



Camp Venture Counselor's Guide: Ages 6-12
Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts through Revelation
Unit 6, Lesson 28

Letters About Weakness

Lesson Aim: To know God's strength is shown in our weakness.

THE WORSHIP – AT THE CAMPFIRE

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Shows Us

THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME

New Testament Letters: 2 Corinthians 4:6-9, 16-18; 12:7-10

What He Has Done: God revealed to Paul that His power is made perfect in weakness.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105

Unit 6: The Promise of Heaven			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Aim
28	Letters About Weakness, 2 Corinthians 4:6-9, 16-18; 12:7-10	God revealed to Paul that His power is made perfect in weakness.	To know God's strength is shown in our weakness.
29	Letters About Strength, Ephesians 6:10-11, 14-18; 1 Peter 5:8-10	God showed His apostles how He strengthens us.	To learn what it means to choose to wear the protective armor of God and be strong in the Lord.
30	Letters to the Seven Churches, Revelation 3:14-16, 19-22	Jesus told John what to write to the seven churches.	To know Jesus cares about our ongoing relationship with Him. (Salvation Message)
31	Letters About Jesus' Return, Revelation 19:11-16; 21:1-4; 22:20	God gave John a vision of heaven and what it will be like when Jesus comes back to earth.	To know what will happen when Jesus returns.

COUNSELOR'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Romans 8:22-27. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for Your Holy Spirit who shows Your power through our weakness. Help the children recognize Your power through their own weaknesses. Amen."

WHAT IS CAMP VENTURE? Camp Venture is a variation on the Prophets & Promises Units 5 and 6 standard version lessons. Camp Venture offers different elements consistent with a camping theme. Children are referred to as campers and teachers are camp counselors. Decorate classroom or play area to create the Camp Venture experience. For example: camp tent, backpacks, photo board or album with photos of each camper, fire logs surrounded by stones as a flameless campfire, etc. Camp Venture is most often introduced as Sunday School curriculum during school vacation months but can easily be adapted as a Vacation Bible School curriculum.

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THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 25	Camp Games: Pots of Treasure	Four pots (plastic flower pots or buckets), an equal amount of treasures in four different colors (candy, buttons, craft gems, paper cut into jewel shapes)
THE WORSHIP – AT THE CAMPFIRE	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song: “The New Testament Overture” Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: “To Him Who Sits on the Throne” “Not by Might,” “At the Name of Jesus” Additional Hymn Suggestion: “Here I Am to Worship” “Awesome God”
		Worship Scripture Reading: Romans 8:26	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 28 Bible Barn script or storybook
THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME	Up to 5	New Testament Letters: 2 Corinthians 4:6-9, 16-18; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10	Bibles
	Up to 10	Pen Pal Letter	Mailbag, Scripture reference list, Bible, Pen Pal Letter, old clay pot or jar containing a cross decorated with jewels
	Up to 5	Share a Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	New Testament Postcards, clay pot stamps or stickers, Daily Ways and basket or W ³ s for the older children, Letters from Camp (available at ResourceWell.org), pencils, poster board, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song “The New Testament Overture”
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Potful of Treasure	Any favorite snack served from a clay pot
	Up to 10	Game: Which One Is Stronger	Large sheets of sturdy paper, markers
	Up to 10	Game: New Testament Line	27 sheets of paper, marker, clothesline or thin cord, 27 clothespins or paperclips, “The New Testament Overture” song, Bible
	Up to 5	Discussion: More Letters About Weakness	Bible
	Up to 15	Craft: Care Package—Treasure Pots	Clay, small candles (stick, votive or tea light), shiny craft supplies (craft jewels, buttons, sequins, glitter, etc.), ribbon, colored paper, paperclips, scissors, glue, crayons or markers
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Light My Path	Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song: “The New Testament Overture,” flashlights
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Next Book	Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Poster and Song: “The New Testament Overture”
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Pass The Word!	Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Poster and Song: “The New Testament Overture,” Bible

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME – CAMP GAMES

Welcome to Camp Venture! Each time before we worship, we will get to know each other better and have some fun with our Camp Games. First, let's dedicate this day of camp to Jesus. Pray. Today, our New Testament letter teaches us about weakness. Each team gets a fragile, weak clay pot to collect your team treasure. Be careful and work together to collect all the treasure!

