# Tug of War

**Description:** a team contest with audience participation

**Aim:** to demonstrate difficulties of Bible translation, the need for a team, and God's power

**Audience:** grades 1-6, 10 or more kids

**Time:** 10-15 min.

**Equipment:** a rope and costuming (Signs can replace costumes.)

**Scriptures to Study:**
2 Chronicles 32:7-8
Jeremiah 17:5-8
1 Samuel 17:45-47
Galatians 6:12

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## Leader's Instructions:

1. Stretch a rope on the floor at the front of the room. (No one touches it yet.) Ask a volunteer to stand at one end of the rope and play the part of an overseas worker. Perhaps there is a child who thinks God may be calling him or her to serve God overseas. (Dress this volunteer in pith helmet, canteen, or khaki jacket with a Bible, or just a sign to hold that says "God's ambassador".)
   Ask audience what challenges/difficulties the overseas worker will face. As they think of some of these below, choose a slightly ***larger*** child to represent each difficulty. Have each "difficulty" take his or her place along the rope to form an opposing team for tug of war. Give each an appropriate prop or sound effect:
   ♦ **learning a new language** (wax lips from toy store or stuff mouth with large marshmallow and recite John 3:16)
   ♦ **money** (baseball cap with dollars taped on and blowing around)
   ♦ **diseases** (balance an ice pack on this child's head)
   ♦ **travel to remote areas** (put a heavy backpack on this child's back)
   ♦ **rebel uprisings and wars** (camouflage clothing, play rifle like an empty super-soaker, gauze wrap head bandage)
   ♦ **fitting into a new culture's way of dressing and behaving** (ethnic dress of your choosing)
   ♦ **lions & tigers & bears** (stuffed vicious creature or roar)
   ♦ **spiritual warfare** may or may not come up (scary costume, mask or suit of armor)
2. Now ask the audience if the overseas worker can win. "*No way!*", they'll likely shout. Still, let the two teams play tug of war. The overseas worker will easily be pulled over the line. Ask audience what the overseas worker needs. Yes! Some help—a team of his own. Ask what kind of person he needs, for instance, for the problem of learning a new language?
3. Call up volunteers for each of the following. Make sure to choose slightly ***smaller or weaker*** members for this team. (You are stacking the deck so the overseas worker's team still can not win.)
   ♦ **language school teacher** (this child repeats "uno, dos, tres" endlessly, hopefully without drowning you out)
   ♦ **financial supporter/s** (purse, checkbook, piggy bank)
   ♦ **medical worker** (stethoscope, lab coat, or needleless syringe!!!)
   ♦ **2 or more prayer partners** (hands clasped to pray, unless pulling)
   ♦ **pilot** (pilot wings pin, dark glasses, Red Baron scarf, captain's hat)
4. Play tug of war again and the overseas worker's team still loses. Suggest that problems overseas are just *too big!* Even with one

more person on his team, the missionary still could not win. Maybe it's hopeless? Someone in the audience should challenge you on that point. If not, ask them if anything is too difficult for God.

5. Declare, "What the overseas worker needs is *power!"* From the back, call your big, strong man who has been hiding the sign (included) around his neck all this time. As he strides to the front, flexing his muscles, the children will see **"Holy Spirit"** written in bold letters.
6. Now play tug of war again and the overseas worker's team wins. Applause!

## Discussion and Application:

1. Ask, "Can God's servant overseas get the job done all by himself?" *Emphasize that overseas workers need a team to get the job done.*
2. Ask, "Can people, if they're a big enough team, get the job done by themselves?" *No, we need the Holy Spirit. God's power puts us on the winning side even when the problems are too big!*
3. Ask the kids which of these jobs they could do right now on the '(*fill in the blank with the name of an overseas worker*) Team'. Children may be too young to be pilots, nurses, or teachers just yet. But they can pray for overseas workers supported by their church, give financially, or write letters to keep them from being homesick. They *can* be part of the team right now!
4. Encourage them to discuss this in class with their teachers and form a plan of action. Kids really want to *act on behalf of overseas workers*, instead of just being entertained. Give them a chance to join an overseas worker's team. (See "Projects to Do", another *Bright Ideas!* lesson available at www.wycliffe.ca/resources/children_ministry_brightIdeas.html.

**Closing Song:** "Jesus Loves Me" (We are weak, but He is strong!)

*"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts." Zechariah 4:6*

**Notes:**

# Holy Spirit