

# **Momentum/Friction**

## **Module: What's YOUR Excuse?**

### **Lesson 6: I Don't Want To!**

#### **Objectives:**

- Students will consider the differences between their ideas and God's ideas.
- Students will focus on a friend who doesn't know God to share their faith with.

#### **Materials Needed:**

- ☐ Random props and articles of clothing
- ☐ Chart paper or poster board
- ☐ min. 2 Bibles (more if there's a large group)

## Minds On

Divide your meeting space in to two halves. Make one side of the room “Want To” and the other side “Don’t Want To.” You may even wish to post this on chart paper or poster board in the appropriate location. Once you have identified the two sides, begin listing aloud different activities or things that students can clearly identify as either "want to" or "don't want to". As you say each thing encourage students to move to the side of the room that matches their response. With each new item mentioned, youth can switch sides to demonstrate their answer.

Examples of things to say are:

*Ride a roller coaster*

*Eat a mushroom*

*Be 7 feet tall*

*Listen to country music*

*Be famous*

*Go home right now*

*Have curly hair*

Use this activity as a fun opportunity to get to know your students better and find out what they like and don’t like. Include some items that will help you assess your group.

## Action

Say something like: *It’s pretty clear that we know what we want and don’t want to do.*

*Sometimes we have to think about it for a bit, but our decisions usually come pretty easily, especially when things are straightforward and there isn’t much on the line either way.*

*It can get more complicated, however, when we don’t want to do something that we know we should, like homework, chores at home, or being kind to people that don’t really deserve it. The truth is that sometimes God asks us to do things that we don’t necessarily want to do. His plans are different than ours, and **his** ideas and **our** ideas aren’t always the same.*

Divide your students into 2 groups, making sure to have leaders with them to help. Assign one group Jonah 1-2 and the other Jonah 3-4. Give the groups some time to work together and then have them act out their passages. Encourage them to pay careful attention to things that are Jonah's ideas and things that are God's ideas and come up with a creative way to highlight them in their performance. In order to keep everyone engaged, set a guideline that everyone in the group must have a role to play.

If your group is too large for 2 groups, divide them into 4 and have each section presented twice. While it may be tempting to give each group their own chapter, chapters 2 and 3 do not contain much action and would be hard for students to stage.

You may want to inform your leaders of this exercise ahead of time to allow them to generate some ideas beforehand. You may also want to bring some random props and articles of clothing to help your students be more creative.

As one group is presenting, encourage the other students to pay attention to the differences between Jonah's and God's ideas. When both groups are finished, discuss these together. The focus should end on Jonah 4:10-11.

Say something like: *God loves everyone, and he wants them to know about it! That means that you and I have the amazing privilege of being the ones to tell them. We need to be willing to share the Good News with other people...after all, chances are if you know God, someone told you...so why wouldn't you want to be the one to tell others?*

## **Consolidate/Debrief**

Encourage your students to think about someone in their life that doesn't know God and have them pray together in groups of 2 or 3 for those people. Challenge them to write their friend's name on a piece of paper and keep it in their pocket or wallet as a reminder to pray for them or to look for ways to connect with them about God.

When this is done, challenge your students to think about something they know God is calling them to do, that they don't want to do. Encourage them to try stepping out in faith, and see what happens. Suggest that they share their ideas or thoughts with a leader or a friend who will help them work towards this goal. Work with your students to break up their ideas into accomplishable tasks so they can take things one step at a time and see what God will do in and through them.