

What does it mean to be a hypocrite? Kyle McClure can tell you. He became a Christian in the seventh grade, determined to live his life for God. Over time Kyle's faith grew stronger, and he brought friends to church and began leading Bible studies. But when Kyle started playing basketball in high school, his teammates' attitudes and actions began to rub off on him. Before he knew it, Kyle was involved in things at school that he'd been teaching kids at church to stay away from! Kyle says that for a long time he felt very guilty about his behavior, and that he was caught between two worlds. "I knew I was being a big hypocrite. But it was so hard to change," says Kyle. Kyle asked for God's help in stepping back from sin. Soon Kyle was making better choices so his life could be in line with his beliefs. Kyle wrote his story for a magazine in order to help other kids learn from his experience.

Think About It . . .

- What do you think Kyle meant when he said he felt like he was caught between two worlds?
- How would you describe a hypocrite?

THE BEAT

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Lesson 8



Article and activity by Rebecca Haynes Mott

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Score!

Near the top of the board, draw a large "basketball hoop" circle on the board. Draw a rectangle "scoreboard" beside it. Draw five "basketballs" circles under the hoop. Have students name five things they know are God's will for their lives; list these on the scoreboard. (Examples: honor parents, show kindness) For each way to follow God, have students name a situation in which they could be a hypocrite; summarize and write these inside the balls. Then have students come up with alternative behaviors that honor God's will. They can take turns coming to the board, erasing the hypocritical responses, and replacing them with the good ones. Then draw a line from each ball to show the ball going up in the air and through the hoop. Score!

What will you do this week to live a genuine Christian life?