

Creative Youth Ideas Presents...

# CREATIVE OBJECT LESSONS



by Ken Sapp

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# "WHAT IS IT THAT YOU HAVE IN YOUR HAND?"

(EXODUS 4:2)

God asked Moses: "What is it you have in your hand?" Moses didn't see the potential of what he had in his hand. In the hand of Moses it was a simple stick, a rod. But in the hand of God it became a snake, it brought plagues upon Egypt, it parted the Red Sea, and brought forth water from a rock - pointing to God as Deliverer of Israel. God could have had the same conversation with David as he faced Goliath. "What is that you have in your hand?" In the hands of David it was only a sling. Yet in God's hand it became a powerful weapon that pointed all Israel to the truth that "the battle is the Lord's". It was but a small lunch in the hands of a young boy, but in the hands of Jesus it fed 5000 and pointed to Jesus Himself as the "Bread of Life"!

And God has the same conversation with each of us today. "What is it you have in your hands?" The main point of the question is not what we have in our hands, but what God can do with the things we have, if we let Him. God can take what we have in our hands and use it in a powerful way. He can take that which seems insignificant and turn it into something you never dreamed possible that points the world to Him! And the most amazing thing is that He doesn't just do it with objects, He does the same thing with the lives of His people in an even more powerful way! We just need to place everything in His hands, the hands that created all things, the hands that formed us from the dust, the nailed scarred hands of the Savior that loved us and redeemed us that we might point the world to Him!

It is our prayer, that as you hold this book in your hand (or hold the mouse while you read it on your computer) you will place your life in the Hand of God. You may think that you aren't very creative, but you can place your life, your heart, your mind into the hands of the Creator of all things. You may think that your words are insignificant, but place yourself into the hands of the One who spoke a word and created all things, into the hands of one who is the Living Word! If you will simply place yourself in God's hands, as we have placed this humble effort of ours in your hands, we KNOW God will use you to point students to Himself!







# "TAKE UP A STONE... TO SERVE AS A SIGN AMONG YOU." (JOSHUA 4:5-6)

In Joshua 4, God commanded the Israelites to set up stones as a reminder. The stones were specifically set up in order to prompt questions. And those questions would provide opportunities for them to tell others about God and what he had done for them. Object lessons serve the same function in our teaching. They are set up to draw attention and to stimulate curiosity so that our learners are asking questions. Through these questions we are creating opportunities to tell them about God and what He has done for them.

In Deuteronomy 6, God told the Israelites that they were not only to write His commandments on their hearts, but to also impress them on their children, to talk about them when sitting at home, and as they walked along their journey of life. The Israelites even took it literally and actually bound them to their hands and foreheads, and wrote them on doorframes of houses and gates as visible reminders of what God had commanded. In Numbers 15:28 God told the Israelites to wear tassels on their garments as a visible reminder of God's commandments. The rainbow is a visible reminder of God's covenant with Noah. Jesus asked the disciples to remember Him as they took bread and wine at the Last supper. The Bible is just filled with visible reminders of God's constant communication and connection with His people. Just as Christ was the visible image of the invisible God, object lessons are a visible expression of the invisible (Colossians 1). In fact, Christ himself was THE ultimate object lesson. His entire life, teaching, death and resurrection are all object lessons.



# WHAT IS AN OBJECT LESSON?



Object lessons are the use of objects - insects, fruits, vegetables, animals, coins, thermometers, tools, and weapons - to teach intellectual and spiritual truths. Something physical is used as a metaphor for an abstract concept or principle that is difficult to explain. They can also be used as a visual demonstration or illustration of the results of certain behaviors.

More than just a visual, an object lesson draws a truth from something you are showing or doing. The object becomes a hook on which you hang your lesson and can create powerful associations that serve as reminders every time the object is seen outside the classroom. Real objects, places and events can make learning come alive for children, youth, and adults.



# OBJECT LESSONS THAT GOD USED

The potter's house, the fig tree and sheep were used by God to teach His people truths in ways they could understand, remember, and share with others. The Scriptures themselves were given to reveal God. The Bible declares that all of nature reveals the thought of God, but we often fail to see Him through His creation (Rom. 1:20). Lessons can be found not only in the things of nature, but in the many priestly ordinances, the sacrificial practices, observances, festivals and feasts of the Bible. It's really no surprise that the Bible is packed full of object lessons. God certainly knew the best way to teach His people, God knows we're a forgetful people!

Object lessons in Jeremiah include:

- the linen girdle (13:1-11)
- the potter's vessel (19:1-12)
- a basket of figs (24)
- bonds and yokes (27:2-11; 28)

Object lessons in Ezekiel include:

- illustrations on a tile (4:1-3)
- shaving the head (5)
- moving household items (12:3-16)
- eating and drinking sparingly (12:18-20)
- sighing (21:6, 7), a boiling pot (24:1-14)
- widowhood (24:16-27)

More Biblical examples include:

- the ram substitute (Genesis 22:-19)
- a pot of manna (Exodus 16:32)
- shedding of blood (Leviticus 16 and Hebrews 8-9)
- a bird's nest (Deuteronomy 22:5)
- sackcloth (Isaiah 20:1)
- grass (Isaiah 40:6-8)
- an almond tree (Jeremiah 1:11-12)

And these are just a few of the object lessons God used.



# OBJECT LESSONS THAT JESUS USED

Jesus Himself often used the objects at hand around Him to teach people about God and His Kingdom. When He was by a well, He used water. After He fed 5000 people, He taught them about the Bread of Life. When He was on a fishing boat, He said the Kingdom was like a fishing net. He told His listeners to consider the lilies, the sparrows, and the hairs on their head. Jesus referred to a fig tree, a mustard tree, yeast, salt, a vineyard, money and other things from everyday life to reveal spiritual truth. When He spoke of a vineyard, He was probably by a vineyard. When He said, consider the sparrows, there were probably sparrows flying around. When He taught the parable of the sower, it's by no means a major stretch of our imagination to think that there was a sower in the next field where Jesus was.

In Christ's teaching, the unknown was illustrated by the known; divine truths by earthly things, the spiritual by the natural, the difficult by the simple. He used the things with which the people were most familiar, the things of the earth to teach them the things that were unfamiliar, the things of heaven. Object lessons speak to the eyes and other senses so that they are received into the heart. In fact, the more senses that are involved, the greater the learning that takes place. Christ's teaching using object lessons was targeted at adults, not children, but everyone can learn truths from a simple lesson involving the senses.





# ADVANTAGES OF OBJECT LESSONS



## **Simplicity**

Objects can help simplify complex ideas and concepts. In fact, the power of an object lesson is in its simplicity. Don't make them overly complicated. Object lessons do not have to be too involved or complicated to make a big impact. Keep your explanation to one simple truth. If you try to press the analogy too hard you will end up squashing it flat. Leave room for the students to fill in the gaps, to exercise their own God-given imaginations. Your objective is not to impress everyone with all the levels of symbolism you've been able to discover. In fact, one of the quickest ways to ruin an object lesson is try to make it more than it is. So keep it simple, prepare the best lesson you can, and remember that it's the Holy Spirit, not your object lesson, that instructs and changes students.

## **Familiarity**

Object lessons use the known to teach the unknown, the physical to teach the spiritual. The most effective object lessons use those things that are familiar - objects or events that listeners commonly see or use.

## **Universal**

The high interest level associated with object lessons extends to all age groups even though they are usually used with children. Jesus taught with the desire to reach and touch every heart. By using a variety of objects and illustrations drawn from everyday life and a collection of common experiences, He not only presented gems of truth from a variety of gleaming facets, but he also connected with hearers from different backgrounds and experiences so that no one was left out.

## **Attention and Engagement**

Objects attract and hold the attention of learners. Object lessons can use objects of which there is already an interest to generate a corresponding interest in something new. Having a physical object to focus attention keeps listeners engaged. Object lessons that employ curiosity and anticipation are great motivators and help break the monotony of standard lessons. Make sure that the lessons are fun and engage the senses and the minds of the listener. It should be a time that stimulates curiosity, of shared discovery, of "aha" moments, and verbal interaction.

