

ON THE SPOT

NO PREP DEVOTIONS For Children's Ministry

Group

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ON THE SPOT: NO-PREP DEVOTIONS FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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ISBN 978-0-7644-3869-1
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 09

Printed in the United States of America.

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Introduction

The phrase “on the spot” usually has negative connotations. Ever been put on the spot at work? Perhaps you’ve been called upon to offer an impromptu speech in front of a group of unsympathetic peers. Nothing brings on the flop sweat like being put on the spot.

Well, we’re turning that phrase upside down. Now “on the spot” is all about fun, not fear. It’s all about possibility, not panic. Is your time with kids in need of a bit of thoughtful reflection? No problem. Just choose a devotion from these pages and you’re on your way to a meaningful faith exploration. Find yourself with a moment between activities, surrounded by a crowd of restless kids? Engage them with an “on the spot” devotion.

On the Spot devotions are easy to lead and require no supplies beyond a Bible and what you’ll find in most rooms or in your pockets. In fact, these are so easy to use, you don’t have to plan ahead at all. (Thus, the whole “on the spot” theme we’ve been promoting.)

After you’ve lead one of these devotions, you’ll be cheered as a hero for saving the day. Revered for your ability to “think on your feet.” (Okay, maybe “read on your feet” is more accurate. But it’s still a valuable skill worthy of reverence.) Or maybe you’ll just end up turning a dead time into one where kidshave an opportunity to grow closer to God.

Forget the flop sweat. Build your group’s faith instead. Right where you are. Right now.

On the spot.



Pg. 3

1 Never Fear (Fear)

Scripture: Psalm 34:7

Kids provide a barrier of protection for one person, and then discuss how God protects his children.

Ask for two volunteers. Have one stand in the center of the room, then have the rest of the group—except for the second volunteer—lock arms in a circle around the first volunteer to form a protective wall. Have the second volunteer try to get through the “wall” to the person in the middle while the rest of the group tries to keep the person protected.

After a few minutes, have everyone sit on the floor. Ask:

- What was fun about this game?
- How was this like the way God protects us?

Read aloud Psalm 34:7. Ask:

- How do you feel knowing you have angels all around you?
- How can we fight feelings of fear?

Have children form a circle with arms around each other's shoulders. Pray: **Dear God, thank you for sending your angels to protect us. Help us trust you, and teach us how to stop feelings of fear when they come. In Jesus' name, amen.**

2 Pressure Pot (Peer Pressure)

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:33

Kids learn about peer pressure.

Have an adult take a volunteer to a place where he or she can't hear what you say.

Say: When the volunteer comes back, we're going to try to get the volunteer to scratch his or her head. We'll begin by clapping slowly, and as our volunteer gets close to doing what we want, we'll start clapping faster. If the volunteer is far from doing what we want, we'll clap slower.

Call the volunteer back. Say: These people are going to help you do something. You have to figure out what that something is. They won't speak, but they'll clap. The faster the clapping, the closer you are to doing what they want. Let's go.

After the volunteer figures out the action or after three minutes, call time. Ask:

- How did you feel as people tried to get you to do something?
- How did the rest of you feel trying to get our volunteer to do something?
- How do you feel when kids try to get you to do something you don't want to do?

Read aloud 1 Corinthians 15:33. Ask:

- What does this verse say about peer pressure?
- Can peer pressure be good? Explain.
- How can we not give in to negative peer pressure?

Say: Let's pray. God, help us choose our friends wisely. And please help us stand strong against negative peer pressure. In Jesus' name, amen.

For Extra Impact

—Ask:

- Why do you think the Bible says that "bad company corrupts good character"?

What does it mean to have good character?

—Have kids find partners and let them take turns playing the clapping game.

—Have partners talk about specific examples of positive peer pressure. Challenge kids to use those examples in their everyday lives.