encouraging words to others.
I Corinthians 15:57-58

"But thanks be to God! He gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm; let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."