

Activity: Will It Float?



FAMILY TIME
TRAINING

Teaching Goal: It is better to influence our surroundings than to be influenced by them

Scripture: **1 Timothy 4:12** “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”

Materials: Large bucket of water
Gather ten items from around the house that might or might not float.
Try to find five that will float and five that will not.

NOTE: It’s important for teens to set high standards for themselves and be world changers. In this lesson you will share a vision for that. And this vision doesn’t originate with you. It comes straight out of the Bible. You as a parent, however, are the delivery person God uses to pass on the message. So, be excited yourself and be creative in your approach. Who knows? This may be more than just a Family Time. This may be a pivotal event in the life of your teen.

- I. Play theme song
- II. Pray
- III. Review last lesson
- IV. Lesson and discussion

✓ Words written in **bold** are when the leader is speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A. **How old do you think you have to be to bring change about in the world?** Let teens answer. Maybe it’s not age, but some might believe attending college or having money is the key. **Today we’re going to look at the difference between being influencers or being influenced by the world.**

B. **ACTIVITY: Let’s open our Bibles to 1 Timothy 4:12. God wants us to be one thing in five ways. What is that one thing?** Examples. **What are the five ways?** Speech, love, life, faith, and purity.

We’re going to play a game called “Will it float?” Here’s how we play it. I have ten items here and we’re going to guess which ones will float and which ones won’t, and then we’re going to drop them into the water. Take each item one at a time. Hold it up. Let people hold it, and then everyone has to cast their vote. **Will it float?** Then drop the item into the water and see who was right. Keep a tally, if you’d like, to increase the suspense and competition. **Now, let’s ask the question, “Will we float?” What do I mean by that? I mean that when we get out there into the world, in the neighborhood, in class, on our own, will we have what it takes to stay above water in life?**

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What are some ways that we can be examples to others in these five areas? Brainstorm with teens ways that we can be examples to others.

SPEECH: Others gossip, we don't. Others use foul language, we won't, etc.

LOVE: Others may be mean, we show compassion. Others put down, we care.

LIFE: Others make life choices like smoking, drinking, getting involved in sex. We take a stand that says our life is different.

FAITH: Others believe that faith is weak and should be kept private. We refuse to be controlled by those beliefs because we know that faith is a sign of strength and we are willing to share it.

PURITY: Others use sex, foul language, and other poor choices. We value purity because of its long-term benefits.

Will we float? That's a good question. It has to do with whether or not we can be examples to others as the Bible instructs in this verse. Now go back to the beginning of this verse. Is the Bible just talking about older people? No, the verse is for teens. Those who are willing to take a stand for what's right when they're young will shine above the rest. It's tough but it's the best way.

C. Show the thermometer and the thermostat illustrations on this page or use those in your home. **There are two kinds of people in the world represented by these two things. What would you call these?** A thermometer and a thermostat. **They both have to do with temperature. What is the difference between them?** One regulates the temperature and the other is regulated by the temperature. **Which one do you think it's better to be like?** It's better to be a thermostat because you are influencing your world instead of allowing it to control you. **Remember, thermostats can change the world, thermometers only react to it.**

VI. Close in Prayer

