

Joystick Giants

The Principle to Learn	In God's Word
Motivation and moderation.	Romans 6:12

The following lesson deals with important fundamental character issues, and should not be skipped or skimmed over. Strive to have a good understanding of the subject matter before you teach, and focus on current student needs.

Preclass



- Review the goals of ComputiVerse
- Review the Class Tips
- Review the Gospel Message

Process

Include the steps of the gospel throughout the lesson; so while student attention is fresh, the real lesson is being planted.

Pray first.



The mere mention of the word, “joystick,” brings frowns to many adult faces, and mental fences begin to arise.

Some parents may say, “I won’t have one in my house! I don’t care if it is hooked to a video game, or connected to a computer.”

Another might respond, “But that’s how airplanes are guided.” Or a disabled person might say, “I couldn’t control my wheelchair without a joystick.” A big burly fellow may state in a gruff voice, “I have much less shoulder pain using a joystick with one of my bulldozers, than a machine with all the

conventional levers.”

And now we are told that surgeons use joystick robots to do exceptionally accurate surgery.

It is obvious that joysticks are not evil in themselves. So the question we must deal with is this: *Why* should we have and use a joystick, and *how* do we control its use?

Try to list in the box below some of the thoughts that might go through the mind of a person who is playing a game, using a joystick.

Is it possible that the mind of such a person is not thinking about the game being played, and perhaps he is not seriously thinking at all?

All too often, joystick activity is very time-consuming. The playing absorbs time that parents believe should be used for outdoor activity, study, for helping around the house, and for communicating with family members.

Though not always true, joystick game playing sometimes demonstrates a goodly measure of drive and determination. Some of these games do provide opportunity to develop quick responses, or to be creative while using the joystick resources.

The challenge for the parent is to find ways to use this determination in things that will draw them closer to Christian ideals and life skills at work and with family.

But some parents fear that because both the hands and eyes are so intensely involved in a joystick game, the game becomes a world unto itself. It doesn't take much effort to believe that children will use this game world to escape the real issues in their lives. With the help of a joystick, could the creativity drive become a painkiller for a child living in a dysfunctional family?

ComputiVerse

You see, all of us have a desire to be in control. We especially want to be over things that are larger than we are. Moving a lever and seeing a huge machine obey our command is exciting, and we feel powerful. This is readily seen among drivers of automobiles. When we feel that we are in control, inside ourselves we believe that we are important and more powerful than we really are.

Paul includes an interesting warning in his letter to the church at Rome,

“Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.” (Romans 6:12)

The two words that need to be really looked at are “reign” and “obey”. It's interesting that we all choose activities that allow us to control. It might be that pleasure comes to us as we try to hide from the real world, the circumstances in our families or lives that we cannot control.

But God HAS given us all the control we need to deal with life's obstacles. And more than that, God tells us that we need to be busy doing the things HE plans for us to do. The command to be busy with God's desires is stated in I Peter 4:2:

“That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.”

We need not fantasize or search for a little world of our own making to hide in. God has created a whole universe to meet our needs, and He has perfect control of it. (And He doesn't need a joystick for that, either!)

God has given promises and provisions in His word for identifying good uses for joysticks, and then utilizing them.

Always start by searching God's word for His desires and goals for your life. Then talk with your parents and pastor about your own desires and goals. Learn how you can use your computer to help in the achieving of some of these goals. These processes are ongoing and will bring indescribable joy in their achievement. Be a joystick giant in the eyes of those who love you, and especially in the sight of your Father in heaven. (end)



Jungle Flying

[Theme: Honor God with all our possessions.]

“Not knowing there was a dangerous obstacle about to present itself, the little airplane lined up with the runway, about to land with steady hands at the controls. Mike went through the landing sequence as he had practiced countless times before.

The nose wheel must be centered, flaps down 15%, and many other settings and procedures must be followed. But because fuel was low, Mike decided not to do his customary flyover to check this jungle runway as he usually did all the others. Flying for missions demands intense concentration, dedication, and the constant expectation of things not planned for.

The families of this small jungle village had worked two weeks of long hours, building this runway. The runway was about to test Mike’s flying skills as never before. The whole village stood by, hoping for a safe landing of the medical supplies that were on board the little airplane. “Easy... down a little... easy, baby.” Mike talked to his airplane just as if it were another person. After all, they had practiced all the techniques so often.

The left wheel had barely touched the runway – I mean wet grass, when Mike spied a forgotten boulder right in line with the right wheel. With instant reflex, Mike slammed the joystick to the left enough to raise the right side of the airplane and that landing gear high enough to clear the boulder and certain disaster. Reaching the end of the runway, the plane was taxied around into the takeoff position and the engine was shut off, with other needed settings.”

As Ron placed his joystick to the left of his computer keyboard, he smiled at his neighbor Tim sitting next to him, watching this computer flight simulation. Both boys had a passion to become pilots and had shared the excitement of Ron’s computer flight simulator program.

More than that, Ron enjoyed visualizing takeoffs and landings as a missionary pilot.

Tim asked Ron, “If this were a real flight, why couldn’t you have dropped the medicine and not landed at all? With all its packaging, it certainly would have withstood the drop into the tall grass.”

Ron began doing something he loved more than flying or using his computer. He began explaining to Tim that missionary pilots carry something far more precious than the life saving medicine they often deliver. Looking at Tim directly, Ron explained the message of hope and purpose that missionaries teach from the Bible. He told of God’s love and salvation that drives missionaries to enter dangerous circumstances and moves them to perfect their flying skills, so they can “go and tell” just as on-the-ground missionaries can.

Tim learned that day, that missionary pilots carry a medicine for the heart and soul that would never fit in a medicine bottle. And Ron had experienced joy – a lasting happiness, because he had found a use for his computer and joystick to deliver God’s message to the heart of his friend. (end)



Trinity Crisscross - Fun With Friends page

Show a friend how to create this easy diagram using your computer. Then share it with your teacher or pastor. If you don't have a computer, then invite a friend to help you cut out the numbers and words from an old newspaper or magazine.

The Trinity is the three persons of God. There is only one God. But He blesses us in three ways – as Father, as Son, and as Holy Spirit.

What other combinations can you and your friend see?

Hint: what does 6 plus 6 equal? What does 3 plus 9 equal? That just happens to be the number of the tribes of Israel. What does 2 times 3 equal? What does 9 minus 3 equal?

39 is the number of books in the Old Testament part of our Bible. 27 is the number in the New Testament. 66 is the total number of books in our Bible. God didn't make one mistake in all those words He inspired. You too should be very careful not to make any mistakes as you tell others about God's wonderful book, and why Jesus shed His blood on the cross for you.

Some other fun combinations from the trinity Crisscross:

$3 + 7 = 10$...The number of the commandments God gave to Moses

$7 - 3 = 4$...The number of the gospels in the New Testament.

$9 - 2 = 7$...The number of days in the week.

Three was also the number of crosses on the hill called Calvary. Who hung on the center cross? Why?

(End)