Optional: For added fun through Units 5 and 6, adapt all camp games to a team point system. For suggestions, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

GAME: POTS OF TREASURE

Purpose: Campers will begin to discover God is the treasure inside their lives.

Supplies: Four treasure pots (plastic flower pots or buckets), an equal amount of treasures in four different colors (candy, buttons, craft gems, paper cut into jewel shapes, etc.)

Prepare: Scatter equal amounts of treasure in each of the four colors around the play area.

Counselor Clue: Small groups can play with two teams.

Directions:

1. Place a treasure pot in each of four corners of the room.
2. Divide campers into four teams.
3. Each team should gather near one of the treasure pots.
4. Assign each team a treasure color.
5. On your signal, campers race to pick up all the treasure of their assigned color and deposit them in their team's treasure pot.

Rules: The treasure pots may not be moved during the game.

Campers can only carry one piece of treasure at a time back to their team's pot.

6. The goal is to be the first team to collect all the team's treasure. Continue playing until all the teams are finished to determine which team is in second, third, and fourth place.

Today, we will read what the New Testament letters say about our weakness and God's strength. Just like our pots are filled with treasures, God's strength is like a wonderful treasure inside us. Let's read our letters and find out how God's strength helps us when we are weak.

Limited Space? Use one treasure pot, one set of treasure, and a timer. Time teams as they play one at a time. The team to complete the relay in the fastest time wins.

Counselor Clue: All games may be adapted to a competitive or a non-competitive version. Camp competition provides an opportunity for campers to learn how to honor God in a competitive environment, encourage other campers, and to be gracious winners and losers.



The Spirit who shows us

THE WORSHIP – AT THE CAMPFIRE

Counselor Clue: To help campers identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as campers move from one area to another.

Today, we worship the Spirit who shows us we are weak and God is strong. We can praise Him as the mighty one who helps the weak. God helps us in everything; He even helps us to pray when we don't know what to say.



One way we can thank God for helping us is to give our offering. Sing: "Here I Am to Worship" while collecting the offering.



Read Romans 8:26.



Sing the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song, "The New Testament Overture."

You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God's power.



Perform the Bible Barn script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 6, Lesson 28. Include reciting the Camper's Code:

Camper's Code

I will love God with all my heart.

I will love my neighbor as myself.

I will be a light wherever I go.

Today's Camp Critter is a kitten. Have you ever seen a newborn kitten? (Campers respond.) **Newborn kittens are small and weak. They are today's Camp Critter because we are learning about some special letters found in the New Testament that teach us about our weakness and God's strength.**



New Testament letters

THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME

Counselor Clue: Tent time should take place in a corner of the classroom, under a tent, or any covered space. Remove chairs and have campers sit on mats or sit-upons.

Prepare: Create a list of today's New Testament letter scripture references (2 Corinthians 12:7-10; 2 Corinthians 4:6-9, 16-18) and place it in the counselor's Bible. Print the Pen Pal letter on the next page onto a sheet of paper. Fold the paper and place it in an envelope. In a mailbag, place the New Testament letter scripture references, the counselor's Bible, Pen Pal Letter, and an old clay pot or jar containing a cross decorated with jewels.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Camp Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Camp Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my counselor, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Welcome to Tent Time! Last time in our mailbag, we found letters about perseverance. That means to never give up. We learned that fixing our eyes on Jesus and focusing on Him encourages us to never give up.



Counselor holds up mailbag. **Today, we will read letters about weakness. We will learn how we can see God's power in our weakness. If you brought your Bible, open it now and share it with others.** Hand out spare Bibles. Counselor removes the Bible from the mailbag, opens it, and removes the list of today's New Testament letter scripture references: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; 2 Corinthians 4:6-9, 16-18.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Camper prays aloud. **Be seated. Paul taught his friends in Corinth about his own weakness. Listen as I read what he told the Corinthians.** Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.

Earlier in that same letter, Paul explained why his weakness did not make him lose heart or be discouraged. Check it out. Read 2 Corinthians 4:6-9, 16-18.



