

Every Which Way but Lost

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as

STEP 1

**Lesson 6****Focus:**

God may take us in unexpected directions.

Lesson 6**Bible Basis:**

Acts 16:6-15

Lesson 6**Memory Verse:**

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. —Isaiah 55:8

Students will discuss an unexpected journey they have taken and watch how one football player’s unexpected training methods help him on the field.

Materials:

Internet access

As your students enter, ask them to think of a time they have learned something or grown in some unexpected way. Examples might include “I could only learn my multiplication facts by singing them.” Or “my younger brother helped me get better at free throws.” Or “a homeless man showed me more generosity than many others do.” Be prepared to share your own story as well. It could be a time that someone unexpected taught you a lesson or an unusual method you used to learn a skill. Once everyone is settled and those who want to have had a chance to share, move on to this video.

Sometimes we learn things from unexpected places. Let’s check out this video of unexpected training for football player Eddie George.

Share the following video [1:39]:

Why Professional Athletes Take Ballet

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdKQh_2E0Yc

- **Have you heard of professional athletes doing unusual cross training? What has that training included?** (Answers will vary.)
- **How does ballet help Eddie George on the football field?** (It builds balance, flexibility, provides good cross training, etc.)
- **What do you think George’s teammates would think of his dancing?** (Answers will vary, but they may include making fun of him and not understanding why he does it.)

Ballet dancing may not be the usual route for training a football player, but it certainly seemed to help Eddie George! Our Bible story today takes Paul on a very unexpected journey. Let’s see how it plays out.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

middle school



Lesson 6 / January 10, 2021

Every Which Way but Lost

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 6

Focus:

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Lesson 6

Bible Basis:

Acts 16:6-15

Lesson 6

Memory Verse:

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. —Isaiah 55:8

Materials:

- Index cards (1 per student)
- Pens/pencils (1 per student)

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring an index card and pen/pencil with them to class. If they don't have these materials at home, they can also use the “notes” section of their devices.

If your class is meeting online, you can transition from Step 3 by inviting students to take a 60-second movement break. They can stand up, dance, do jumping jacks—they can choose. Set a timer and allow students to move before asking them to return to their seats for Step 4.

In our Bible story today, Paul took a very unexpected direction in order to follow God's leading. For Paul, that meant traveling to a distant land in order to share the Gospel. It certainly wasn't a smooth road getting there, and it didn't get any smoother after that either—but Paul kept following Jesus.

Some people are called to follow Jesus by literally going to another country, but all of us are called to follow Jesus within our own day-to-day lives. Even within our everyday lives, God can take us in unexpected directions.

Hand out index cards and pens/pencils to your students. If your class is meeting online, invite students to have their cards and pens/pencils ready.

Have the students divide into pairs and discuss how God might be calling them in an unexpected way. Maybe it's to help a new kid with his math or invite a neighbor over to play video games. Ask your students to commit to praying every day this week, asking God to make His path clear for their lives, even when it's unexpected.

Have them record any impressions they receive during their prayer time on their index cards. They can share with the class next week.

End the class by praying for them to be able to hear God's voice and follow His call.

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