



# Be About Your Father's Business Like Jesus

A Supplement to BAD TO THE BONE by Miles McPherson

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# Introduction: BAD TO THE BONE

## by Miles McPherson

**BAD TO THE BONE**, is about “fifteen young Bible heroes who lived radical lives for God.” Miles McPherson helps teenagers to relate to the struggles and victories of these young people in the Bible, and to connect with them as peers and even “role models”. He encourages teens to know that their problems and temptations are the same ones that teenagers have faced for thousands of years...and the Bible gives timeless hope and advice for conquering them!

### “The Fine Print” Quote from McPherson

Okay, before the truth police come knocking, I need to tell you that even though th(e) book shines a spotlight on teenagers in the Bible, not everyone featured here is necessarily between the ages of thirteen and nineteen. Some are younger . . . For others we don’t know their exact ages, partly because Hebrew and Greek words for children are sometimes imprecise...All in all, though, the stories in th(e) book feature young people or the lessons they learned when they were young.

The **Bad to the Bone** devotional is set up primarily to be used Monday through Friday. But, as McPherson states,

“. . . rebels for God don’t take weekends off. That’s why I’ve included an important section each week called **Weekend Warriors**. Here, too, you’ll learn about young people in the Bible. But there’s a twist. Not all of them are positive role models; just like the kids around you today, some are living for God, others are not. Either way, you can learn from their victories and their mistakes.”

**Here’s Life Inner City is please to present the following material which contains games, read-aloud biographical stories, illustrations, experiential activities and questions that supplement the daily devotionals in Bad to the Bone.**

# Be About Your Father's Business Like Jesus

## INTRODUCTION

**As an extra credit activity** during the time you are studying Jesus, a wonderful novel for teens is *Three From Galilee* by Marjorie Holmes, the sequel to *Two From Galilee* about Mary and Joseph. *Three From Galilee* is "historical fiction", the story of the boy Jesus from the time that Mary and Joseph return from exile in Egypt, until his baptism by John the Baptist. Because the Bible contains only one passage about Jesus when he was 12 years old, Marjorie Holmes respectfully submits that this "might have been" how Jesus' life was growing up as the Son of God. The reading level will be challenging to any students with less than an 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading level, so reserve it for your students who are up to the challenge.

**"Godly Boy Jesus" - Recreation**  
**What's Weighing You  
Down?**

RECREATION  
**WHAT'S  
WEIGHING YOU  
DOWN?**

**Use this relay race to  
accompany the study  
found on page 79 of  
BAD TO THE BONE**

**What You Need:**

Heavy objects, like bricks or rocks or  
heavy books

Pillowcases or sturdy bags, one for  
each team

Masking tape

**What You Do:**

This is a relay race; so divide your group into two or more teams, so that you have 4-8 players per team.

Put a line of masking tape on the floor to designate the "Starting Line" and another line of tape at least 30 feet away that designates the midpoint, which they have to step across before returning to the Starting Line where they tag the next runner. You or another leader will probably want to stand at the midpoint line and make sure they actually step over the tape before the return lap.

The game will consist of 3 rounds, without any pause between rounds:

Round 1 – each player hops down and back on one foot;

Round 2 – each player crawls down and back like a crab;

Round 3 – each player skips backwards down and back.

Get the kids lined up and ready to play – then just before the starting sound, say something like, "Oh, yeah – I almost forgot to tell you that you've all got to do this relay race carrying this bag of bricks (or rocks, or books)." Hand a bag containing about 10 pounds of extra weight to each of the beginning players, and begin the relay.

## WHAT'S WEIGHING YOU DOWN? (continued)

### What You Say:

Read the passages in Philippians 3:12-14 and Hebrews 12:1-3 (preferably from a youth Bible or from The Message), which talk about our Christian life being like a race. This week we are studying Jesus at the time in his life when he was about your age – when he already knew what it meant to be focused on his Father's business. He didn't let himself get distracted by foolish pleasures and weighed down by bad habits.

In running a race, why would anyone want to be weighed down by a bag of bricks (or rocks, or books)? What kind of "extra weight" are you carrying right now in your race of faith as a follower of Jesus?

In the sports industry, new fabrics and materials – from shoe construction to bike components – are invented precisely to lighten a racer's weight. Athletes depend on these high-tech innovations to shave race-winning tenths and hundredths of a second off their time. Think of your life now...imagine that you threw off some weights that were slowing you down in your spiritual race. What kind of "lighter" habits or disciplines could you then put on that would increase your spiritual stamina and endurance, that would let you run farther and faster without quitting?

