

Bigger Doesn't Mean Better

The Principle to Learn	In God's Word
Bigger and faster isn't always the best.	I Samuel 17:42

Preclass



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

Process

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

Pray first.

“Mine’s bigger ’n yours!”

“Yours doesn’t go as fast as mine!”

“Mine’s better!”

No matter whether we’re talking about bicycles, CD collections, or computer sizes, we start believing this lie at a very young age. A six-year-old was given a nickel and a dime with instructions to give one of the coins to his little sister. Carefully comparing the *size* of each, he gave her the smaller dime.

It is a wise person who learns early in life that bigger doesn’t always mean better, and that faster isn’t spelled b-e-t-t-e-r.



Small laptop computers are better than full size personal computers for many tasks. Since the screens are smaller and many of the internal parts also are smaller, laptops don’t take as much electricity to make them work. In fact, because they are small, they can be powered by batteries. Some might complain that laptop keyboards don’t have as many buttons as the larger machines, but that’s really an advantage: a whole laptop computer can be folded up like a big sandwich and stuck in a suitcase or a backpack. Missionaries like that. So do students.

Now if a computer keyboard and screen were much smaller so that the whole thing would fit in your pocket, that would make a lot of people happy. Not everyone wants to write an complete story or a create a big picture; some only want a computer to make notes for themselves, like telephone numbers, or the part number of something, or the name, address, and birthday of a new friend. These pocket computers can be smaller, because a pencil is used to write on their screens. Neat, huh? These pocket computers with pencil are called “PIM’s” which stands for Personal Information Managers. Smaller is sometimes better--right?



Like people, computers come in all sizes; and because of their size differences, some can do certain jobs better than other-size computers...or people. A wise person learns to fit the tool to the task. You don't eat your cereal with a shovel, or dig in the garden with a spoon, do you? Or do you???

God gave us the ability to brag. Notice that the word is “brag”, not “exaggerate”. When we exaggerate, we’re lying. God wants us to brag, but not about how big our computer’s hard drive capacity is, or how fast our computer runs. He wants us to praise *Him*. He wants us to remind others that *He* gave us computers. He is so great and so powerful that *He* is always in control of the universe, yet *He cares* very deeply when we hurt inside. You cannot exaggerate when you speak of how powerful and wise and loving God is.

The biggest hard drive ever made, or even all of the hard drives in the whole world, couldn't contain all the wonderful things there are to know about God and His love.

“And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.” (Jn 21:25)

[Read Bulldozer Secret story]

ComputiVerse

Over and over, God’s word reminds us that our small but best efforts **plus His power**, is what will prevail. Physical size or abundance of possessions do not guarantee success or victory. God used a boy's lunch to feed thousands of people with his five loaves and two fishes. God used a little girl to bring about the healing of Naaman’s leprosy. We read about them in the Old Testament.

Many years ago a man of God was reminded,

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.”(Zech. 4:6)

It is God who gives success to His people.

Remember David, the young shepherd boy who had been anointed to someday become Israel's king? Goliath didn't intimidate him, as that giant stood against God's army.

Goliath was almost ten feet tall, but David knew that bigger isn't always better.

Goliath's spear weighed twenty-five pounds. David couldn't handle such a large weapon and wasn't even trained in how to use a spear, but David knew that bigger isn't always better.

Goliath's coat of armor weighed one hundred and twenty five pounds, far more than David's shepherd's clothes. But David knew that bigger isn't always better.

David shows us that expensive possessions, more powerful weapons, and proud, boastful statements don't stand a chance against a person using his own tools and skills, whose life is dedicated to God.

Big hard drives or small ones, fast modems or slow ones, are dependent upon us to successfully apply God's directions and provisions.

The fastest typist, using the most powerful computer with all the available accessories, still won't measure up to the output of a small computer with no color or graphics in the hands of a young person who is dedicated to using what he or she has, in Jesus' name and for His glory.

(End)



Bulldozer Secret

The secret of the Bulldozer was a challenge to many fellow schoolmates. Bulldozer was the nickname given to Biff Samson, a middle school student about half again larger than most of his fellow classmates. During a typical Saturday football scrimmage, the team that opposed the Bulldozer's team always got an extra player. It only made sense to put two players against Bulldozer, because when Biff got the ball, you'd need help and plenty of it, to tackle him.



It was easy to make him the hero. Nobody pushed him around, and if you were lucky enough to be his buddy, certainly no harm would come to you at the hands of any of the other kids. But there was also another side of Bulldozer; he was sort of quiet and humble, not to mention the puzzle of the x's and o's which some of the kids would see him doodling. No one had the courage to come right out and ask him if he really liked playing tic-tac-toe. But they were just dying to find out.

