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Lack of Self-Control



Everyone was excited about the magician that was coming to Glenwood Elementary School. Before the children went to the auditorium for the show, the teacher made an announcement.

“I want all of you to be on your best behavior today during the program. Stay in your seat, and remember to keep your hands to yourselves. Don’t be a talker—be a listener. And remember to use your manners,” she said, as she gave the signal for them to line up.

Bailey lined up behind Max. Everyone walked in a single line to the auditorium, except Max. Whenever the teacher wasn’t looking, Max ran ahead and tried to cut in line, but no one would let him.

The teacher was sitting two rows in front of Max and Bailey as the magician began to perform. “Hello, boys and girls! My name is Zombo the Great!”

“More like Dumbo the Great, if you ask me,” Max said to the kids sitting around him. Bailey ignored Max and watched the show.

First, Zombo pulled a long line of colored handkerchiefs out of his sleeve, which turned into a big bouquet of flowers. Everyone clapped except Max. He was too busy pulling the ribbons off the braids of the girl sitting in front of him.

(Continued on the next page.)

Lack of Self-Control

Then Zombo made his assistant disappear! Max put his hands over Bailey's eyes and said, "Look Bailey! I made everything disappear, didn't I? Huh? Didn't I?" Bailey wished she could sit by someone else.

When everyone thought Zombo was going to pull a rabbit out of a hat, he surprised them by pulling out a snake instead! Max started making hissing sounds and wiggling his arm around in the air. Then he pretended that his "snake" bit everyone around him. The children were getting tired of Max's behavior. They just wanted to watch the show.

Then Zombo asked for a volunteer to come to the stage and help him. Max stood up in his chair and waved his arms wildly, yelling, "Pick me! Pick me!" Zombo chose someone else.

"You're a loser!" said Max, as he fell out of his chair and into the aisle. The teacher took Max by the arm and led him out of the auditorium. "It looks like you have not learned how to control yourself," the teacher said, "so you can spend the rest of the morning in the principal's office!"

Meanwhile, Bailey and the other children were having fun. They sat still, using their manners, while they watched Zombo close up a big, black box with a tiger in it. When he opened it up again, the tiger was gone, and a flock of doves flew out over the audience!



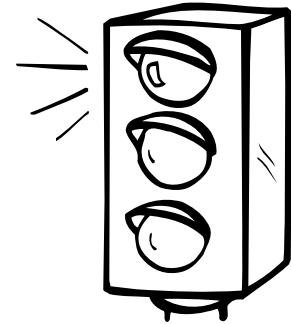
Talk About It

- Why do you think Max behaved so badly? How might things have been different if he had used self-control?
- Why do you think Zombo chose someone else to be his helper instead of Max?
- Tell about a time when you really needed self-control. How can you let Jesus help you use self-control?

Red Light, Green Light

Name _____

We should learn to control ourselves in every situation. Sometimes we have to tell ourselves, "No." Sometimes we should do what we know is right, even if it is hard to do. Read each situation below. If you should tell yourself to STOP, color the circle red. If you should GO ahead, color the circle green.



1. The teacher is giving a math lesson. Your friend, two rows over, flies a paper airplane to you while the teacher's back is turned. You want to fly it back across the room to your friend.
2. There is a rule at school that says, "Do not run in the hallways." The teacher asks you to take the attendance slip to the office. A group of kindergarten students comes out of the library. You know you should set a good example for them, so you walk.
3. During worship services, your cousin passes you a note asking where your family is going for lunch. She wants you to write her back. You are hungry. You want to tell her that you hope it's Burger Land.
4. You see a video game in the store that you have been wanting for a long time. You beg your mom to buy it for you. She says, "No," and you stomp your foot and yell, "You never buy me anything!"
5. While you are riding your bike, a stranger calls you over to his car and offers you some candy. You know it might be a trick. You ignore him and ride home quickly.
6. All the other kids at the movies throw their cups and popcorn boxes on the floor when they finish eating. You think about the person who has to clean up the mess. When the movie is over, you put your trash in the trash can.
7. At church camp, a counselor brings a cooler full of canned drinks. You are hot and ask, "May I have one?" She answers, "You can have all you want!" You drink one, and then another, and then a third one. Later, you go back for another, even though your stomach is hurting.

My Contract

Name _____

Help the birds find their birdhouses by drawing a line from each bird to the birdhouse that completes the sentence correctly. The sentences will tell you ways to have self-control.

Bird 1: I will behave in ...
 Bird 2: I will use my ...
 Bird 3: I will mind my ...
 Bird 4: I will do what's ...
 Bird 5: I will not break the ...
 Bird 6: I will try not to get in ...

Birdhouse 1: rules
 Birdhouse 2: public
 Birdhouse 3: parents
 Birdhouse 4: right
 Birdhouse 5: trouble
 Birdhouse 6: manners

If you want to make a commitment to use self-control, copy the sentence below. Then sign your name and write the date.

I promise to do my best to use self-control every day.

Signed _____

Date _____