

Who's the BOSS of Me?



When Do I Get to Be the Boss?

Key Faith Foundation: Serving Leads to Leadership

*Key Scriptures: 1 Samuel 17:32-37; 18:5-9; Luke 22:24-27;
John 13:1-17; 1 Timothy 4:12*

Bible basis for teachers

1 Samuel 17:32-37; 18:5-9; Luke 22:24-27; John 13:1-17; 1 Timothy 4:12

► **GRAPPLE QUESTION:** When Do I Get to Be the Boss?

► **KEY FAITH FOUNDATION:** Serving Leads to Leadership

As a kid, it seems like everyone's your boss: parents, teachers, church leaders—actually, anyone older than you. Use this lesson to help kids understand that being the boss isn't about telling others what to do, but about serving others as Jesus did.

In **1 Samuel 17:32-37** and **18:5-9**, we see two different examples of leadership styles from the same man. In the first passage, Saul discounted young David's abilities. However, Saul was also willing to listen to David's arguments and even bless David before sending him out to fight. By the time the events in the second passage occurred, David had become a powerful ally for Saul. In fact, "Whatever Saul asked David to do, David did it successfully." But instead of applauding David's successes, Saul became resentful and jealous. Use these verses to help kids think about what makes a boss good or bad and about the types of bosses they would like to be.

In **Luke 22:24-27** the disciples were arguing over who would be the greatest among them, when Jesus stepped in. Jesus explained that unlike the bosses of the world who lord it over everyone, Christians are called to be servants. Explain that Jesus, the greatest boss of all, came to serve, not to be served. Remind kids that to be the boss, we must allow ourselves to be considered the least of all.

At the Last Supper, recorded in **John 13:1-17**, Jesus washed the disciples' feet, which was considered a demeaning task. The washing of feet, necessary because people wore sandals, was customary before a meal and was done by a servant. Peter didn't yet understand that Jesus came to serve, not to be served. Encourage kids to think of ways they can serve others as Jesus did.

In **1 Timothy 4:12**, Paul encouraged Timothy to be bold in his witness for the Lord and reminded Timothy not to let anyone look down on him because of his age. Paul told Timothy to be an example to other Christians through his every action. Likewise, use this verse to encourage preteens that they can be examples of servant leadership right now!

understanding preteens

Preteens may think, "I'm tired of everyone telling me what to do; when do I get to be the boss?" For these kids, adulthood—and the chance to be a boss—seems like a long way away. Assure them they already have an important role as you explore what real leadership looks like.

the lesson at a glance

LESSON SEQUENCE		WHAT KIDS WILL DO	SUPPLIES
1	grapple community <i>(5 minutes)</i>	Build relationships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian music • music player • snacks
2	grapple games <i>(10-15 minutes)</i>	Choose two games to play.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a room that can be darkened • small flashlight • chairs • music and music player • paper clips
3	grapple time <i>(10 minutes)</i>	Try to get a “boss” to listen to them during a project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paper
4	grapple team time <i>(15 minutes)</i>	Define a “good” boss and explore the concept of servant-leadership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles • pencils • two 12” lengths of yarn in two different colors for each person • paper • copy of the Grapple Team Guide for each person
5	grapple team reports <i>(10 minutes)</i>	Report what they learned from the Bible passage they studied.	
6	grapple prayer <i>(5 minutes)</i>	Choose a prayer option.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • washable markers
7	grapple dare	Hear the Grapple Dare.	

1 grapple community

Play Christian music as kids enjoy snacks and friendship. Give kids this discussion starter as they eat. Say: **Discover who in our group is a leader of a club, sports team, or other school or church activity.**

2 grapple games

Say: **We're going to play a game, but you'll get to choose. Would you rather play Blackout (p. 103), which is Musical Chairs played in the dark? Or would you like to play Pass the Paper Clips (p. 105), where you share unique experiences and abilities?** Have kids vote on the game they'd like to play. Then lead kids in playing the game.

Say: **Now we'll play another game. Would you rather play Get Lost (p. 104), which involves putting yourselves in a particular order? Or would you like to play Earthquake (p. 104), where you must escape a building despite various pretend injuries?** Have kids vote on the game they'd like to play. Then lead kids in playing the game.