## **Learning**

People learn in three primary modes, but with different preferences from person to person - Auditory, Visual, and Kinesthetic. Everyone





is a visual learner to some degree so a simple audio lecture or written text can be made more memorable by adding a physical object that can be seen. If students interact with the object (touch) a kinesthetic (doing) learning component is also added. Object lessons allow you to use something students can touch and see to bring your lessons more alive. People learn better through experience and the use of object lessons gives students first-hand experience by coming into contact with the object. Object lessons allow you to use something they can touch and see to bring your lessons more alive. Other modes of learning include smell and taste. The vial of perfume that the sinful woman used to anoint Jesus became an object lesson for the Pharisees (smell). Jesus used the unleavened bread and the wine at the Passover feast to represent His body that would be broken and His blood that He would shed (taste).

### **Discussion**

Object lessons naturally stimulate discussion, especially when there is an interest and familiarity with the object. When learners are engaged in discussion and able to make connections on their own with minimal guidance they will more likely understand the lesson, remember it, and be persuaded by it.

### **Retention**

With object lesson's retention is very good due to the high interest as well as the identification of the truth with the object. Object lessons turn people's "eyes into ears." Because people think in terms of words and images, objects help them recall what is taught. It ties the invisible to something visible. Jesus, by connecting His teaching with the everyday scenes from life, experience, or nature, caught their attention and impressed their hearts. Through object lessons truth is more often caught rather than taught. And as His listeners journeyed through life afterward, and caught sight of those object Jesus used to illustrate His lessons, they would recall His words and His teaching. To minds that were open to the Holy Spirit, His teaching would continue to unfold and grow. Mysteries grew clear and truths took on more depth and more meaning.

### **Stirs the Imagination**

Objects can add details and life to stories to jump start a person's imagination. Teachers also tend to become more visual and colorful in their words and their portrayal of truths, and more vivid in telling stories all of which increases the impact of their lessons.



# DISADVANTAGES OF USING OBJECT LESSONS

## Time

The time taken for an object lesson is usually short and so must be used as a part of a class. Usually as an introduction, an illustration, an explanation or conclusion.

## Difficulty in Cultivating Ideas

Thinking of object lessons is very hard for many people. The trick is to keep your eyes and your mind open to possible object lessons in your everyday life.

## Potential for Confusion

Some objects may obscure the truth rather than clarify and simplify.

## Scale

Small objects do not work well with large groups.

## Potential for Distraction

There is a danger that students may become more interested in the object than the lesson that is being presented.





# TYPES OF OBJECT LESSONS



## Props

Physical objects can be used as props to illustrate a Biblical story or event. Bring in a *Shofar* (Jewish ram's horn) and suddenly the story of Jericho becomes much more real. Bring in a well watered tree or better yet, have your lesson under a tree on the banks of a river and Psalm 1 comes alive. The Bible is the story of God's relationship with man these events are filled with objects and symbols. Bring in a sling and a stone, place a fleece on the floor, a plow, a yolk, a fig, an olive branch, an oil lamp and other objects unique to the Biblical era add a fresh visual dimension to your stories. You can even substitute objects for people when telling a story. *(A future Volume 2 of Creative Object Lessons will develop this further)*

## Metaphors

Physical objects and their primary characteristics can be used as similes or metaphors. A metaphor is simply the substitution of one thing or idea with another. "I am the vine, you are the branches." It usually takes the form of "X is..." The church is the Body of Christ. A metaphor is a word picture that packs profound meanings into a few simple words. "In the shadow of your wings, My soul CLINGS to you, You UPHOLD me." (Psalm 63:7-8). The Lord is my Shepherd and we are His Sheep. A mighty fortress is our God. God is a consuming fire. He is my rock and my shield. We are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. The Christian life is pictured as a walk, a race, a fight and a stand. We were lost and have now been found. We were unclean yet now are made clean. We were perishing but have been rescued. We owe a debt but Jesus paid it all. Jesus is the bread of life, the door, the way, the cornerstone, the living water, the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world. We can choose to live in freedom or slavery. We have been pruned and grafted in. We stumble and fall but God Lifts us up. We are adopted as sons. We were blind and now see. We are to be fishers of men. The Bible is a rich treasury of metaphors. Each one of these metaphors holds tremendous meaning as an object lesson as long as we avoid the dangers of misinterpretation or carrying it in directions or to extremes it was not intended.

## Similes

Jesus used this quite often in his parables. The kingdom of God "IS LIKE" a hidden treasure, a mustard seed, a pearl of great price, yeast, seeds planted in soil, a net. A metaphor often uses the words "like" or "as" and usually relates a simple quality that two things have in common. Endure hardship as a good soldier of Christ. Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. We are as stones being built into a spiritual house. The man that does not do







what the Word of God says is like a man that looks at himself in a mirror and walks away and immediately forgets what he looks like. We are to be like a watchman on the wall.

### **Symbols**

Symbols have been used throughout church history to illustrate principles that are difficult to grasp. St. Patrick used a clover to illustrate the concept of the Trinity; 3 separate leaves, joined together by a single stem. Jesus Himself used one of the most powerful symbols through His death on the Cross. An instrument of torture and shame, now is to us a symbol of victory and redemption.

### **Idioms**

Idioms are colorful expressions they often convey powerful imagery. Often something literal is used in a figurative way to bring added meaning and emotion - a “fly in the ointment”, “A millstone about your neck”, etc. In fact, we have many expressions in common use today that find their origins in the scriptures. We have included a list of the idioms used in the Bible that you can use as a starting point for your object lessons.

### **Demonstrations or Examples**

Demonstrations can be object lessons in that they use actions as examples and illustrations. Jesus washed the disciple’s feet to teach them about being a servant. He asked them to cast their nets on the right side of the boat and after the disciples had eaten instructed them to feed his sheep. Demonstrations help us to engage the kinesthetic learners in our audience and give them the opportunity to participate actively in the lesson.



# PREPARING OBJECT LESSONS



## Be Pray-pared

Pray before you prepare, pray before you teach. Pray every day for help in your planning. Ask the Heavenly Father to help you be aware of things that will make your lessons vivid, memorable, and inspiring to those you teach. Remember that it's the Holy Spirit, not your object lesson, that instructs and changes students.

## Give Yourself Time.

Object lessons, like a seed, take time to germinate. Give the Holy Spirit quality time to inspire and develop ideas for your lesson. Give yourself time to let the seeds of ideas grow, bloom, and produce fruitful thought! When you are familiar with the lessons you are going to teach in the future, and give them time to germinate in your thoughts, you will be more aware of everyday occurrences that you can use to teach those lessons.

## Choose your Object.

Focus on a Biblical Truth or principle, or look for objects or metaphors in a Bible Passage. Choose the truth, or principle you want to illustrate and find something that can represent it. Alternatively you might begin with an object and identify characteristics or uses of that object to discover correlations with spiritual principles and truths. The object itself is not as important as the connections you can draw from it, although obviously there should be some association between your object and the lesson to be taught from it. Objects should relate to the lesson idea in a natural way that must be obvious to the learner once revealed.

## Clearly define the purpose

What is it that you want the student to learn? To do? To imitate? Paul commanded, "Imitate me as I imitate Christ" or as another translation says, "Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1) Many of Christ's lessons were profound in their simplicity and very focused. For example, He could have used the washing of the disciple's feet to teach many different lessons - humility, purity, and cleansing were all part of the lesson - but His focus was to teach them servant leadership.

## Prepare any necessary materials and equipment

If you were to wash your student's feet to teach the lesson that Jesus taught, you would need towels, water and a basin. If you are creating a lesson centered around an object, you'll be most effective if you actually have the object! Create a list of everything that is needed and if possible collect everything together and organize it so that it is easily at hand when you need it. If you are teaching in





front of a large group, any objects you use should be large enough to be easily seen. You may also need to arrange the classroom in a specific manner to facilitate the lesson or you could use a visualizer to make a small object visible. Logistics and distribution of the materials and equipment should also be considered and any additional help should be briefed as to what assistance is needed and how it should be carried out. Don't forget to also consider any special arrangements that might be needed to clean the area after the lesson. Set up the room and position yourself so that every member of class can see the demonstration/ presentation. Have a basic outline of your talk with the basics of what you will say written down on a note card or your hand and right in front of you. Everyone's mind goes blank on occasion. Have extra props or backups in case something goes wrong – a balloon busts, etc.