Pen Pal

THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME

During Tent Time, we open our mailbag to see if our Pen Pal will give us a clue about what today's New Testament letters have to do with our lives. Read the Pen Pal letter.

Hey Pals,

Have you ever asked God to heal you or to take away a problem you were having? Sometimes, God's answer to a prayer comes right away. Sometimes, His answer comes along the way. And sometimes, God will not answer our prayers until we get to heaven, where all our weaknesses and worries will be gone forever!

That's how it was with Paul's prayer. In his letter, he told the Corinthians he prayed three times for God to take away his weakness, but nothing happened. The Bible does not say what Paul's weakness was; he called it "a thorn in his flesh." He was not talking about a real thorn but about a certain weakness. Sometimes, parts of our bodies are weak through sickness or injury or maybe something in our bodies or minds has not worked well since we were born. What are some physical weaknesses we might ask God to take away? (Campers respond.) God is so powerful that He even uses our weaknesses in building His kingdom.

Paul was not discouraged about his unanswered prayer, because he knew when we are weak, it is easier for others to know that only God is the one with the power. Paul said God put His light into our hearts.

Counselor opens mailbag and removes an old clay pot or jar containing a cross decorated with jewels. God's light is like this cross and our hearts are like this breakable clay pot. If we were perfectly strong like a fancy treasure chest with a lock, others might only notice the treasure chest and the lock. But, when an old clay pot holds an amazing treasure like this cross, what do you notice most of all? (Campers respond.) In the same way, others will notice God's power in our weakness.

No matter what your weakness is, the treasure in your heart is God's perfect light. That light points you and others to Jesus. Let others see that light and know Jesus is the powerful one, not us!

Believe and Be Light!
Your Pen Pal

THE WAY *continued...*



SHARE A PRAYER

Let's thank God for His amazing power and the way He lets us see it through our weaknesses. Ask campers for individual praise and prayer requests. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

Father in heaven, thank You for showing us Your perfect power in our weakness. You know our needs—the ones we shared out loud and the ones we hide in our hearts. We lift all these up to Your throne now. Pause for a moment of silence. We can't wait to see the way You will answer each one.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

NEW TESTAMENT POSTCARD: Today, your Treasure Treat is a New Testament Postcard. I'm giving you this stamp or sticker of a clay pot to remind you that even though we are weak, if we believe in Jesus, we have God's light inside us. Place the stamp or sticker in the corner box on the back of the postcard. **On your postcard, list where to find today's New Testament letters in the Bible.** The scriptures are listed in the Daily Way and W³. **Read the scriptures again to help you answer the postcard question.**

TREASURE TREAT: The Treasure Treats for Units 5 and 6 are New Testament Postcards. Campers receive a postcard and a stamp or sticker. The postcards are available at Resourcewell.org. If stamps or stickers are not available, have campers draw the stamp in the designated box.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 28 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Bring it back next time to win points for your team here at Camp Venture.**

W³ CHALLENGE (For Older Campers): Take home today's W³ Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together at home in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W³ Journal Entry #28 instead of the Daily Way. **Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!**

LETTERS FROM CAMP: Write a Letter from Camp to someone to let them know what you did today. Write or draw your favorite thing about today and something special about the letters from the New Testament you just learned. Sign it and share it with someone.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song, "The New Testament Overture," in the background as campers wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: POT FULL OF TREASURE

Purpose: Campers will eat a snack while discussing their treasures.

Snack Suggestion: Any favorite snack served from a clay pot

Today, we are learning that even though we are weak, God is strong. He is the source of strength inside all who believe in Him. Just like this clay pot has a special treasure inside for you to share and eat; God has put a special light inside our hearts so we can share the good news about Jesus with others.

Directions:

1. Serve the snacks and drinks.
2. Camper prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"What is your favorite treasure?"**

GAME: WHICH ONE IS STRONGER?

Purpose: To determine the stronger animal while discussing God's strength in our weakness.

