

# What Do I Do When the Pressure's On?



## **What if Being a Christian Makes Me Unpopular?**

*Key Faith Foundation:* Accepting My Faith

*Key Scriptures:* Proverbs 29:25; Matthew 10:32-33;  
Hebrews 12:14-15; 1 Peter 4:12-14

**grapple schedule** (see pages 4-5 for descriptions)

5 minutes	grapple community
10-15 minutes	grapple games and clues
10 minutes	grapple time
15 minutes	grapple team time
10 minutes	grapple team reports
5 minutes	grapple prayer and dare

**Supplies**

Bibles, *Grapple* DVD, DVD player, Christian music CD, CD player, copy of the Grapple Team Guide for each person, paper, pencils, modeling dough

**grapple community:** 5 minutes

Play Christian music as kids enjoy snacks and friendship, and then play an opening countdown from the *Grapple* DVD to wrap up Grapple Community time.

**grapple games:** 10-15 minutes

Lead kids in the games they chose ahead of time at [mygrapple.com](http://mygrapple.com).

**grapple clues**

Have kids write the answers to this week's Grapple Clues. Award points for each correct answer. (Answers in parentheses are samples.) The winning team gets the Grapple Button (see page 5).

- CLUE 1** [287 points]: **Discover who God promised to make famous in Genesis 12.** (*Abram*)
- CLUE 2** [393 points]: **Discover what Amos 6 says will happen to those who are "famous and popular in Israel."** (*They will be led away as captives and their parties will end.*)
- CLUE 3** [426 points]: **Discover something that's popular right now (movies, music, or technology, for example) that you and another person in your team both enjoy.**
- CLUE 4** [173 points]: **Discover a person in our class who has met someone famous.**

Lead the entire class in the following:

**We all want to be liked, to be popular. But how far would you go to ensure that you were popular? Let's try something.**

**If you want people to like you, stand up. I would assume all of you should be standing. Let's pretend we all live in Trendyville. In this town, you have to conform to be popular, sometimes doing things you wouldn't normally do. I want you to sit down if I ask you to do something that you just wouldn't do, even if it means being unpopular in Trendyville. If you're willing to do it, then you can start doing it right away when I give the instruction!**

**In Trendyville, you must clap your hands all the time. Wait to see if anyone sits down. Also in Trendyville, you must wear your shoes on the wrong feet. Give kids a minute to think about it and to put their shoes on the wrong feet. To be popular in Trendyville, you must stand in your front yard every evening at 7:30 and sing "Happy Birthday to You," since it's always someone's birthday somewhere. Go ahead and practice right now if you're willing! Wait for kids to respond. In Trendyville, the popular people say, "That's FABULOUS!" while they shake their hands over their heads when they like something. Let the kids respond. The popular people in Trendyville always snort when they laugh. Listen for the laughter. As it dies down, say, In Trendyville you must eat worms for breakfast every morning. Here's where the majority, if not all, of the kids will sit down.**

If everyone isn't already sitting down, have those still standing go ahead and sit. **Some of the things people will do to be popular seem silly. So how important is being popular to you?**

*In Pairs*

*Have you ever done something you normally wouldn't have done just to be popular or to get people to like you? Tell about it.*

*Tell All*

*What if being a Christian made you unpopular? Would you still want to be one? Why or why not?*

**There are so many different things that make someone popular; it depends on who you ask. But sometimes we have to choose between being popular and doing what God would want us to do. What do we do if being a Christian makes us unpopular? Let's grapple with that today!**

**grapple team time:** 15 minutes

Break into Grapple Teams. Encourage Grapple Team leaders to check in with kids about their week. Grapple Team leaders will facilitate discussion, using the Grapple Team Guide on pages 77-78. Afterward, kids will report what they learned.

**grapple team reports:** 10 minutes

At the end of Grapple Team Time, match Grapple Teams that chose Option 1 with Grapple Teams that chose Option 2 from page 78. Have teams present their reports.

**grapple prayer:** 5 minutes

Read the Grapple Prayer options. Have the class choose one prayer option that everyone will do. Allow kids time to pray about what they discovered. Then close in prayer.

**Option 1:** *This or That Prayers*

**Name a challenging or tempting situation you often face, and ask God to help you act like Jesus would in that situation, even if it makes you unpopular.**

**Option 2:** *Target Prayers*

**Draw a target. Write “Jesus” in the center. Pray that whatever you do, you’ll be reminded of what’s in the center of your target.**

**grapple dare**

Read Hebrews 12:1-3. **Being a Christian might make you unpopular with people. In fact, Jesus said the world might hate you for following him. However, following Jesus means we get to live forever with God. This world will disappear one day, but God will last forever. This week I dare you to focus on eternity with God rather than on the things of this world. I dare you to make your faith in God known this week by choosing to do the right thing as a follower of God, even if it’s unpopular.**

**Remember to go to [mygrapple.com](http://mygrapple.com) this week to choose the opening games for next week, look for Grapple Clues to win the Grapple Button, play an online game, and connect with each other—and me.**

## grapple team guide

In your Grapple Team, use this guide to grapple with today's question.



*What's so appealing about being popular? What is it about being popular that makes us do some of the things we do?*

### **Read Proverbs 29:25.**

How can being afraid of people lead us to make wrong choices? Tell about a time you've fallen into this trap. If you don't think you ever have, give an example of what you think it might look like. How can trusting in God keep you safe from this trap?

### **Read Matthew 10:32-33.**



*What does Jesus say will happen if we deny him here on earth? What do you think that means? Give some examples of what denying Jesus with your words or actions might look like.*

### **Read Hebrews 12:14-15.**

What do you think these verses mean by "work at living in peace with everyone"? If announcing you're a Christian offends other people and causes conflict, what do you think you should do? Should good Christians make people uncomfortable? Explain.

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### **Read 1 Peter 4:12-14.**



*Has anyone ever made fun of you because you're a Christian? How did it make you feel? Did it change how you acted around that person? Explain. Did it make you hesitate to tell others you're a Christian? Why or why not?*

Take a small lump of modeling dough and close your eyes for a moment. Think about all the different reasons people follow Christ. Use the modeling dough to sculpt something that reminds you of why you believe in Jesus whether it's popular or not.

How can you demonstrate this week that even if being a Christian makes you unpopular, you'll still choose to follow Jesus no matter what?

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**grapple team reports**

*With your team, choose one of the options below to report what you discovered.*

**Option 1: Faith in Action!**

Create a quick skit to share what you discovered.

**Option 2: You've Got Mail**

Write yourself a letter about how important your faith in God is to you. Whenever you need a boost, pull it out and read it.