## Plan

Jesus taught as He encountered life, yet He did plan where He was going. He planned to go through Samaria, He planned who would be His disciples, He planned when He would go up to Jerusalem. While the most powerful lessons will come from a spontaneous overflow from your heart and life, you must plan purposeful lessons as part of your teaching experience. Make an outline of the required steps and a basic outline of key points. Keep the demonstration simple. Do not digress from the main ideas (i.e: keep the main thing, the main thing). By planning well, you're giving the Holy Spirit the freedom and permission to change them without the stress of not knowing how it's all going to work out once He does.

## Practice

You should practice every lesson in advance and run through every step and all verbal explanations of what you will do and say. Practice until the explanations, actions, and use of objects and props flow smoothly with the lesson. This will help you to choose the best words and actions that will have the desired impact. It will also give you an idea of the time required to perform the demonstration and adjust it accordingly for the time you have available. Figure out what you're going to be doing with your hands, if you're going to place them by your side, or if you'll be gesturing. Practice a few times in front of a mirror. You should also rehearse with someone around the same age as the intended audience as a "guinea pig" and make sure they understand it. Listen to feedback honestly and openly to find out ways you can improve your lesson. Anticipate and minimize distractions to keep everything focused and flowing.





### **Tell the Story**

Include a story the listener can relate to along with the object lesson. Weave the object into the story and make it part of the lesson. Stories have an emotional impact on the listener and provide a means by which younger children, who think in very concrete terms can identify with the truth.







# TEACHING OBJECT LESSONS

## Pray

Pray before you teach. Ask God to bring to mind images and words that will make your lessons vivid, memorable, and inspiring to those you teach. Remember that it's the Holy Spirit, not your object lesson, that instructs and changes students.

## Become Familiar with your Sound Equipment.

Adjust the microphone before you begin talking. Place it just below the level of your chin so your face is not being covered up. Talk clearly and project your voice.

## Don't Read from a Script

Keep it simple and simply focus on your objective and purpose. If you must, have a simple outline on a note card or written in the palm of your hand. Focus on telling the story, painting vivid pictures with your words, engaging students in conversation, creating an experience through which God can work and by which children will remember.

## Get Straight to the Point

Don't start your talk with idle conversation, meaningless chatter, self-deprecating remarks or an explanation of what you are going to do. Jump right into your lesson. Make a bold statement of truth! Start right in with the story or start with an attention-getting question or statement. Never EVER start a talk with "The subject of my talk is." Make the most of the time you are given. Short and powerful is better than long and boring. In fact, you should plan the length of your talk to be about 1 minute for each year in the age of the youngest listener. If your nerves are getting to you, take a few deep breaths before you get up, and a few more before you start to talk. Keep your legs, arms, fingers, shoulders loose, take a breath, smile and scan the faces of those that are eager to learn from you.

## Focus on the Lesson, not the Object or Illustration

The object must point the participants to the main truth. It is not the focus of the lesson. Object lessons must work for you, not instead of you. Remember: They are a means to an end, not an end in themselves. Focus on getting the main point across. A single truth, discovered, remembered and applied is worth much more than a museum full of objects and a library filled with information.





### **Focus on the Learner**

Talk to the audience, not to your paper. Make eye contact with lots of people in the audience. Check frequently to make sure the demonstration is understood. Make sure participants experience not just to observe the lesson. This is especially important for children, but also true for all ages. Remember Jesus used object lessons mostly with adults. Consider the lives of those who are listening, the decisions they face, and the directions they are going, the needs they have.

### **Create opportunities for discovery**

There is a strong tendency to tell, moralize, or in other ways become the star of the show when we teach, but such teaching causes students to lose interest. Resist the temptation to become walking encyclopedia. Instead, direct the students to where the answers are. Two important questions that we should answer in order to lead students to a discovery experience are (1) did they tell us or did we tell them? and (2) could we have drawn it out of them? It is our responsibility to awaken and arouse within the student the need to find answers and thus have discovery experiences.

### **Stimulate Curiosity and Reveal Connections**

Keep the punch line to the very end and build the suspense if you can. Make sure you make the connection between the object and the truth or principle very clear.

### **Summarize**

As you continue along in the teaching, periodically summarize key truths and observations. Ideally, summarize using the words of those who are participating in the lesson. Don't be afraid if discussion goes off topic or in a direction you didn't intend. Affirm the responses and then add to, and redirect what was said to your main point.

### **Take your Time**

Don't hurry the lesson or conversely drag out the lesson. If you are rushing through, then you're not giving the Spirit any room to prompt and guide you. If you have one main objective, one key truth, then you can expand or condense the different explanation of that one truth to fit almost any time slot. Don't memorize a script, but focus on achieving your purpose.





### **Be a Story Teller**

Tell stories as you teach. Stories have an emotional impact on the listener that cannot be matched with a lecture. Weave in a personal experience with the truth you are trying to teach. There is nothing more authentic than a story spoken from the heart.

### **End with the End in mind**

Conclude with your metaphor, your simile or your main point or purpose. Don't teach just to inform but to transform lives. Your prayer is that it will have such an incredible impact in the minds of your students, that every time they encounter the object in the future they will be reminded of the spiritual truth and drawn closer to God in commitment, intimacy and service.

### **Acknowledge and appreciate feedback**

After you give your talk there will be comments. When anyone gives a compliment on the good job that you did, don't apologize or say, "Oh, I thought it was terrible." Just be gracious and say, "Thank you," and smile. God fills in the gaps so don't dismiss or distract from the message he gave to them.

### **Evaluate After the Lesson**

- Did the object lesson achieve your purpose?
- Did the learners grasp the main point?
- Did the object lesson clearly teach or review the Bible truth / lesson effectively?
- What questions or comments can you use to better connect the object to the lesson?
- In what ways does it help to build relationships among the participants?
- Did it enhance and focus the learning situation or is it a distraction?
- Did it help participants relate the lesson to their everyday lives?
- Did it encourage creativity and build enthusiasm to discover things?
- Did it encourage the learners to put Bible truths into practice in their lives?
- What went well? Why? How could you make sure it works well again the next time?
- What went wrong and how could it have been prevented?
- What could you have done to make it more effective?

**File it away to be used again!**





# FINDING OBJECT LESSONS



I am often asked, “How can you come up with so many Creative Ideas?” Personally, I think all of us are born creative. We are born with a “Sense of Wonder”. Unfortunately, as we get older we tend to lose our sense of wonder. We figure everything out. Things began to have but one interpretation, the correct answer, a single perspective, fossilized associations. We forget how to “think outside of the box” and tend to see things in only one way. But give a child a banana and it becomes more than a healthy snack. With a little imagination it becomes a gun, a smile or a frown, a mobile phone, a nose, an antenna, a flute, and more.

*So how can we regain our creativity? What is the solution?*

Practice these 6 steps and in no time at all you will find yourself being asked the same question I am – “How can you come up with so many creative ideas?”

## Loosen up

Break out of the walls, take on the qualities of a rubber band - be flexible. Embrace the ridiculous and challenge the rules. What if the impossible were possible?

## Look at Things Around You in Unusual Ways.

1. **Turn things on their heads.** What if the flea was the elephant or the elephant the flea? What if the ice was hot and the fire was cold? What if the turtle was fast and the rabbit too slow?
2. **Take things to extremes.** Imagine the ridiculous, exaggerate a quality or characteristic.
3. **Change the scene.** What if you were teaching race-car driving to the golf pro? Or golf to the race-car driver? What if you were giving the lesson at the beach, in a cave, in the morgue, on the moon? What if you were teaching in the kitchen, the toy store, on the farm, in the blacksmith shop? What if you were a policeman, a lawyer, an alien, a fish?

All these things change your perspective. Some of the world’s greatest inventions and achievements came from people looking at things from a different perspective.