Supplies: Large sheets of sturdy paper, markers

Directions:

1. Choose a few campers to be the judges.
2. Divide the remaining campers into two teams.
3. Give a stack of paper and a marker to each team.
4. Each team member may have a turn as the team's writer or artist.
5. On your signal, each team secretly chooses a strong animal. The team's writer or artist writes the name or draws a picture of that animal on the paper.
6. When both teams are finished, they show their papers to the judges.
7. The judges decide which animal is stronger. The team with the stronger animal gets a point.
8. Display the animal names and pictures where all can see so teams remember which animals have already been chosen.
9. Teams choose a new artist or writer and play again as time allows. Teams may not use an animal that was previously chosen by either team.

Sometimes, we feel very strong like when we help a younger sibling or win a team game. Sometimes, we feel weak when things are hard to understand or difficult to do. It's the same way when we talk to people about God or follow Him. Sometimes, it may be easy to share the good news about Jesus or to follow God, but other times we may not be sure about what to say or how to obey. The good news is that God has all the strength we will ever need and more! When you are weak, God is strong. What is something God can do that you cannot? (Campers respond.) When you feel weak, you can pray and ask God to show you His strength and power.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: NEW TESTAMENT LINE

Purpose: Campers learn the books of the New Testament.

Supplies: 27 sheets of paper, marker, clothesline or thin cord, 27 clothespins or paperclips, "The New Testament Overture" song, Bible

Prepare: Write the name of each book of the New Testament on a separate sheet of paper. Shuffle the papers so the books are not in order. Hang the clothesline in the play area at a low height so campers can reach it.

Directions:

1. Play "The New Testament Overture" song two times. Encourage the campers to sing along as they become familiar with the words.
2. Challenge the campers to place the New Testament books in order by hanging the sheets of paper in correct order on the clothesline with clothespins.
3. To help the campers, play the song while they work or leave a Bible open to the table of contents for them to reference, as needed.
4. After all the books are hung in the correct order, challenge campers to recite the books of the New Testament from memory.

DISCUSSION: MORE LETTERS ABOUT WEAKNESS

Purpose: Campers learn of another letter about weakness from the New Testament.

Supplies: Bible

Let's read **Jude 1:24-25**. Counselor or camper reads. **Who has the power to keep us from falling and to present us to God?** (Jesus.) **What are we like when we are presented to God?** (Faultless and full of joy.) **Jude offered God praise with words like glory, majesty, power, and authority. What words would you use to praise God?** (Campers respond.)

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: CARE PACKAGE—TREASURE POTS

Purpose: Campers create a gift to give as encouragement to those who are physically weak.

Supplies: Clay, small candles (stick, votive or tea light), shiny craft supplies (craft jewels, buttons, sequins, glitter, etc.), ribbon, colored paper, paperclips, scissors, glue, crayons or markers

Prepare: Choose a person or group of people who will receive the care package such as people in a hospital or elder care facility. Where campers can see to copy, write: **God's light shines in you!** On a piece of paper, write the words to the letter below for campers to copy.

Dear Friend,

"For God...made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."

2 Corinthians 4:6-7

Your Friend,

Camper signs his or her first name

Counselor Clues: If possible, take some or all of the campers with you to deliver the care package to the recipient(s) or take a picture when you deliver the package to share with the campers. For younger campers or if your time is limited, print the letter on a card (inside of a folded sheet of paper). You may also choose to have some children work on the pot and some work on the card that goes with the pot. Make your own clay—go to ResourceWell.org for links to clay recipes. Instead of a candle, give the recipient something he or she needs or would appreciate.

Large class? Divide campers into teams and allow each team to create a team pot.

Today, we learned what the New Testament letters say about weakness. When we are weak, what can we do? (Pray to God for strength. Remember His light shines in us.) **Let's encourage others who may feel weak and remind them that God is their strength!**

During Camp Venture, we will care for others by making care packages we can deliver or mail. Today, we will make and give away candles in clay pots to help those who receive our gifts to know God is their strength when they are weak. Share information about the care package recipient(s) with the campers. Allow them to ask questions so they truly understand where and to whom their gift will be delivered.

Directions:

1. Form a pot shape out of a handful of clay.
2. Carve the sentence **"God's light shines in you!"** into the pot using the tip of a paperclip.
3. Decorate the candle with shiny craft supplies and ribbon.
4. Press the candle into the bottom of the pot to secure it.
5. Make a card to go with your candle. Fold a colored sheet of paper in half and copy the Bible verse onto the inside of the card. Be sure to sign your name!
6. Allow the pots to dry and harden.
7. Deliver the gifts!

