

# SLAM

## TUNED IN - RESPONSIBILITY

**Topic:** Responsibility

**Key Verse:** We are each responsible for our own conduct. (Galatians 6:5)

### Lesson Outline:

What	Time needed	Page
<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b>	<b>5 minutes</b>	<b>Page 1</b>
<b>Worship</b>	<b>10 minutes</b>	<b>Page 1</b>
<b>Games</b>	<b>10 minutes</b>	<b>Page 1</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<b>10 minutes</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>Activity</b>	<b>20 minutes</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>Prayer &amp; Wrap Up</b>	<b>10 minutes</b>	<b>Page 3</b>

*Please note that this is only a guide.*

### Game:

Divide class into two different teams. If the class is quite large, you can divide into four teams. You'll want to play this one outside, designating a start and finish line. Players hold hands to form a circle. Without letting go of their hands, the circle of players begins to turn in a circle. They go faster and faster until they are twirling at a good clip. While the players are twirling, they begin to move forward as a group. You can have teams begin twirling before you say "go", which they would then begin moving forward, continuing in their spin. The first team to cross the finish line wins. If a team separates while moving forward, they must regroup and begin twirling again before moving forward once again. Please feel free to play another game at the end if there is time, perhaps ask the kids for a favourite.

### Welcome & Worship:

Welcome all the kids and ask them to share with you about something they're looking forward to in SLAM this year. ☺

The Facilitator will let you know when it is time for Kids Worship. Please come downstairs and join with the other children for Worship. Please encourage the children to join in and help the younger children to engage. We would also ask that you participate as the children will watch you also. Feel free to speak to the kids worship team or the Facilitator if you have any questions.

### Discussion:

At the moment we are looking at a series called Tuned in. Last week we discussed honesty and what that means. This week the discussion will focus on Respect. The discussion and object lesson to start the lesson can be found on pages 2 -4.

*Please note that this series of lessons is from Northridge Vineyard.*

We have done our best to make them culturally relatable for the kids. Please feel free though to use your own examples if you feel you have better ones. You can also take the ideas in the lesson and present it in your own way. It does not have to be read word for word.

# Object Lesson

## Video Game Controller

How many of you like to play video games? I know, what dumb a question, huh? I like playing video games, too. However, I have to admit, I don't have quite as much time to play them as I did when I was your age. Of course, when I was your age, the kind of games that are available to you today didn't exist then. We won't go into that, though.

Do you know what kind of games I like the most? I like the kind of games where as you are more successful in the challenges, more stuff becomes available to you. For instance, if you're playing a racing game, as you progress in the game different features or even newer cars become available to you. Perhaps you are playing a game that involves some kind of quest. With each level successfully completed, there are new weapons, armor, or other things available to you. In a sense, as you show you can handle certain levels quite successfully, you are given the ability to try to accomplish more with more.

That reminds me of what our lesson is about, today. The thing we are talking about increases as we handle it correctly. What I am talking about? I'm talking about Responsibility. The simple truth is this; we are all responsible for something. How are we going to deal with it?

## Discussion & Activity:

By now you should expect that I'm going to give you a definition of what we are talking about today, so why don't we just jump right into it. We are talking about responsibility, today. I know many of you equate that word to a list of chores that your parents might want to give you. However, responsibility is simply the Ability to Respond Correctly. This applies to everything. When someone is rude to you, what is the responsible thing to do? You respond correctly. How do you do that? Many might see responsibility as a burden, but the truth is it's our opportunity to grow. Part of being a Christian is that you equip yourself to be used by God, and learning how to handle responsibility is part of that process.

Here's something that you need to hear. No matter how you view responsibility, whether you take it seriously, or whether you reject it altogether, there are certain things in life that you are responsible for whether you like it or not. Our society is really good at trying to dump their responsibility onto others, but God won't allow you to do that. You are responsible for two things in life, no matter who you are or what your circumstances are. The first of these things is your Attitude.

We don't get to blame our attitudes on other people. While it is true that other people can have an influence on our attitudes, the final decision on our attitudes is up to us. Let's say your brother or sister wakes up in a cranky mood. You see them in the hallway and say something to them as they pass by. They immediately snap at you, telling you to "shut up!" Now you have a choice to make. You can either lash back at them allowing your attitude to become like theirs, or you can choose something different. What do most of us do in that scenario? We lash out, don't we? We don't like our brothers and sisters to treat us that way, and since they aren't our parents, we don't tend to show them as much respect as we do our parents. While this may be a logical conclusion, does it make it the right way to respond? The bottom line is this; only you can decide what your attitude is going to be.

The second thing that you and I are responsible for is our Actions. Whatever you do falls back on you. If I run a red light while driving my car, the cops don't show up at my parents' house and ask, "Why is your son running red lights? You need to control your child or we'll give you a ticket!" That's ridiculous. Instead of that happening, I become the happy recipient of a document that now states that I get to give the State of Arizona a generous donation for my lack of responsible driving. In other words, I'm the one who is held responsible for my actions. Now this has become a very blurred truth in our society. We have so many people sending so many confused messages out there that we believe the lie that some things are out of our control and therefore we are not responsible. Let me say that that statement does not exist anywhere in the Bible. The Bible does make claims to the fact that we sometimes do things without understanding what we are really doing, but no where does it excuse of from the responsibility of those actions.

