

**Series: FORCE Wk 1: ATTRACTION the power of influence**

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<<< Start with a 3 vs 3 tug o'war >>>

Anybody here ever take a science class?

The thing that pulled the one team to the other side is called FORCE.

There was more FORCE on this side, so it pulled the other side.

What was the FORCE? (not a trick question) Answer: PEOPLE.

YOU are a FORCE.

If you play **baseball**,

YOU are the force that throws the ball, hits the ball and rounds the bases.

If you play **basketball**, YOU are the FORCE that dribbles, passes, shoots.

If you play **football**, YOU are the Force that pile-drives people into the turf. Or the FORCE that **runs away** from people trying to drive you into the turf.

If you are on the **Yearbook staff** or **School Paper staff**, YOU are the FORCE that determines what makes news or will stand for decades in your school.

If you are part of the **PREPS** at your school, YOU are the FORCE (fashion Nazis) that determines what's cool & uncool.

If you are a **skater non-conformist**, YOU are the FORCE that rocks the boat and says that the teachers and preps can go STICK IT!

YOU are a FORCE.

At school tomorrow, you have the power to **wreck a relationship** just by letting out a **secret** about a friend.

Or you could **make up a bogus story** about someone, and by lunch time half the school would know. Because YOU are a FORCE!!

At your house...you may think you're just the son or just the daughter---just a kid—you may think that your parent or parents have **all the power**, but YOU are a FORCE;

Because on any given day in any moment any teenager can go into a teenage **tantrum**—you can ruin a family dinner by going on a rant---you can cause the whole house to get all tense because you're ticked off because you can't do what you want to do!

YOU are a FORCE!

I really want you to get this because for some of you, it's easy to think:

**"Dude, I'm just a teenager**---everybody else in my world has power but me—**teachers** have power, **my parent or parents** have power, but me? I got nothing!"

I want to say that every moment of every day you are a FORCE that has the power to **make, break, or ignore** people and situations.

I have two kids here tonight

☺ (**how's that for horror?** You show up to osm and your flippin DAD is doing the talk!!)

Meghan is 15 and Slater is 13. And every day either one of those "angels" has the power to make our living room insane, hilarious, tense, happy, or meaningful just by their words and actions...

Meghan is a FORCE. Slater is a FORCE. YOU, YOU are a FORCE.

Say, "I am a FORCE." (play w/it) (Yoda: "A force am I")

God is *THE* FORCE.

Say: "I am a FORCE, but God is *THE* FORCE."

(setup Scripture—back story on Solomon...HUGE WEALTH & POWER...built Temple, **overlaid with GOLD**, took 7 years to build...**home of The Ark**...)

Ok, so I want you to get the picture that Solomon was GOD'S MAN. God had his hand on Solomon's life. And then we get to the Scripture that a lot of you went over in small group today; 1 Kings 11.

I want to read it from The Message.

But it's got some colorful stuff so **when I point** to you guys, I want to you to say, "**No way!**"

### **1 Kings 11:1-11 The Message**

King Solomon was obsessed with women. **CUE!**  
Pharaoh's daughter was only the first of the **many foreign women he loved**—  
Moabite (women),  
Ammonite,  
Edomite,  
Sidonian, and  
Hittite.

He took them from the surrounding pagan nations (pagan = ungodly, pleasure-seeking), of which God had clearly warned him, (God said)  
"You must not marry them; they will seduce you into **infatuations** with their gods."  
(**infatuations** = foolish love...)

Solomon **fell in love with them anyway**, refusing to give them up. (refusing is choosing!)

He had SEVEN HUNDRED royal wives and THREE HUNDRED **concubines**—a THOUSAND women in all! **CUE! "no way!"**  
(concubine is a woman he wasn't married to, yet had certain "intimacies" with) **CUE!!**

And they **did seduce him away from God**.

As Solomon grew older, his wives **deceived** him with their pagan gods and Solomon **became unfaithful**—he didn't stay true to his God as his father David had done.