3 grapple time

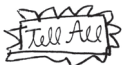
GET READY ▶ Pick one person from each Grapple Team to be the leader in this activity. Quietly pull these leaders aside beforehand and explain that you want leaders to come up with creative excuses why each idea won't work unless kids use the secret word "please" (or another word your leaders come up with).

Lead the entire group in the following:

In Teams 🐼 Have kids get into their Grapple Teams. Point out the people you've previously picked to be team leaders or bosses.

You'll have three minutes to build a paper tower. The team with the tallest tower is the winner. The rules are simple: You can make the tower however you want, but all your ideas have to go through your team boss before you can build anything. Your boss will only listen to you, though, if you find and say the secret word. If you use it, you get to be the boss until someone else discovers the secret word and then it's that person's turn to be the boss and choose a new secret word. Ready? Go!

Allow time.



What was it like when your boss kept rejecting your ideas? What's it like in real life when one of your bosses won't listen to you?



Tell about the last time you were frustrated with a boss, other than in our game. If you were the boss in that situation, what would you have done differently? the same? What qualities do you have that make you a good boss?

When you're a kid, it seems as if everyone's your boss—parents, teachers, church leaders, actually anyone older than you. And I'm sure at times you've thought you'd be a much better boss than the ones you have. Have you ever said, "I'm tired of everyone telling me what to do. When do I get to be the boss?" Well, today we're going to grapple with that.

4 grapple team time

Break into Grapple Teams. Encourage Grapple Team leaders to check in with kids about their week. Grapple Team leaders will facilitate discussion, using the Grapple Team Guide on pages 21-22.

5 grapple team reports

At the end of Grapple Team Time, have kids work with their team to choose one of the options below to report what they discovered.

Option 1: *Servant Drama*

Put on a quick play that shows what you learned today.

Option 2: *Questioning*

Share what you discovered using only questions. For example, Don't you know that a leader should be like a servant?

Match Grapple Teams that chose Option 1 with Grapple Teams that chose Option 2. Have teams present their reports. (*Do this one team at a time if you have only two Grapple Teams.*)

6 grapple prayer

Read the Grapple Prayer options. Have the group choose one prayer option that everyone will do. Allow kids time to pray about what they discovered. Then close in prayer.

Option 1: Squeeze Prayers

Form a circle by placing your hands on the shoulders of the person in front of you. Pray silently for that person, and then gently squeeze the person's shoulders when you've finished praying.

Option 2: Servant Prayers

Use a washable marker to draw a picture on your hand to symbolize what you learned today. Ask God to teach you to be the kind of leader he wants you to be.

7 grapple dare

Say: **Most people want to be the boss so they can tell others what to do. Jesus said if you want to be the boss, you have to do what he did—you have to serve others. This week, I dare you to look for ways to show you're ready to be a boss by serving your family members, your friends, and your neighbors. I dare you to get ready to be the boss, not by being bossy, but by serving other people before they even tell you what to do.**

(Find the Parent Page for this lesson on the enhanced DVD. Have each child give a copy to his or her parent. Alternatively, send the file to parents via email.)

grapple team guide

In your Grapple Team, use this guide to grapple with today's question.

Pick up two strands of yarn, one of each color.

On a piece of paper, make two columns and title them Good Boss and Bad Boss. Read the following passages; as you read, list characteristics that make people in these passages good or bad bosses.

Read 1 Samuel 17:32-37 and 1 Samuel 18:5-9.

Based on your list, write a definition of a good boss.

Now that you've come up with your own definition, let's check out what Jesus has to say about being a good leader or boss.

Read Luke 22:24-27.



Based on what Jesus said, what does it take to be a great boss? How eager are you to be the boss if it means following these verses? Explain.

Read John 13:1-17.

Even though Jesus was the greatest boss ever, he wasn't above acting like a servant. What have you done this past week that would be an example of Jesus' type of leadership? What can you do to prepare yourself to be a good boss in the future?

You might think, “Well, that’s great, but I’m too young to be the boss now. No one will ever listen to me until I’m older.” Check out what this verse has to say.

Read 1 Timothy 4:12.

Draw a self-portrait. Around your picture, write ways you can set an example of being a servant-leader right now!



grapple team reports

With your team, choose one of the options below to report what you discovered.

Option 1: Servant Drama

Put on a quick play that shows what you learned today.

Option 2: Questioning

Share what you discovered using only questions. For example, Don't you know that a leader should be like a servant?