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105

"The New Testament Overture"

Psalm 119:105 (KJV) and books of the New Testament sung to the tune of "The William Tell Overture" by Allegro Vivace. Sheet music and recordings available at ResourceWell.org

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path! (2x.)
Go to Matthew, to Mark, go to Luke and John. Go to Acts and the letter to the Romans.
Go to First, go to Second Corinthians, to Galatians and Ephesians!
Philippians and Colossians, First and Second Thessalonians,
First and Second Timothy, then Titus and Philemon!
Go to Hebrews and go to James. Go to First, go to Second Peter.
Go to First, Second, Third John. Go to Jude, then go to Revelation!

GAME: LIGHT MY PATH

Purpose: Campers learn the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song: "The New Testament Overture," flashlights

Directions:

1. Campers choose partners.
2. Give each pair a flashlight. (Pairs may take turns if there are a limited number of flashlights.)
3. As the Bible Memory Verse Song plays, one partner moves the flashlight beam across the floor as the other partner walks the path highlighted by the beam. Make sure the partner moves the beam slowly enough so the other camper can walk in it.

How did you know where your partner wanted you to go? (By following the lighted path.) **Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." When we read God's Word, it's like He is shining a light for us to see how to follow the right path—His path. The Bible helps us know God and how to follow Him.**

GAME: NEXT BOOK

Purpose: Campers learn the New Testament books in order.

Supplies: Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Poster and Song: "The New Testament Overture"

The Bible is made up of 66 different books. The New Testament has 27 books. Let's learn the books of the New Testament to help us find scripture verses quickly. How fast can you learn all the New Testament books in order?

Directions:

1. Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse one time. Have campers sing along as they learn the words.
1. Play the song again. This time stop the song during the list of the books of the New Testament.
2. Campers call out the name of the book that comes next. Refer to the poster, if necessary.
4. Play again, as time permits.
5. As campers learn the books, challenge them by taking away the poster and choosing one camper to respond each time you stop the song.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: PASS THE WORD!

Purpose: Campers learn the New Testament books in order.

Supplies: Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Poster and Song: "The New Testament Overture," Bible

Counselor Clue: For an added challenge and to protect the Bible during this game, use a hard cover Bible and tie it closed with a sturdy ribbon or enclose the Bible in a zipped cover or large zip top bag.

Directions:

1. Seat campers in a circle.
2. Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse as campers quickly pass the Bible around the circle.
3. Stop the song during the list of the books of the New Testament.
4. The camper holding the Bible when the song stops, opens the Bible and finds the last New Testament book sung in the song.
5. Play again, as time permits.
6. As campers learn the books, challenge them by timing the camper searching for the book. Encourage campers to cheer for each other.

Team Point System for Camp Venture (Units 5-6)

Teams: To adapt all Camp Games to a team point system for Units 5 and 6 (Lessons 22-31), divide campers into 4 teams. Instruct each team to create its own name and team banner at the beginning of the Camp Games segment of Lesson 22. Campers will remain on the same team for all Camp Games throughout Units 5 and 6.

Point System: Campers may earn points for their teams by attending Camp Venture, completing their Daily Ways, bringing a Bible, bringing a friend, winning a game, and showing good sportsmanship. At Camp Venture, good sportsmanship is respectful behavior toward others. It includes cheering for their team during games, playing fairly, tallying scores honestly, and cheering for other teams when point tallies are announced. Bonus team points are awarded for cheering and encouraging other teams.

Grand Prize: On the final day at Camp Venture, all members of the winning team receive a surprise grand prize. The grand prize can be an ice cream or pizza party or something that would be special to the campers. Have the winning team invite all of the other teams to join the party.

About Competition: Camp competition provides an opportunity for campers to learn how to honor God in a competitive environment, encourage other campers, and to be gracious winners and losers. For added fun, be very generous with the points. For example: 100,000 points for 1st place, 75,000 points for 2nd place, 40,000 points for 3rd place, and 30,000 points for 4th place. The teams will end up with point totals in the millions at the end of camp.