

# GO FOR IT!



1. Name **one person** you think is successful, and why.
2. What do you think—  
God wants Christians to be wealthy and successful. **True or false?**
3. Answer the following questions by circling your choice.
  - a. **How important is being popular to you?**
    - Really important
    - Kind of important
    - A wee bit important
    - Not really important
  - b. **How important is money to you?**
    - Really important
    - Kind of important
    - A wee bit important
    - Not really important
  - c. **Who is the more successful?**
    - Millionaire
    - Professional athlete
    - Music legend
    - Teacher
    - Missionary
  - d. **What would you rather be?**
    - Smart
    - Powerful
    - Rich
    - Healthy
  - e. **What kind of life do you want?**
    - Exciting
    - Spiritual
    - Comfortable
    - Fulfilling
  - f. **How do you want others to see you?**
    - Extraordinary
    - Important
    - Average
    - Special
4. Check out the following Bible verses, and complete the sentences.
  - **Matthew 6:19-21**  
The world says to make as much money as you can, but the Bible says—
  - **Matthew 10:30**  
The world says you're the only person looking out for but the Bible says—
  - **Luke 6:31**  
The world says get as much as you can from others before you are ripped off, but the Bible says—
  - **Luke 16:19-25**  
The world says only beautiful people from the in crowd will it, but the Bible says—
  - **1 John 2:15-17**  
The world says it has a lot to offer you, but the Bible says—

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## THIS WEEK

Think about it—our society is success-obsessed! They are flooded with different messages about how to look better, make more money, and be more popular. The media tells us that success means having money, prestige, and power. Our youth are convinced that they must have the best clothes, the right friends, and hang with the in-crowd. This TalkSheet will help you talk about the success and what it means for Christians.

## OPEN

Your kids may have different ideas about what success is. So in your intro, have them make a list of characteristics of success—what do peers their age need to be successful? In other words, what makes a person successful? Be sure to distinguish between being popular and successful. Use a whiteboard or poster board to keep track of these. Some suggestions may include things like having cool friends, wearing the right clothes, having a boyfriend or girlfriend, and getting good grades. Compare the items on this list and circle the ones are the most important. Discuss which of the items are character traits (being friendly and courteous) and which ones are superficial (such as good looks and nice clothes).

## THE DISCUSSION, BY NUMBERS

1. Have the kids share the names they chose. Why did they chose them? Then have them take a vote for the most successful person alive today. How about a person not alive? This will give you a good idea of who your kids consider successful.
2. Ask the group to vote on this true or false statement, debating the issue if there's sufficient disagreement. Help them differentiate between wealth and success, which aren't necessarily the same.
3. These questions get the group thinking about what's important to them. You may want to ask for the answers—or ask what a typical teenager would choose. Let your kids explain why they chose certain answers for c, d, e, and f.
4. Point out there's often a sharp contrast between what the Bible says and what the world says about success. Ask the kids to share their completed sentences.

## THE CLOSE

Communicate with your kids that everyone is successful in different ways. Some people do better in school while some others have more friends. God has given people different gifts and abilities that lead to success. But even the most successful people—including very famous, rich celebrities—feel empty and unfulfilled.

The Bible asks, "What does it profit a man if he should gain the whole world and lose his soul?" (Matthew 16:26). Worldly success doesn't last forever. God wants us to seek him and his will first—then he'll bless us with success. Where is your heart? Are you caught up in worldly success or spiritual success?

## MORE

- Challenge your kids to ask their parents if they've (the adults) been successful, in their own minds. What do their parents, guardians or teachers think success is? Who do their parents or teachers think are successful people and why? Adults think differently than kids do—they might be surprised who their adult figures think are successful. But help them understand that success doesn't just mean fame. Success is any goal or achievement that one has reached, such as finishing high school, college, getting a job, having a family, and so on. What can your kids do to be successful in their own lives?
- Need a more visual activity? Ask the group to cut pictures out of magazines that portray success according to the media and our society. These may include pictures of actors/actresses, athletes, politicians, or pictures of successful family members or other acquaintances. They may include words that describe or determine success as well. Use this collage to talk about how the media and society views success. What negative messages does it give? What positive messages are there? How does this representation of success compare with that of God's view of success?