## Look Everywhere for Inspiration

The Bible, an encyclopedia, your music collection, chemistry, nature, household items, junk drawers, machines, animals, science, the body, the alphabet, shapes, colors, textures, sports, transport, street signs, magazines, fairy tales, movies, cartoons, TV, daily routines, occupations, songs, hobbies, books, clothes, office supplies, kitchen utensils, arts, crafts, instruments, quotes, idioms,







emotions, famous personalities, flavors, cars, photos, desserts, drinks, tool sheds, food, games, game shows, insects, etc. Look around your house and make a list of all objects you can see. Now imagine a message you could attach to each object. If the object could talk, what is one truth that it would be intimately familiar with? You will be surprised at how creative you actually are! Take any common household object and explain how it is used. Does this “use” relate to any value, truth, spiritual principle or moral? As you become more aware of teaching ideas around you, keep track of impressions you receive, the ideas that strike you. Carry a small notebook with you or a voice recorder and keep a record of things that strike you as potential teaching ideas. Record your insights from conversations. Write about the experiences in your faith journey. As you develop the habit of recording these things, you will become more and more aware of the rich teaching resources that are all around you. Do not worry about how you might use the ideas. Just write them down, just talk it out. Sometimes your observations will apply to a lesson that you will soon teach, but other times you will see wonderful examples or illustrations of principles that you will not teach for weeks or even years. You may forget them if you do not record them.

1. **Look to your senses.** How would you describe it according to smell, to touch, by sound, taste or sight?
2. **Look around you** - Walk through a toy store or other store , empty your junk drawer, visit an appliance store, a supermarket, a bakery, a Christmas tree. What if it were a bird, an animal, an insect, a fish?
3. **Look to others.** The most creative people in the world are those who draw intelligently from the idea well of others.
4. **Look for similarities, differences, and various characteristics?** What objects, things have similar attributes?
5. **Look at the things of which you are familiar.** Think about the area in life where you are an expert. (cooking, computers, gardening, pets, driving?) Find examples of things that you do, and imagine how those things might be used as metaphors for spiritual truths.

### Look Between

(Link and Make connections) - Jesus was a master at seeing connections between the everyday physical world and the deep, life-changing principles of the spiritual world - bringing profound ideas into focus using mundane objects and activities.

1. **List all possible associations,** even the seemingly ludicrous. Don't evaluate, just list.





2. **Pick out the best, but save the rest.** They might be great ideas for another truth or principle later!
3. **Draw applications, find connections** - While most ideas are never new, how they are applied is never old. What are the metaphors, the object lessons, the parables, the truths?

**Look Back.**

How did things go? What worked? What didn't? What inspirations came to mind? Unexpected truths?

**Look Ahead.**

How could it be done better next time? Write it on a card and place it in a file for future use.

Take an everyday object, add some creativity, some inspiration from God, some preparation and practice as well as a little bit of humor and you've got the ingredients for a powerful and memorable teaching opportunity that will help make your kids, youth and adult programs come alive!



# NO-FAIL OBJECT LESSONS



# ADVERTISEMENTS



## Description

God is greater than the limited images we have in our minds of who he is.

## Objects

Bring in a variety of photos from magazines or advertisements: Foods, Tools, Clothing, Electrical devices, etc.

## What to do

1. Create category labels. These could be simple lettered signs or envelopes with the categories printed on them.
2. Have children sort the images according to categories.

## Application

1. While the images point us to objects and cause us to think of specific items, they are not real items. If you eat a picture of a banana it does not taste like a banana and does not give us the nutritional benefits of a banana. If we try to drive a nail with a picture of a hammer we will not be successful. A picture of a car will not bring us to church. These are only images.
2. Reality--real objects are very different from the images. The same is true about God. Sometimes we have difficulty understanding God because we cannot picture him in our minds. While we can read about him in the Bible and visualize what He is like, He is far greater than what we can imagine. It is a mistake to see God as a simple image. That is why the Bible forbids us to make models and figures to represent God. There is a tendency to worship the image instead of what the image represents. This is like eating photographs instead of real food!
3. God is not a picture hanging on the wall. He is real! He is much greater and deserves respect.

## Scripture References

None

## Keywords

Image of God, God's nature, God's Character



# **BABY PICTURES**

## **Description**

Are we content even when our youth group never grows?

## **Objects**

Obtain baby pictures of different people in the groups.

## **What to do**

Allow participants to attempt to identify the various people by their baby pictures.

## **Discussion**

1. So where does the group fit into the family of God? In what ways can it grow and mature? What is its potential? What is God's plan for it?"
2. How can you apply this object lesson to your personal spiritual life? In what areas have you grown a lot? In what areas is your spiritual growth been stagnant? How would you describe yourself as a Babe in Christ / Child of God?

## **Application**

Parents have great expectations for their children. Every child is a bundle of potential. As they grow and mature, they discover their abilities and ultimately their place in life.

A youth group, in many ways is like a baby. It starts out small, and it doesn't know its abilities or where it fits into God's picture, but as it grows and matures, God has a plan for it. If a baby did not grow and mature we would be very concerned, but we seem content that our youth group never grows.

We must realize, a youth group cannot survive separated from the family of God any more than a baby can survive separated from its family. And as a baby grows, its identity is shaped by its family.

## **Variation**

This object lesson could be used for care groups, just substitute "care group" for "youth group."

## **Scripture References**

None

## **Keywords**

Spiritual Growth, Maturity, Child of God





# BRIEFCASES



## Description

Use this Object Lesson using briefcases for a discussion on appearances and of chasing after new things.

## Objects

1. As many smart-looking black executive brief-cases as you can borrow; inside each one place a clear plastic bag with something unsavoury in it, such as a squashed tomato, an old sandwich or a broken biscuit; molded bread, curdled milk.
2. A well-worn, old-fashioned brief-case; inside this case put a wallet or some cash.
3. Alternatively you can use wallets or purses instead of the briefcase.

## What to do

1. Talk about executive brief cases and the image that they convey, pretending that you have always wanted one. Compare the smartness of the cases you have borrowed and take a walk with each one, looking very important and pleased with yourself. Make fun of the old briefcase.
2. Open each nice executive briefcase and express horror as you reveal the contents.
3. Pick up the old-fashioned brief-case and discuss how this old thing could not possibly contain anything interesting or worthwhile. Open it and take out the money with complete amazement. Who would have thought? Something valuable inside an old case like this?

## Applications

1. 1 Samuel 16 - God does not judge by appearances (what is on the outside), but by the heart (what is on the inside).
2. 2 Kings - In the Northern Kingdom, God was concerned with the internal disobedience of the Israelites. He was concerned with the fact that they did not put away their idols. For Israel, their new golden calves were like the executive briefcase- Looks great, but they led to the decay of Israel. They left corruption and disobedience in their hearts. Their faith had become old, seemingly forgotten and they did not believe they could find anything worthwhile in it.





3. Many of today's youth view Christianity in the same way as the old briefcase. They are raised in a high tech, ever changing world. Whatever is new, sleek, and attractive is in. Whatever is old is out. For many of them, their faith has become like the old ragged briefcase. They do not believe that anything worthwhile can be found in it. Yet if they were willing to really look into it they would discover that inside it lie the greatest treasures. Just because something is old doesn't mean it isn't of great worth. Like Israel, many of today's youth run after every new fad and exciting new discovery only to realize later that they were hollow if not destructive.

### Scripture References

None

### Keywords

Appearance, External, Heart, God's Judgment, Discernment, Obedience



# BY HIM ALL THINGS WERE CREATED

## Description

Create a simple booklet to illustrate the days of creation and remind them that Christ was involved in Creation

## Objects

*Use this booklet to illustrate the days of creation and remind them that Christ was involved in Creation*

## Additional Resources

1. Construction paper (assorted colours).
2. Stickers of animals, plants and stars.
3. Glue.

## What to do

Use one sheet of construction paper for each of the seven days of creation and add one extra sheet with a cross, 8 sheets in all.

**Day 1.** On the first page, paste a large black circle with a semicircle of yellow covering half of it. Over this, we paste a large number 1. This represents the first day of creation. God created light.

**Day 2.** For the next page, place a second circle of dark blue and a semi-circle of light blue over it, dividing it into a top and bottom half. Then paste a large number 2. God divided the waters.

