

middle school



Lesson 6 / January 7, 2024

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 players’ unexpected training methods help them 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 a few Major League Baseball (MLB) players.

Share the following video [4:32; stop at 2:59]:

Pilates with MLB PLAYERS| ft Pilates 4 Pros

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ko8xaeKDND0>

- **Have you heard of professional athletes doing unusual cross training? What has that training included?** (Answers will vary.)
- **How does Pilates help these players with their baseball performance?** (It offers recovery, reconditioning, body awareness, injury prevention, cross training, etc.)
- **What do you think their teammates would think of them doing Pilates?** (Answers will vary, but they may include making fun of him and not understanding why he does it.)

Pilates may not be the usual training route for baseball players, but it certainly helped these two players! 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 7, 2024

Every Which Way but Lost

for use as
STEP 4 

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

Materials:

- Index cards
- Pens/pencils

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring supplies with them to class.

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.

Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home). Have the students divide into pairs and discuss how God might be calling them in an unexpected way. (If your class is meeting online, you can use the breakout room feature of your video chat software.) 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.

(We are not affiliated with and do not endorse any website or any other media listed on these pages. At the time of writing, we carefully review the referenced material and non-referenced web page content. However, due to the nature of the Internet, non-cited content on the website [including pop-ups, links, and ads] changes frequently and is beyond our control. Please review carefully before showing links in the classroom.)