What's Weighing You Down? is adapted from [Everyday Object Lessons](#), pp.82-83 by Helen Musick and Duffy Robbins ©1999 Zondervan Publishing House

## "Godly Boy Jesus" – A Quiz Can I Be Trusted?

### QUIZ CAN I BE TRUSTED

Interject this QUIZ  
before the  
"Interaction"  
on page 80 of  
BAD TO THE BONE

**Here's a quiz for your students.** Give each student a piece of paper and a pencil. As you read the sentence and 4 choices, have them mark the choice that most accurately represents how they would respond to each situation.

- 1) I return library books \_\_\_\_
  - a) never.
  - b) sometimes a week or two late, but I always pay the fine.
  - c) a day late most of the time.
  - d) when they're due or even a little early.
  
- 2) When my parents ask me to do my chores, I \_\_\_\_
  - a) pretend I can't hear them talking to me and wait until they're so frustrated that they do it themselves.
  - b) say I will, but then I don't start doing them until they've nagged me 100 more times.
  - c) pay my little brother or sister to do them.
  - d) do them right away.
  
- 3) In the past when I've borrowed things from a friend, \_\_\_\_
  - a) I've just kept it and pretended it was mine.
  - b) I've returned something that I damaged while I had it, but I told my friend it was like that when I borrowed it.
  - c) I've lost what I borrowed, but I always apologized.
  - d) I've taken really good care of it and returned it before they had to ask me for it.
  
- 4) When I hear a good piece of juicy gossip about somebody, I \_\_\_\_
  - a) share it at my lunch table or in homeroom, wherever I have the biggest audience.
  - b) call my best friend and make them promise not to tell anybody else.
  - c) believe it's true, but I don't tell anybody else.
  - d) don't pass it on because gossip only hurts people.
  
- 5) If I'm taking a test or quiz and happen to notice that I can totally see the paper of the smart guy sitting in front of me, I \_\_\_\_
  - a) copy down all of his answers.
  - b) copy down all of his answers and motion to my best friend sitting next to him that she should copy off him too.
  - c) keep my eyes on my own paper.
  - d) only copy his answers for the really tough questions.

- 6) If someone approaches me to ask for directions, I \_\_\_\_
  - a) tell them the wrong way to go, just for a good laugh.
  - b) pretend I don't know how to get there because I don't want to be bothered.
  - c) tell them where they need to go.
  - d) take them where they want to go, if it's not too far out of my way.
  
- 7) If my youth pastor asked me to help lead a mission trip, I would \_\_\_\_
  - a) say I'm busy during that time even though I'm not.
  - b) agree to go, and follow through on my promise.
  - c) say I don't want to go.
  - d) agree to go, but then call in sick the day before the trip.
  
- 8) If my friends and I are doing something we're not supposed to do (skipping class, hanging out past curfew, holding our own conversation while the teacher is talking, shoplifting, doing graffiti, etc.) but don't get caught \_\_\_\_
  - a) tell on another kid who also wasn't caught, just to take the heat off of me.
  - b) keep quiet and beg my friends not to rat on me.
  - c) confess to the crime even though I could have gotten away with it.
  - d) pretend I don't know the kids who got into trouble.
  
- 9) If my coach told me to run laps after practice for messing around but then leaves me and doesn't watch, I would \_\_\_\_
  - a) sit down and wait a little bit before running one really fast lap and heading into the shower.
  - b) run half of the laps and then head to the showers.
  - c) walk the required number of laps and start running if I see Coach coming.
  - d) run the laps and then apologize to Coach for messing up.
  
- 10) When my best friend confides in me, I \_\_\_\_
  - a) sometimes let it slip to some other friends at school, but I never let my friend know.
  - b) keep what she says to myself and don't even tell my parents.
  - c) tell only my cousin who lives in another state because that doesn't count.
  - d) ask her not to tell me things because I just can't keep a secret.

## DISCUSS

Then read through each situation again, discussing as a group what would be the most mature and responsible way to handle it. Jesus never lied or cheated or shoplifted, but the Bible tells us that he WAS TEMPTED in every way that your students are tempted, and so He understands their struggles. Encourage them to be honest about how they would actually respond, even though they might admit to "taking the easy way out". This activity will give them some ideas of areas they might want to focus on for the Interaction and Prayer time which follows.