**Day 3.** The third day was dry land, and then vegetation. So divide another circle into blue and brown. On the brown half, stick stickers of grass, flowers, trees, vegetables, etc. Then a large number 3.

**Day 4.** Day four was the planets and stars, so use a solid black circle with a yellow number four. Place stickers of stars, suns, moon, comets, etc. all around the circle.

**Day 5.** For day five use a dark blue bottom half and a light blue top half of a circle, the number 5 and stickers of birds and fish in the appropriate places.

**Day 6.** For day six, we use a whole green circle and glue on stickers of all the different kinds of animals. Then add stickers of people or children to the circle and the number 6.

**Day 7.** For day seven, use one circle of a glittery, rainbow-colored paper and a large number 7. And then write "on the 7th day, God rested".







**Final Page** For the eighth piece of paper, add a cross representing Christ, add a construction paper cover and simply write on the front "In the beginning..." Use this to explain Creation

### Application

Scripture tells us that Jesus was present and involved in creation itself. But Jesus not only created us but redeems us. Colossians 1:15-20

### Scripture References

Colossians 1:15-20

### Keywords

Creation, Christ



# CALLING GOD

## Description

Calling God is different from talking on a mobile phone

## Resources

Mobile Phone

## What to do

1. As you walk into the room, talk loudly on your mobile phone as if you are talking to a friend.
2. Talk about your plans for the day, the things you need to do, ask for advice, ask for some help, etc... All as if you are simply talking to a friend.
3. End your conversation with, "I have to go. I have some friends here waiting on me"

## Discussion

1. How many of you like to talk to friends on the phone?
2. What kinds of things do you talk about?
3. How many of you have a mobile phone?
4. Guess which friend I was talking to?
5. Actually, I was talking to God.

## Applications

Talking to God (prayer) is different than talking on a mobile phone.  
When talking to God:

1. God is never out of range.
2. We never "lose the signal"
3. The battery never runs dead
4. We never run out of minutes
5. We don't have to remember his number... Just talk!

## Scripture Reference

None

## Keywords

Prayer, Calling God, Talking to God, Communicating with God



# CARROTS, EGGS AND COFFEE



## Description

May the New Year be something special. Go into it determined to make things better around you!

## Story

A daughter complained to her father about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved a new one arose. Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to a boil. In one he placed carrots, in the second he placed eggs, and the last he placed ground coffee beans. He let them sit and boil, without saying a word. The daughter sucked her teeth and impatiently waited, wondering what he was doing. In about twenty minutes he turned off the burners. He fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl.

He pulled the eggs out and placed them a bowl. Then he ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl. Turning to her he asked. "Darling, what do you see?" "Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied. He brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. She smiled as she tasted its rich aroma. She humbly asked. "What does it mean Father?"

He explained that each of them had faced the same adversity, boiling water, but each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. But after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior. But after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water. "Which are you," he asked his daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

How about you? Are you the carrot that seems hard, but with pain and adversity do you wilt and become soft and lose your strength? Are you the egg, which starts off with a malleable heart? Were you a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a divorce, or a layoff have you become hardened and stiff. Your shell looks the same, but are you bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and heart? Or are you like the coffee bean? The bean changes the hot water, the thing that





is bringing the pain, to its peak flavor as it reaches 212 degrees Fahrenheit. When the water gets the hottest, it just tastes better. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and make things better around you.

### Scripture References

None

### Keywords

New Year, improvement, adversity, trials, difficult circumstances, struggles, tribulations





# CHRIST WAS BORN FOR ALL PEOPLE

## Description

Use this object lesson as a reminder that Christ was born as a gift to everyone.

## Resources

A string Christmas lights (enough so that each young person can receive a light bulb). On most light sets, if one bulb is removed the circuit will be broken and none of them will work.

## What to do

One by one, have each young person place his or her light bulb in the string and share one special thing about himself or herself. This could be a feeling about the Christmas season, or a feeling about being a part of the youth group. When everyone's bulb is in place, the string will light up.

## Application

- All of the bulbs have to be in place for the lights to shine forth with their beauty!
- Everyone is important in the body of Christ. Christ was born as a gift to everyone.

## Variations

Decorate a Christmas tree with strings of popcorn and cranberries. Supply construction paper, glitter, glue, markers and magazines. Have the kids each make an ornament that describes them. For example, they could use glitter and glue to write their name and cut out magazine pictures such as jogging shoes, books, puppies and food. Make hangers for the ornaments out of pipe cleaners.

## Affirmation

Follow up this lesson with an affirmation idea. Give each person 10 pieces of peppermint candy. Instruct the group members to mingle and give a piece of candy to 10 different individuals, telling them what they appreciate about them. Tell the students to continue until all of candy has been distributed.

## Scripture References

None

## Keywords

Christmas, Light of the World, Body of Christ, Christ Came for All



# CLEAR MARBLES

## Description

Christ turns our world upside down.

## Resources

Clear Marbles

## What to do

1. Give a clear marble to each student and ask them to look through it. The image of whatever they are looking at will be upside down.
2. Use this to introduce Romans 12:2—"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."Our faith can cause us to turn the things of the world upside-down—and the world can turn our faith upside-down too.

## Discussion

- How is looking through the marble similar to looking at things through spiritual eyes?
- What things affect the way we view life?
- Many of Christ's teachings were opposite of what people expected. What were some things that Christ taught that turned the world upside down for the early believers?
- What are some ways that Christ turns our world upside down?
- What are some events that cause a person's faith to be turned upside down?
- Describe a time when your faith was turned upside down?
- Has your view on anything changed since you became a Christian? What things have changed?

## Applications

Christ turns our world upside down.

## Scripture References

Romans 12:2

## Keywords

Change, Redemption, spiritual transformation



# CLOTHES HANGERS



## Description

Use this object lesson / children's sermon as a lesson on how Jesus doesn't just cover up our sin, but removes our sin.

## Resources

1. Lead or tin solder i.e. soft solder WITHOUT a resin core (can be bought from a hardware store)
2. Coat hangers
3. newsprint (old newspaper classifieds work best) or large sheets of paper
4. Broad tip Marker
5. red paper

## Preparation

1. Using a typical metal coat hanger as a guide, carefully form one from the solder. The solder will be soft so you must be gentle to avoid distorting the shape prematurely.
2. Add it to your stack of clothes hangers. You may wish to use a variety of clothes hangers just to hide the fact that one is different.

## What to do

1. Take the bunch of coat hangers out of a bag/briefcase and talk about how messy and troublesome they are.  
*Explain:* They are like sin in that they get tangled and are bulky. Drop a few to get the point across that they really mess things up.  
*Ask:* "What are some ways that people try to cover or remove their sin?"
2. Hand the coat hangers out.
3. Give the participants the newsprint and have them cover the coat hangers.
4. As the group provides ways we cover sin you label each bundle. You'll want ideas like: Go to church, Be good, Not hurt people, Prayer, Lie, Pretend it didn't happen, do something good to make up for it, blame it on someone, give an excuse for it, etc.
5. After you write on the clothes hanger, return it to the participant.
6. Take out your "special" coat hanger made from solder; wrap it in red paper like you wrapped the others.
7. Explain that the red paper represents Jesus' atoning blood (older children). Note: The concept of blood sacrifice is difficult for young children to grasp but "Jesus' forgiveness" is a suitable alternative.
8. Explain that even though the coat hangers are covered you can still \*see\* them, they are not gone.





9. Have everyone feel their bundle and the coat hangers (sins) are still there.
10. Squeeze your bundle up into a little ball....Jesus can make it go away (remove / forgive your sin.)

### Discussion

Ask: "What are some ways that people try to cover or remove their sin?"

### Applications

1. Explain: The hangers are like sin in that they get tangled and are bulky. Drop a few to get the point across that they really mess things up.
2. Explain that the red paper represents Jesus' atoning blood

### Scripture References

None

### Keywords

sin, atonement, forgiveness, propitiation, sacrifice





# CONNECT THE DOTS



## Description

It is sometimes difficult for us to connect the dots in life to see the purpose God has planned for us!

## Resources

A difficult Connect-the-Dots puzzle that is not obvious as to the final results. (You might wish to have it photocopied to a transparency and use an OHP so all can see as you connect the dots.)