Biff and all his social studies classmates had an assignment to give a speech about themselves before the end of the school semester. Bulldozer wasn't too keen on the assignment, but complied. When his turn came, he began his speech by telling about his mom and dad in a way that left no doubt in anyone's mind that parents are sometimes heroes to children.

More times that could be counted, Biff's dad had told him the historic biblical account of Samson (same name, right?). His telling included how God had blessed Samson, but the horrible things that resulted when Samson didn't give God the glory. Mr. Samson wanted his son Biff to always remember that no matter how tall he grew, no matter if someone thought of him as a hero, it is God that gives and God that takes away.

As Bulldozer was finishing up his speech, someone in the back of the class asked him about the x's and o's. Those in the front seats watched his eyes for any warning sign that Bulldozer was going to be angry about the question. Biff took a magic marker from the teacher's desk and walked over to Jake, one of the smaller class members who was wearing a plain white tee shirt and asked him to stand.

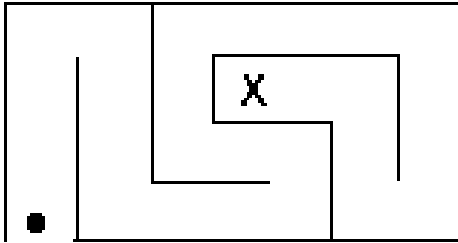
With just a bit of shivering, Jake stood and Bulldozer had him face away from the rest of the class. Jake was too afraid to move a muscle as Bulldozer started making a line of x's across the back of Jake's shirt, but not at all like any tic-tac-toe game. Biff explained that an unnamed classmate was teaching him to use a computer, and that person was even smaller than Jake. Biff went on in telling how he was taught to make x's on the computer screen and then a row of o's above each x.

Then he'd learned to draw lines back and forth that actually represented football plays and how Bulldozer was supposed to run with the football on this certain play or that one. Jake was beginning to breathe a little easier as Biff continued to draw jagged lines on the back of his tee shirt.

Bulldozer finished up his speech by turning Jake around and putting a big arm around him, as a true friend would do. He explained how David, the small shepherd boy in the Bible became a hero – someone to pattern your life after, because he trusted God as he killed the giant.

About a week later a group gathered around the junior high school's football trophy case. They were all pointing at a tee shirt hanging in there, with x's and o's all over the back of it. The sign below it read, "It's not the size of the shirt that really counts, but what's in it." (end)

Mouse A-Maze - Fun With Friends Page

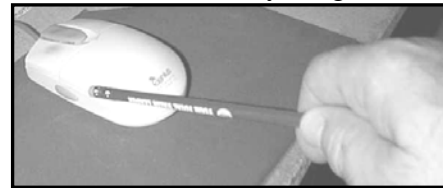


This game teaches an important technique frequently used with your computer mouse. The following fun experiment can best be done on your computer.

1. Have a one-inch piece of tape ready.
2. Using almost any computer graphics program, create a large simple maze like this one, then save it.
3. While still viewing the maze on the screen,

move the mouse pointer over the black dot.

4. Choose the draw mode. (The button usually has a pencil picture on it.)
5. While pressing the left mouse button, carefully tape it down.
6. Use a long pencil or an even longer clean stick and try to push the mouse around, moving through the maze you created. If the mouse leaves a trail showing where it has been, everything is OK.
7. Notice that the closer your hand is to the end of the stick touching the mouse, the easier it is to control it.



There is a secret!

Most grownups wouldn't figure out. If you **really** want to be accurate as you use the mouse with the stick, place the stick or pencil on the mouse pad, just touching the mouse. Then **ROLL** the pencil toward the mouse. If you needed to move the mouse in the other direction, place the pencil on the other side of the mouse and roll the pencil or stick toward the mouse.



O-o-o-o-o everybody will think you're so wise.....

Anyone who figures out how to use two pencils or sticks at the same time and who can move the mouse in two directions at once, should start training to be an astronaut.

You and I often think about big things and maybe even the biggest. We think of being the leader; being out in front and having everyone follow us. The Bible often spoke of young people and used them in important ways.

Can you and a friend find the ways small people were important in the following Bible references?

John 6:9 (Boy with lunch)

II Kings 5:1 (Little maid with Naaman)

Matt 18:2 (Come as a child)

Things are the size they are, because God has made them that way for HIS purposes. Ask Him to show you His purpose for you.

(end)