So we know what we are responsible for, but who exactly are we responsible to? This one is easy. You and I are Responsible to God. Romans 14:12 tells us, "Each of us will have to give a personal account to God." What exactly will we have to give an account for? We already covered that; our attitudes and our actions. This is actually good news, because it frees us from trying to please everyone in the world and focuses our efforts on only pleasing God. Guess what? Whether you are a Christian or not, this is a truth for your life, whether we went to church or not, accepted Jesus as our Lord or not, we will stand before God and give an account of all of our actions. For some of you, that's a scary thought. That's why it is so important to have a relationship with Jesus. We've all done things that we don't want to be held responsible for. That's where God's grace through Jesus becomes so important. If you need to know more about that, please ask one of our leaders before you leave today.

Here is a little secret that I want to share with you. Everything that God commands us to do is for our benefit. We always gain something good from doing the things that God tells us we should do. It's no different when it comes to dealing with responsibility. I want to share a quick story out of the Bible with you. You can find it in Matthew 25:14-30.

The synopsis of the parable that Jesus tells in this portion of scripture is that there are men who are given some money to be responsible for while their boss is out of town. Two of the three guys work hard to double the money, while the other just puts the money in a safe place and ignores it. When the boss returns, he praises the two who put their money to good use and actually gives them more money to be responsible for. The third guy gets the axe. He's fired, basically. The key verse in that parable is Matthew 25:21, "'Well done', exclaimed the king. 'You have been faithful in managing little things, so I will put you in charge of much.'"

Now you might want to go back and read that parable on its own, but here are three essential benefits of responsibility that we learn from this portion of scripture. The first is that as we develop responsibility in our lives, we will be Given More. Many people in this life want to be successful. They want to run large companies and have large amounts of authority and responsibility. However, you don't get opportunities like that until you can first prove that you can handle smaller amounts of authority and responsibility. The truth is this; you don't become more responsible in life just because you grow older. Just because you might make more money as you get older, doesn't mean you'll handle it any better than you do right now. At some point, you need to

learn how to be responsible with what you have.

The second benefit of being a responsible person is that you will be Trusted More. This one is a biggie for kids. They always want their parents to trust them, which basically translates into "let me do what I want", however they are never responsible with the freedom that they are given. I knew kids in high school who were at the age of 18 and their parents had very strict rules for them. They had a very early curfew, and they couldn't do a lot of the things that other kids could. Do you know why this person had little trust? Every time this person was given an opportunity to prove themselves, they failed miserably. Therefore, they had little trust from their parents.

The third benefit of responsibility is that we will be Respected More. We talked about respect last week and how most of us would say that we want more respect. Well, here is a simple way to earn more respect. Learn how to be a responsible person. However, I think this benefit goes beyond people simply treating you respectfully. There is a good chance that people will treat you respectfully whether you are responsible or not. What we're talking about here is that when someone is being considered for something important, you are one of the first people that they thought of.

There are many people on our church staff who I respect. I know that when I have a question about anything, I can talk to them about it. Furthermore, I know that I can depend on their responsibility to be honest with me. Because of that trust that I have for them, I respect them more. Do any of you have people like that in your life? It's extremely important to have someone like that in your life, and for you to be that kind of person for others.

## **Look It Up:**

Let's all open our Bibles to Galatians 6:5. I'm going to read this out loud for everyone. You can follow along in your Bibles, if you like.

Galatians 6:5; "We are each responsible for our own conduct."

- In light of that verse, is there anyone out there that is responsible for the things that we choose to do? Is anyone else responsible for our attitudes towards others? Nope.
- What are some examples of responsibilities that you have now? What is your attitude like towards the responsibilities that you have?
- How do you think your attitude towards your current responsibilities affects your ability to take on future responsibilities?
- Do you think it's okay for a Christian to disregard the responsibilities that God gives them? Why or why not? We are all responsible for telling others about Jesus. How are you doing on that?
- Do you think there is any link between the way we deal with our responsibilities and how we grow as Christians? Explain.

## **W**rap up:

One of the greatest things you can achieve in this life is to become a person of character. It will bring so many benefits to your life. I wish there was a selling point that would be that quick sell on developing character, but I don't think there is. It takes effort, determination, and sometimes sacrifice on our part. However, whether we develop our character or not we will not be excused for the things that we are responsible for. The bottom line is this; when it comes to Responsibility, there is No Excuse! I hope that you will take the responsibilities that you have now seriously, so that you can have more responsibilities in life. So how about it, on a scale of 1-10, how responsible are you?

Pray together.

# Leading Prayer in SLAM

## Come Together:

Bring the children together in a circle. Ask if there is anything that they would like to pray for.

Some Questions you may ask to help them think:

- Is there something that you would like to praise God and thank him for this week?
- Are you sick or do you need healing?
- Have you hurt anyone or been hurt by something this week that you need to ask forgiveness for?

## Pray:

Pray together— there are two choices here:

They can pray for each other or they can pray for themselves (out loud).

### Praying for each other:

If they would like someone else to pray for them ask the child to sit in the middle and for another child to pray for them (ask for volunteers). If both children are comfortable they can lay hands on as they pray.

### Praying for themselves:

If they would like to pray for themselves they can either sit in the middle or where they are. Ask them to pray in a loud voice so everyone can hear. We want them to be comfortable so be flexible and sensitive to the child's needs.

Continue through the group until everyone has been prayed for.

## Listen:

Then take time to sit and listen to God and see if there is anything that he would like to say to the group. Ask each child to sit silently and listen to God. Explain that God may speak to them all in different ways, e.g. a picture, an idea a colour etc. Then after a minute ask if there is anything the children felt God was saying.

## Write:

If anyone has anything please write it in the SLAM Prayer Journal with the date, service time and child's name. Then have a leader thank God for the lesson and any healings, words or pictures.