## What to do

1. Hold up the connect-the-dots puzzle or show it on the OHP or visualizer.
2. Ask the kids/ youth if they believe a picture will appear if you connect the dots.  
\* Let kids / youth guess what the final outcome might be if all the dots are connected?

## Applications

Doing a connect-the-dots puzzle is a little like faith.

As you're explaining, start connecting the dots of the puzzle.

1. You begin by believing that an image-really will be revealed-even though you have no idea what it is. In other words, you can't see the picture, but you believe it's there. You trust that an artist designed a picture that will be revealed if you continue to trace the sequence, dot to dot.
2. If you don't connect the dots in sequence, or if you decide to stop drawing, you'll never see the full picture the artist has designed.

It is similar with your faith in God.

1. You don't always see exactly where God is leading you
2. Sometimes you have only part of the picture.
3. You need to follow the steps God has prepared for you and take life as God gives it to you.
4. If you don't continue your journey of faith you will never see the final results God planned for you.

In John 20:19-29, Thomas wasn't there when Jesus appeared to the other disciples so for him a piece of the picture was missing. But faith is when, in the words of one experienced Christian, we continue to trust God's heart even when we cannot trace his hand.





## Discussion

1. Why can you trust that God has adequately planned the picture even if you don't understand everything yet?
2. What happens to the picture when you begin disregarding the proper order of things in life?
3. DO you feel, like Thomas, you missed something and now are lost and don't understand?
4. What kinds of problems have caused you to doubt God's design? Seemingly missing numbers? Vague dots? Big gaps?
5. For Thomas it took his hand in the nail scars and side of Christ to get him back on the journey of faith. What would it take to get you back on track in your life?
6. Can you see the dots well enough, but have lately lost interest in joining them because you can't make sense of the image you're outlining?
7. What is the next dot in your life? What connection do you think God has planned next for you?

Following Jesus is sometimes like completing a connect-the-dots puzzle.

## Scripture References

John 20:19-29

## Keywords

Doubts, Faith, Questions, Belief, God's Plan, Creator's Design, Sovereignty, Purpose, Future, Following Jesus, Discipleship



# CONNECTING WITH FRIENDS



## Description

String or yarn serves as an object lesson illustrating the relationships and friendships we have with each other.

## Resources

Obtain a ball of string or yarn.

## What to do

1. Sit the group on the floor in a circle.
2. Holding firmly to the string, toss it to a person in the circle.
3. The person receiving the string must name a quality (of the person who tossed it to him/her) that makes them a good friend.
4. The person receiving the string, holds firmly onto the string and tosses the ball on to another person. The string should be held above the ground.
5. Continue until everyone has received the string at least once and said at least one quality of a friend that the person who tosses it to them possesses.
6. You will have a spider web representing our relationships.

## Discussion

1. What makes a friend is the connections we make, the events and experiences we share, the discussions we share. Eventually, if we fail to share with each other or if we do things that “break” the relationship the friendship begins to fall apart. “What do you do to be a friend and to have friends?”
2. What kinds of relationships do we make?
3. Using a poster board or whiteboard, make a list of the qualities your group mentions.

## Application

This list will probably include: time spent together; listening to each other’s problems, sharing joys and sorrows, and sticking together no matter what happens. Most things we include on “how to be a friend” can be an essential part of a developing relationship with Jesus Christ. He’s not just a band-aid for the rough times, but wants to be with us always.

## Variations

For a variation of this activity see :Helf Together”

## Scripture References

None

## Keywords

relationship, friendship, body of Christ, qualities of friends



# CORNERS OF GOD'S LOVE

## Description

The more of God's Love you give away, the bigger it gets

## Resources

1. A large sheet of paper with 'GOD'S LOVE' written in large letters.
2. A pair of scissors.

## What to do

1. Show everyone the paper with GOD'S LOVE written on it.
2. Explain that God's love is something we can all have and can also give away. Point out that in this case God's love has "4 corners".
3. Ask, "If I were to give you one of my corners of God's Love, how many would I have left?" Some will surely answer 3. Then show them.
4. Take the scissors and cut off one of the corners, and give it to someone.
5. Count the corners now. "I gave one away, and now I've got FIVE!"
6. Continue doing it this way, cutting off each of the four initial corners.
7. Explain that you end up with MORE corners of God's Love every time you give one away.
8. Ask those who received one of the corners I gave away, "Are you sure I gave you one?" It became three when you cut it... so it keeps multiplying.

## Discussion

Discuss the small and possibly seemingly insignificant ways Jesus portrayed love in his life as revealed in the scriptures.

## Application

1. In the same way, the more of God's Love you give away, the bigger it gets..." PS: - keep on going and you get a circle - God's love encircling us!"
2. Discuss the small and possibly seemingly insignificant ways Jesus portrayed love in his life as revealed in the scriptures.
3. Focus in on the emotion of love and use for Valentine's Day
4. God's Love

## Scripture References

None

## Keywords

God's Love, Giving, Valentine's Day





# CORRUPTED

## Description

A small sin can have very big consequences

## Resources

1. Can of spray paint, mothballs
2. Zip lock bag, and separately
3. some molded bread
4. some rotten fruit
5. a rusted piece of metal
6. a cloth rag that has a hole worn in it. (You can grind the cloth on a piece of concrete using your foot to make a hole.)

## What to do

Display the items and ask, "Can anyone tell me what I have here?" That's right, this is a can of spray paint, these are mothballs, and this a padlock. They may not seem to have a lot in common, but actually they do. Each of them is used to protect something. The paint covers objects made of metal and protects them from rust; the mothballs are put in a closet with clothes to protect them from moths and keep them from rotting; and the zip lock bag is used to put food in so that it does not spoil as quickly.

## Application

Show them what can happen without protection. Metal will rust out, cloth can get eaten by moths, and food can spoil. What we don't realize is that rust starts with one little spot and it keep growing. One small hole in a cloth can become a huge one, and one little rotten spot or molded spot on a piece of bread leads to the whole bread becoming molded. It is the same with sin... one little sin can lead to very bad things.

## Scripture References

None

## Keywords

Sin



# CREATED WITH A PURPOSE



## Description

We were each created with a purpose.

## Resources

A variety of unusual objects - strange looking can openers, the scoop that makes balls of fruit, a thread bobbin, money clip, a mouse-ball from a computer mouse, a spring from a ball point pen, a toothpick, dental floss, a zipper or button, a rivet, a staple remover, a sleeve for film negatives, a chuck key from a drill, a small screw or nose pad from a pair of glasses, a chisel, a golf ball with the outer covering removed to reveal the rubber strings, door stopper, corkscrew, and any other small objects that may be difficult to recognize.

## What to do

Ask children to identify the function/ purpose for each object. Whenever an incorrect purpose is suggested, respond with, "We might be able to use it for that, but that is not why it was created."

## Discussion

Discuss how each of the objects was created with a very special purpose. You could use them for different things, but they were really created with a specific purpose in mind.

## Application

- Explain that God created each of us with a very specific purpose.
- We didn't have a choice in how we were created - But we can choose to live according to our purpose.

## Scripture References

Jeremiah 29:11-14, Psalm 139:13-16

## Keywords

Purpose, created, God's Plan, God's Will, Finding God's way, Living for God



# CREATOR AND CREATED



## Description

We only find our purpose in God

## Resources

1. A padlock and a key that turns it
2. A can of food and a can opener
3. A nut
4. A nut-cracker
5. Various other items that go together.

## What to do

1. Show the lock and ask what it can be used for.
2. After receiving a few suggestions, begin to question whether they are correct. After all, a lock has no single use at all without a key.
3. Make exactly the same point using the can and the nut.

## Application

Our lives find meaning only in relationship with the Creator. We are created with a purpose and Only God knows that purpose. We also do not all have the same purpose. We are all different and special. Life without God is like a padlock with no key. God has made us for a purpose and by working together with God can we achieve that purpose.

## Scripture References

None

## Keywords

Purpose, destiny, future, decisions



# CRUSHED

A simple black stick figure stands on the left, casting a long, dark shadow that extends to the right across the top of the page.

## Description

Use this as an object lesson or children's sermon for Easter or to tell the story of the crucifixion of Christ.

