



OBJECT LESSON

Pen Pals

[10 min]

Supplies

- pens
- paper

Share a Pen

Say: **Today we've been looking at Jesus' example of how wanting God's will is a part of prayer. It means letting go of what we want or want to do and doing what God tells us is best. God's in control no matter what, but a change happens in our hearts when choose to want God's will over our own. Let's do an experiment of opposing forces to see what it's like to fight for control, and to let go of it.**

- Form pairs, and have small-group leaders help you give each pair one pen and a piece of paper.
- Have partners both hold on to the pen with their dominant hands (the hands they normally write with). It'll feel a bit awkward, but that's part of the experiment. One person can hold the pen low, close to the point, while the other person holds the pen higher so both partners have a good writing grip on the pen.
- On the count of three, you'll give everyone a word to write, and partners will attempt to write the word at the same time in the way they normally write.
- Have partners write the word *apple*.
- Most partners will struggle and might not be able to write anything legible.
- Repeat the experiment a few times, having kids change partners each time.
- After a few rounds, have kids change partners once more. This time, they'll take turns surrendering to the way their partners write. That means one person will lightly hold the pen and allow the other person to direct writing "apple."

Talk About It

Ask: • **What made the first few rounds such a struggle?**

Say: **The first few rounds were a battle of wills. That's because even though you all were trying to write the same word at the same time, you all have different handwriting. The way you wanted to write "apple" won't ever exactly match another person's way. The opposing forces of the way you and a partner write slowed down or even stopped the motion of the pen.**

Have small groups discuss these questions.

Ask: • **What worked better when you relaxed, let go of control, and allowed your partner to lead?**

• **What might change in our lives if we let God lead us?**

Say: **It's not always easy to let go of what we want to do, but that's why wanting God's will is a part of prayer. Each time we talk with God, we can ask for his help not only to know what he wants us to do but also for the help we may need to let him lead.**



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Which Way?

Supplies

- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tips

- Don't worry about playing this with a very large group—the bigger the group you have, the more fun and challenging this game will be!
- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Play Running Games

Say: **Let's play a game where you'll have two goals: One is to follow and stay *close* to one person, and the other is to stay *away* from another person!**

- Have kids stand in a big circle so they can see everyone in the group.
- First, have kids decide which friend they'll follow. They should decide in their minds without telling anyone.
- Then have kids choose one friend who they'll try to stay away from. Again, they should decide in their minds without telling anyone.
- On "go," have kids start moving, each trying to follow one friend and stay away from the other. Encourage kids to keep moving for two to three minutes. If you'd like, play upbeat music as kids move around the playing space. It will be rather chaotic!

Ask: • **What was it like trying to achieve two goals at the same time?**

- Introduce a second game. This time, form two groups who'll run around together in a line, following a leader.
- After the lines have formed, designate which line leader will try to tag the other line leader, and which line leader will try to avoid getting tagged. Each group must run together in a line.
- Resume the music, if you'd like, and play for another two to three minutes, switching line leaders and taggers as needed.
- Gather both groups together to debrief.

Talk About It

Have small groups discuss this question, and then ask a few kids to share with everyone.

Ask: • **Let's compare the two games. Which one felt more strategic—like there was a clear goal to achieve? Why?**

Say: **Wanting God's will is a part of prayer. Sometimes we want to follow God's will, but we might want to go our own way, too. It's like trying to chase after two different things at once, and it can turn into a mess! But when we choose God's will, we have a clear goal to pursue—friendship with God!**