

OBJECT LESSON_[10 MIN]

Pen Pals

Supplies

- pens
- paper

Share a Pen

Say: Today we've been looking at Jesus' example of how wanting God's will is a part of prayer. It means letting go of what we want or want to do and doing what God tells us is best. God's in control no matter what, but a change happens in our hearts when choose to want God's will over our own. Let's do an experiment of opposing forces to see what it's like to fight for control, and to let go of it.

- Form pairs, and give each pair one pen and a piece of paper.
- Have partners both hold on to the pen with their dominant hands (the hands they normally write with). It'll feel a bit awkward, but that's part of the experiment. One person can hold the pen low, close to the point, while the other person holds the pen higher so both partners have a good writing grip on the pen.
- On the count of three, you'll give everyone a word to write, and partners will attempt to write the word at the same time in the way they normally write.
- Have partners write the word apple.
- Most partners will struggle and might not be able to write anything legible.
- Repeat the experiment a few times, having kids change partners each time.
- After a few rounds, have kids change partners once more. This time, they'll take turns surrendering to the way their partners write. That means one person will lightly hold the pen and allow the other person to direct writing "apple."

Talk About It

Ask: • What made the first few rounds such a struggle?

Say: The first few rounds were a battle of wills. That's because even though you all were trying to write the same word at the same time, you all have different handwriting. The way you wanted to write "apple" won't ever exactly match another person's way. The opposing forces of the way you and a partner write slowed down or even stopped the motion of the pen.

Ask: • What worked better when you relaxed, let go of control, and allowed your partner to lead?

- What might change in our lives if we let God lead us?

Say: It's not always easy to let go of what we want to do, but that's why wanting God's will is a part of prayer. Each time we talk with God, we can ask for his help not only to know what he wants us to do but also for the help we may need to let him lead.