## Resources

Modeling Clay

## What to do

1. Make several objects from modeling clay. You might choose to mold objects that were used in the trials and crucifixion of Christ:
  - a basin (used by Pilate to wash his hands)
  - a crown of thorns
  - a robe
  - a whip
  - a pair of dice (used by the soldiers to cast lots)
  - a sword (used by Peter to defend Christ)
  - a tassel from a robe (worn by Pharisees), etc.
2. Explain the significance of each item.
3. Take these same items and combine the clay together and form a cross from them.

## Application

1. Explain that like the clay, Jesus was placed under incredible pressure and pain. God allowed it that we might be saved from our sins. Only a perfect sacrifice could atone for our sins. Jesus was that lamb without blemish sacrificed on our behalf.
2. Explain that in order for the cross to be made you had to crush down and apply pressure to the previous items. They lost their identity, but became part of the cross. The same is sometimes true in our lives. It may seem that we are under pressure and crushed, but then our identity is found in the Cross as we identify with Christ. We may wonder why God is allowing these things to happen, but he allows it and is there with us to mold us into something he can use.
3. For older kids, you might have children mold a piece of the clay into an object that represents how God can use them. It might be a pencil to write a friend about Christ, a microphone to tell a person about Christ, etc.

## Variation

Simply use the above objects and others from the event to illustrate the events as you tell the story of Christ's Crucifixion. You might also bring in all the items and ask children to identify how each fits into the story of the trial and crucifixion.







Scripture References  
None

Keywords  
Easter, Crucifixion



# CUPCAKE FAITH



## Description

Use this creative object lesson as a surprising illustration to kids that God looks at our heart, not our appearances. It can be used on any occasion or as a children's sermon, but with a reference to tombs, and masks it also serves as a fun lesson for an alternative to Halloween.

## Resources

1. Cupcake mix
2. Cotton balls
3. Cupcake cups
4. Cupcake Tin

## Preparation

1. Using a cake mix or any cupcake mix, prepare the batter according to instructions.
2. Place the paper cupcake liners in the cupcake tin.
3. For about 50% of the cupcakes, place several cotton balls in the middle of the cup to partially fill them.
4. Pour the batter into the cups. For those with cotton balls, be sure it seeps into the sides of the cup and covers the cotton balls.
5. Bake the cupcakes as per directions.
6. Make enough untainted cupcakes for your entire group.
7. Decorate the cupcakes containing cotton balls with icing and candy sprinkles etc so they look very enticing. Do not decorate the normal cupcakes in any way i.e. leave them plain.

**WARNING:** One person who tried this had the batter soak into the cotton balls so that the kids didn't notice and swallowed one. While they are harmless and will simply pass through the digestive system, to prevent this make sure you fill the bottom of the paper liner full of cotton balls so that you don't have this problem. An alternative to cotton balls is to slice off the top with a bread knife and then hollow out the center of the cupcake. Put the top back on and frost it for a hollow cupcake? Are some of our pursuits in life a little hollow when we finally get hold of them?

## What to do

1. Pass the cupcakes to the youth or children as a group. They must not eat them until everyone has one. Only allow one cupcake per person. Some will choose the fancy ones while others may choose the plain ones.
2. When the youth or children begin to eat the cupcakes, some of them are in for a surprise. Beneath the shallow top layer of cupcake there is cotton!





3. Wait for their responses.
4. After the lesson have some cupcakes available for everyone who got the tainted ones with the cotton balls inside

## Discussion

You can't always tell how good something is by looking at the outside. Sometimes what seems attractive on the outside hides something far less attractive inside.

While people typically look at the outward appearance, God looks inside - at the heart. It's difficult to tell what a person is really like simply from their appearance. Some people may be beautiful on the outside, but inside they hide a very mean, selfish, and hateful heart. Some people may seem a little plain or less attractive in appearance, but inside they are loving, gentle, and kind.

Most of us spend lots of time and attention on making ourselves look good. We pay careful attention to the clothes we wear (designer jeans etc), the shoes we wear, our complexion, our hairstyle, etc. Yet, how much time do we spend making sure our heart is right? When our heart is right with God, when our attitudes are Christlike, when we have a loving spirit, then when others get a taste of God in us, they will find Christianity attractive. Christ's greatest criticism of the pharisees was that they focused on their appearance yet left ugliness in their hearts: "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness." (Matthew 23:27-28)

Christ called the Pharisees hypocrites. The Greek word for hypocrite actually refers to someone who is wearing a mask, who is an actor. Halloween isn't the only time of the year when people dress up and wear masks. Throughout the year we often show a different personality on the outside than the person we are in reality. Jesus also called the pharisees "whitewashed tombstones." "Rotting graves with whitewashed tombstones" vividly paints for us a picture of hypocrisy. Cemeteries are actually quite tranquil and beautiful on the surface. There are flowers, statues, and beautiful memorials to those that have died. But beneath the surface there are rotting bodies.





- Does your icing match your cupcake?
- How much time do you spend getting ready to leave the house in the morning?
- Do you take time to shower, comb your hair, and spend a little time in front of the mirror to make sure you are presentable to the world?
- Do you spend as much time daily nurturing your inner spirit through Bible Study and prayer as you do on your external appearances?
- Do you sometimes find yourself putting on a facade, a mask, pretending to be more “spiritual” so people will be impressed with you?

It's not that we should not care about our external appearances. In fact we should be concerned about both our internal and external life that we present to the world. Our lives need to reflect the goodness of God both inwardly and outwardly, in our heart attitudes, and in our actions that everyone sees.

### Application

Take a little more time preparing your heart each day to get right with God and reflect his heart. Make sure you spend some time with God so that you reflect the goodness of God inside and out before you ice it for the entire world to see?

### Scripture References

- Matthew 23:27-28
- Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. (1 Peter 3: 3-4)
- Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart. (1 Samuel 16: 7)

### Keywords

Halloween, fall festival, harvest festival, appearances, masks, internal, heart, attitudes, hypocrisy, hypocrites, Pharisees, inner beauty





# DOES IT WORK?



## Description

We don't need to understand everything about God to follow him.

## Resources

Bring in a variety of electronic and electrical appliances. Some ideas are: a mixer, a calculator, a game boy, a hair dryer, a telephone, a watch, a camera, a computer, a toy car, etc.

## What to do

1. Ask kids to describe what each device is used for and how each works.
2. Ask them really tough questions about each so that they discover they really don't know all the details about how they actually work. You can discuss electricity, power generation, motors, microchips, and many other very difficult details.

## Application

The fact that we do not know all the details about how something works does not mean we cannot use it. There are many people driving cars that could never fix a car. Many people are using computers that don't know how all the hardware works or how a computer chip works.

In the same way, we may have lots of unanswered questions about God and life, but that mean that we cannot believe in God and put our trust in Him. The question is not HOW does it work, but DOES it work?

## Scripture References

None

## Keywords

Understanding God





# DRAWING FROM THE SOURCE

## Description

Celery and food coloring becomes an object lesson for drawing from Christ.

## Resources

1. Stalk of celery
2. Grape juice or red-dyed water

## What to do

1. Use a stalk of celery, freshly cut on one end.
2. Place it in a glass half full of grape juice or red-dyed water.  
Note that the celery will soak up the color through its stem, thus changing the color of the celery. You can use several sticks of celery and place them in various colors of dyed water. If you use food coloring then the stick will still be edible for a snack but be in unusual colors. You can even make black or brown that could represent drawing from a bad source.

## Discussion

What determines what the celery will be like?

## Application

The plant, the roots of the plant, water, sun, circumstances, and drawing from the source what it needs all determine what the celery will be like. In the same way, the source from which we fulfill our needs, the Living Water in our lives, the SON, and circumstances all affect what we are like. How consistently we draw from our Source (abide) also affects us. (See John 15)

## Scripture References

John 15

## Keywords

Spiritual Growth



# EASTER COOKIES



## Description

These cookies are tasty object lesson to remind children / youth of the Easter events.

## Resources

1. 1 cup whole pecans
2. 1 teaspoon vinegar
3. 3 egg whites
4. Pinch of salt
5. 1 cup sugar
6. 1 large plastic zip bag
7. Wooden spoon
8. Mixing bowl
9. Cookie sheet
10. Wax paper
11. Tape
12. Bible

## What to do

Preheat your oven to 150° Celcius.

