**TOP SHOT**

**Topic: Overcoming Failure**

**Philippians 4:4-7**

Supplies:

* At least 8 squirt guns (you will want extra ones for when they are empty)
* 8 large solo cups
* Twine or string that is thicker and won’t break easily
* Duct tape
* Scissors

Directions:

1. Poke a hole through the bottom of each cup.
2. Tape two cups together, bottoms touching, and pull a piece of twine (ten to fifteen feet long) through them.
3. Lay each piece of twine on the ground with the cups in the middle. Lay at least two squirt guns at each end of each piece of twine. You should have four stations set up for the game.
4. Divide the students into four teams.
5. Each round, two players from each team will square off against two members of another team. Make sure you play enough rounds that each team faces off against every other team at least one round.
6. Have the players stand on opposite ends of the twine facing the cups and pull their end of the twine to make a taught line between them.
7. On go, students grab a squirt gun and begin shooting into the cup, trying to force them toward their opponents.
8. After 2-3 minutes call guns down.
9. The winner is the pair who pushed their cup farthest from where it started.
10. Continue playing until everyone gets a chance to play.
11. The winning team is the one with the most points at the end of the game.
12. When playing it is fair game to shoot at opposing players who are active that round.

Say: Wow it took almost perfect shots with the squirt guns to get the cup moving and keep it moving. If you missed the cup and your opponent starting hitting their shots and moving the cup towards you it was hard to get it to stop wasn’t it.

Ask:

* How hard was it to hit that perfect shot and get the cup moving?
* Once you did get it moving how, did you feel when you missed and the cup started moving backwards toward you?
* Do you ever feel that way when it comes to your life? You try so hard to be perfect or great at something and when you miss or even fail you are crushed?
* What happens to you when you fail at something?
* How do you handle failure?

Say: It can be hard for us when we fail at something because we are afraid of what others may think about us. But the fact is God’s is the only opinion we truly need to worry about. If we can focus on what God thinks of our actions and motivations, even when we fail, we can have joy because we know we’re not ruined. God has a better plan for us.

Read: Philippians 4:4-7

Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all he has done.Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

Say: When we stop worrying about what others think about us and say to us, we will be able to rejoice in everything, both our successes and most importantly our failures.

Close: Have your students get back into their teams. Have them talk about some of their failures and successes, then have them pray for each other.

Once they are done, close out in prayer; thank God for their successes and their lives and their failures. Ask God to help them realize that the failures in their lives are ways God is telling them that He wants them to do something different.