

# Rooted in Godly Values

## Lesson 3: “Clear the Path!”

(Character Trait: *Consideration*)

### Objectives

Students will

- consider the “stumbling blocks” (barriers) we create for other Christians
- articulate at least one specific thing they can do to “clear the path” for other Christians to grow in their faith

### Materials Needed

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Items for creating some sort of obstacle course or race in your study area
- ☐ Several different items that could be used to interfere with a race (sponge balls, small boxes or “blocks” that can be thrown easily without hurting someone, etc.)
- ☐ Shoe boxes or small boxes that students can write on
- ☐ Prizes
- ☐ Cue cards (one per student)
- ☐ Pens or pencils

## **Minds On**

Before students arrive, create some sort of simple race that can be completed in your study space or church. It could be an obstacle course of sorts or just a simple distance race that you will time. You can try to make the race extra silly just for fun. When students arrive break them in two or more teams. Teams will run the race one team at a time and you will time them to see who is fastest. If you want, teams could also select just one “runner.” Have a GREAT prize ready for the winning team so students really want to win! Let them run it once and then declare a re-match.

In the re-match, there will be a twist. Ahead of time select someone (a mature student from each team, or a leader) to be a “saboteur.” The job of the saboteur will be to make the race difficult for the person to run. You may choose one of several ways to do this:

- Provide some soft objects (like sponge balls or a balled up sock) that they can throw at the runner (that won’t hurt but would be distracting)
- Have the saboteur occasionally run in front of the runner themselves
- Place small boxes (like a shoe box) on the race before the runner gets there (this one has the potential to be most dangerous so the volunteer should be careful about it if you choose it)

The idea is that the saboteur is literally creating “stumbling blocks” during the race! Students will likely get VERY upset at this person, but keep each team running with the same result.

When you are done and have declared a winner, ask the students to consider how they felt about the saboteur. Why was it unfair? Why did it matter?

## **Action**

### Part One: Digging into Scripture

Explain again that we are reading through First Corinthians and looking at what Paul teaches about Christian values. So far we have learned to have godly wisdom and to be pure. Today we

are looking at the importance of being considerate. Read together 1 Corinthians 8:1-13. Before you read ask the students to look for the “stumbling blocks” in the passage.

When you have finished, explain the situation in Corinth. There were many pagan temples in Corinth, and the people of Corinth would offer food to the gods worshipped there. This food could be purchased in the market. Paul does not think that eating this is a sin, but he does have one problem with it. What is his problem? (It creates a “stumbling block”). Ask: What are stumbling blocks for Christians today? Why is it important that we not create “stumbling blocks” for other Christians or non-believers? How can we be considerate of our fellow believers? (Note: If you have students who are not Christians, they can consider what things people do that keep them from coming to know God, or that make it hard to want to come to church or know him).

As Christians, we want to be considerate about the journey of other Christians around us. Sometimes there will be things we should or should not do so that we can help the faith of someone else.

### Part Two: Apply It

Ask the students to get back into the teams they were in earlier. Give each team several shoe boxes. Ask them to take 10 minutes or so to come up with “road blocks” that we can create for other Christians (again, if you have some non-Christians, they can come up with things people do that might keep them from faith), and write one on each block. Ask them to be specific. (e.g. “Mia used to drink a lot and she is a new Christian who is trying to stop. You take her to a party where there is a lot of drinking.”)

Once teams have created the “blocks,” return to the site of your first race. Invite each team to place the boxes they created along the other teams race track. Then each team will select one person to represent them as their “runner” in the race. This time the one runner will walk the race. The “walker” will go as far as a block the other team has placed and then read it out loud. Their whole team will then think of a way to remove the stumbling block. (e.g. They might say “You could leave the party with Mia and go somewhere else.”) You will determine if the answer

is a good one – if so, you will remove the block and they will walk to the next one. It will then be the other teams turn (one block/turn for each team). If the answer was not sufficient, they will stay at that block and try again next time.

Keep going until one team has “finished” the race (moved past all the road blocks). This team will be the winner. You may want to allow the other team to finish as well.

### **Consolidate/Debrief**

Turn to 1 Corinthians 10: 23-24. Ask students to copy these verses onto a cue card, as they pray about how to be considerate and put the good of others above themselves. They should take this card home as a reminder. Close in prayer.