**Can I be Trusted?** is adapted from Dares From Jesus, pp.68-69 by Mark Oestreicher ©2002 Zondervan Publishing House

## "Respect Your Parents" — A Demonstration

# Bless Your Mom

DEMONSTRATION

## BLESS YOUR MOM

Interject this demonstration before the "Interaction" on page 84 of **BAD TO THE BONE**

### What's Gonna Happen:

You will use baking soda and vinegar to inflate a balloon.

### What You Need:

- 3 balloons (7" or 9" diameter)
- A measuring teaspoon
- 3 glass soda bottles
- Index card/ paper
- Baking soda, Vinegar, Tape

vinegar bubbles up into the balloon. The weight of the vinegar causes the balloon to fall over sideways, negating an otherwise neat effect. Should this happen with you during your practice, use a bit less of each ingredient.)

Start with the bottles and balloons prepared. The balloons should be on all three bottles. The 3<sup>rd</sup> balloon/bottle should contain both of its ingredients.

### What You Say:

Mothers (or those who act as our mothers) are great, aren't they? Jesus sure knew that, and He knew how to show honor and respect to His mom and dad. He knew and obeyed the Old Testament Proverb that says, "Her children will arise and call her blessed."

These 3 soda bottles stand for 3 mothers. These balloons stand for their children. Let's see which kids stand up and honor their parents.

(Lift the balloon on bottle 1.) Does this child tell Mom he loves her? (Let the balloon go; it falls down.) I guess not. (Lift the balloon on bottle 2.) Does this child take the time to show respect to her mom? (Same thing.) OK, let's look at Jesus' mom, Mary and see how He treated her. (Lift balloon, letting the baking soda fall into the vinegar. The balloon begins instantly to expand.) What a great kid Jesus must have been to Mary and Joseph!

### What You Do:

Place balloons over the openings of two of the bottles.

Into the third bottle pour  $\frac{3}{4}$ " of vinegar.

Inflate and deflate the 3<sup>rd</sup> balloon 5 times to loosen it up.

Use the index card/paper and the tape to form a "funnel".

Place funnel into 3<sup>rd</sup> balloon, and put 2 teaspoons of baking soda into the balloon.

Place the 3<sup>rd</sup> balloon on the 3<sup>rd</sup> bottle, with the baking soda hanging over the side.

Raise the balloon. The baking soda/vinegar reaction will inflate the 3<sup>rd</sup> balloon. (One thing you don't want to happen is for there to be such a reaction that



## "A Growing Business" – An Activity So What's Your Business?

### ACTIVITY SO WHAT'S YOUR BUSINESS?

Interject this activity  
after the "Interaction"  
on page 86 of  
**BAD TO THE BONE**

#### What You Need:

Small pieces of heavy card stock  
cut to the size of business cards (4  
or 5 per student)

Pens, pencils, fine point markers

Basket

Piece of paper

#### What You Do:

Give each kid several pieces of card stock and pen, pencil, markers. Remind them that you have been talking this week about Jesus, and how He was always being "about His father's business". Instruct them to create a business card for themselves that would answer the question, "So what's your business?"

Tell them NOT to put their real names on the cards. They should make up a name for themselves and a name for their company that reflects the type of activities that God would want to be their primary "business" in life. For instance, if they are a compassionate and caring friend, they might create a card for a business called "Listening Ear Cafe." If they play sports, they might be in the business of "Fair Play Every Day." If they are good students and have the ability to help others with difficult schoolwork, they might be in the business of "Tutors R Us".

Whatever their business, have students create a motto that links their skills and interests to the business that Jesus was about: "Helping to heal the brokenhearted"; "Glorify God on the court and off"; "God gave us brains, let's use them."

After everyone has created a card, collect all the cards. As you do so, write on a piece of notebook paper each person's name and the company name that person chose. Put all the cards in a basket.

To play the game, have a student draw one card out of the basket. (If it is his own, he returns it and draws another.) He reads the card aloud and guesses who created it. If his guess is correct, the creator of the card explains, in 30 seconds, the essence of his "business". If the guess is incorrect, the card goes back into the basket, which is passed to the next student. The process is repeated until all cards have been read and their creator correctly identified.

### DISCUSS

1. Which company name and motto do you think best describes "being about our Father's business" like Jesus was?
2. What characteristics do we need in order to be in this business?
3. If we actually got paid to work for this company, what kind of things would get us fired?

So What's Your Business? is adapted from [Jumpstarters](#), p.23 edited by Amy Simpson©2001 Group Publishing Inc.