Solomon took up with **Ash**toresh, the whore goddess of the Sidonians, **CUE!** And Molech, the horrible god of the Ammonites.

Solomon **openly defied God**; he did **not** follow in his father David's footsteps.

He went on to build a sacred shrine to (KEE-mosh) Chemosh, the horrible god of Moab, and to Molech, the horrible god of the Ammonites, on a hill just east of Jerusalem. He built similar shrines for all his foreign wives, who then polluted the countryside with the smoke and stench of their sacrifices.

**God was furious with Solomon** for abandoning the God of Israel, the God who had **twice appeared to him** and had so clearly commanded him not to fool around with other gods. Solomon faithlessly **disobeyed God's orders**.

God said to Solomon, "Since this is the way it is with you, that you have no intention of keeping faith with me and doing what I have commanded, I'm going to rip the kingdom from you and hand it over to someone else."

RECAP: Solomon was a FORCE for God. Phenomenal leader, amassed fortunes, built the Temple for the **Ark of the Covenant**, built an incredible palace...

But then something happened.

Another FORCE started pulling on Solomon. Just like in our tug of war, we had girls, two forces pulling at each other. And ironically, women were also pulling on Solomon.

God said to Solomon,

**"Dude, Solly baby—ONE—O-N-E, one wife, babe—that'll do it. And make it a wife that really digs me."**

But Solomon felt the tug of women. And he made a decision. This FORCE of a man **whom God loved** and **whom God had used**, CHOSE to follow the tug of women.

And God said,

**"Dude, the 1,000 pagan chicks is a bit extreme---I'm gonna yank your kingdom—you're done."**

Here's a little biblical principle:

**Whenever we don't do life God's way, there are always consequences.**

(repeat—**noteworthy**)

And I do **not** mean that God **punishes** us.

I mean that when we stray outside of God's guidelines, there are always uncool results.

You see them all the time at school:

Example: **God is about sexual purity.**

But when we stray outside those bounds we see people in our school that have a "**colorful**" reputation. Or in high school, we see pregnant teenagers.

Example: God tells us to honor our parents.

But when we don't, we feel things like: tension, stressed relationships between us and our parents. We see cell phones taken away, groundings, whatever.

**Whenever we don't do life God's way, there are always consequences.**

So like Solomon, you are a FORCE. And like Solomon, **you are pulled in two directions.** It's like **your life is a tug o' war.**

You come here to osm and you feel God pulling you in His direction. And then tomorrow comes and you're back in school...

And there are all the pulls of school:

The pull to **fit in**, even if that means **being who you know you're not supposed to be.**

The pull to let your friends or a boyfriend or girlfriend define who you are.

And for some of you, there are pulls at home:

The pull to be just like the parent or step-parent that you resent.

The pull to treat people in your family like they treat you instead of **breaking the cycle** and choosing to be nice to them even though they aren't nice to you.

I **don't** know a lot of you, but I know this:

You are a FORCE.

In **every place you go** and with every person you come in contact with--- you can be a FORCE for **THE FORCE**, you can be someone who's trying to live for God. Or you can just go the way of the world and live for your self.

Solomon chose the way of the world; he chose himself. And it cost him his kingdom.

A lot of you guys are at an age where you're **trying to figure out life;**

You know what your **parents** say, you see how **other people** live. But you're trying to figure out what life is all about TO YOU.

Here's what I think all of life is about:

You are a FORCE,

And in **all things** you are either a FORCE for God or a FORCE for yourself. We're either trying to honor God, or trying to please ourselves or others.

And all I know is that trying to please myself, living for myself, giving into the tug of school, friends, the world, never made me happy--- for very long...

And just for the record---I'm not some "been in church my whole life" guy. The first half of my life I was sure I was smarter than other people, and that I could find peace, contentment, happiness, could like myself...but I never could, until Christ... I want to bring up a couple chicks that are choosing to follow the tug of God vs the tug of the world...

(Bring up Meg & Meg--interview)

Setup "You are the Light"—it's a song about YOU. And that you are a FORCE if THE FORCE is in you...