4. Place the pecans in a large plastic zip bag and let the youth beat them with the wooden spoon to break them into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, the Roman soldiers beat him.  
Read John 19:1-3.
5. Let each youth smell the vinegar. Put 1 teaspoon of vinegar into a mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross he was given vinegar to drink.  
Read John 19: 28-30.
6. Add egg whites to vinegar. Explain the eggs as representing life and that Jesus gave his life to give us life.  
Read John 10:10-11.
7. Sprinkle a little salt into both hands of each youth. Let them taste it from one hand and brush it from the other hand into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers and the bitterness of our own sin.  
Read Luke 23:27.
8. Say "So far the ingredients are not very appetizing." Add 1 cup of sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because he loves us. He wants us to know and belong to him.  
Read Psalm 34:8 and John 3:16.





9. Beat with a mixer on high speed for 12 to 15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain the color white as representing the purity God sees in those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus.  
Read Isaiah 11:8 and John 3:1-3.
10. Fold in the broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto a wax paper-covered cookie sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid.  
Read Matthew 27:57-60.
11. Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door and turn the oven off. Seal the oven door with tape. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed.  
Read Matthew 27:65-66.
12. Wait a couple of hours. If you do this in the context of an overnight meeting, wait until the next morning. (Make sure the oven is off). Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven, and in the same way Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed.  
Read John 16:20 and 22.
13. Open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow. On the first Easter Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty.  
Read Matthew 28:1-9.

### **Application**

A tasty object lesson to remind youth of the Easter events.

### **Scripture References**

John 19:1-3, John 19:29-30, John 10: 10-11, Luke 23:27, Psalm 34:8, John 3:16, Isaiah 11:8, John 3:1-3, Matthew 27: 57-60, Matthew 27: 65-66, John 16:20&22, Matthew 28:1-9

### **Keywords**

Easter, Resurrection





# EASTER RESURRECTION



## Description

Use this Easter object lesson, to talk about death and the resurrection in simple terms.

## Resources

Rubber Glove

## What to do

1. Put on the glove.
2. Demonstrate the incredible things that can be done by a “glove”. It can pick something up. It can squeeze a toy. It can scratch your head. Make a fist. Point a finger at someone. Wave a finger in warning. Cover your mouth. squeeze your nose. Tap on a desk. And do so many other things. Make sure that you explain through out that the “glove” is an incredible creation.
3. Take your hand out of the glove and then ask it to do the same things you just demonstrated. Look a little puzzled and confused when nothing happens. What’s the problem?

## Discussion

The reality is, it is not the “glove” that does these things, but the hand inside. The glove is only a container for the hand. Without the hand the glove is lifeless. God created us also with two parts. There is a body and a spirit. The body is just the container. Your body has to have a spirit inside, or it wouldn’t be alive and able to interact with the physical world around us. When we die, the spirit leaves the body and the body becomes lifeless. The person that was inside the body still exists, but they are now someplace else. But for Christians, God can put the body and the spirit back together again. That’s exactly what happened on Easter morning. Christ’s spirit was back in his body again. The most exciting thing is that God wants to do the same thing for us. When someone dies their body and the spirit are separated for a time. But some day God will raise us back up in a new body.

## Application

Just as Christ raised Christ from the dead and placed him in a resurrected body, God will one day raise us from the dead into a resurrected body to be with him forever.

## Variation

Use two different gloves... an old, dirty, worn one and a nice new one. Replace the old glove with the new one explaining that in the resurrection we will have a new resurrected body that will last forever!





**Scripture References**

None

**Keywords**

Easter Object Lesson, resurrection, life after death, new life, Spirit, flesh, body



# ETCH A SKETCH



## Description

Use an etch-a-sketch as an object lesson or children's sermon to teach youth or children about things that are temporary or about forgiveness.

## Resources

Etch A Sketch (<http://www.etch-a-sketch.com>)  
or Magic Slate (wax and plastic sheet tablet that is a low tech version of the etch-a-sketch)

## What to do

1. Draw a few simple pictures on an etch a sketch (or Magic Slate)
2. Demonstrate how an etch-a-sketch works by turning the knobs
3. Explain the difficulty of getting the lines and drawing accurate to create a picture - its not easy! In fact, most of the time you will make mistakes. But the nice things about an etch-a-sketch is that all it takes is to turn it over and shake it a bit and you can start over with a clean slate.

## Application

- Life is not easy. Traveling the straight and narrow way is very difficult. Things often do not turn out as we intended. We make lots of mistakes. Sometimes we get frustrated and want to give up.
- Fortunately, when we make such mistakes, God can erase them and give us a clean slate. All we need to do is recognize we have messed up (sinned) and confess it to God and ask for his forgiveness.
- Sometimes God has to shake up our lives and turn them upside down a little bit before we realize we need a fresh start.
- As we grow and mature in Christ, we make fewer mistakes and our lives begin to conform to the image of Christ.
- Actually, the key to the successful Christian life, is not to control its direction ourselves, but to let God take control and create the life that he has planned for each us.

## Scripture

Colossians 2:14, Colossians 3:8-10

## Variation

Show some photos of what the experts can do with an etch-a-sketch. Some examples can be found at:

<http://www.gvetchedintime.com/set.html>





A talented artist can spend hours creating his masterpiece on an etch-a-sketch, but all it takes is a little shake-up and everything is gone. Many people spend their lives creating the image of their perfect life and then something comes along and shakes things up and everything is gone (Job 34:20) Jesus tells us the only things that will not pass away are his words. (Matthew 24:25,35)

**Keywords**

forgiveness, temporal vs. eternal, image of Christ, cleanse from sin, new life in Christ





# EXCHANGES



## Description

We often have difficulty choosing what is good and what is best.

## What to do

1. Ask youth questions from recent lessons for a review. As a reward for correct answers they will be given 10 cent coins. There will also be film canisters with various prizes inside that can be exchanged for their coin.
2. Number the canisters. Some canisters will be empty, others will have useless items, and others will have bigger rewards, or a coupon to be exchanged for a larger prize.

## Applications

- Everyday we make exchanges. We exchange time with God for time watching our favorite tv show or for study time. We choose time with one friend over time with another. Sometimes we make wise choices and exchange something of worth for something worth more. Other times we exchange something of worth for something worthless... The difficulty lies in the fact that we often have difficulty choosing what is good and what is best. We are often confused about the comparative worth of different things or are unable to see which is most valuable. Yet in every decision we make, we make our choices based upon what is worth the most to us - the acceptance of friends, enjoyment, entertainment, good marks in school, pleasing God.
- As a start to your lesson you might have youth list the things that are important to them and some examples of decisions affected by these things.

## Scripture References

None

## Keywords

Priorities, importance, time



# FEAR FACTORS



## Descriptions

Discuss dealing with fears as a halloween alternative.

## Resources

A variety of scary Halloween masks

## What to do

Put on the various masks and make threatening gestures.

Are you afraid of me?

What about this one?

Why are you afraid / not afraid?

## Discussion

- At Halloween, children often dress up in scary costumes for fun. Sometimes we hide behind a corner and try to scare a friend. We aren't afraid when we know something isn't real. While we may not be afraid of the child in the ghost costume knocking at the door and saying "Trick or Treat" each of us do have real fears. Even though we all know that scary halloween monsters aren't real, sometimes our imaginations make things seem real.
- What are some things that you are afraid of? What are some of your fears?
- The top ten fears are:
  1. Spiders - Arachnophobia
  2. People & social situations - Anthropophobia or sociophobia
  3. Flying - Aerophobia or aviophobia
  4. Open spaces - Agoraphobia, kenophobia
  5. Confined spaces - Claustrophobia
  6. Vomiting - Eemetophobia or emitophobia
  7. Heights - Acrophobia, altophobia
  8. Cancer - Carcinomaphobia, carcinophobia
  9. Weather
    - thunderstorms - Brontophobia or keraunophobia
    - lightning - astraphobia
    - cyclones - anemophobia
    - hurricanes and tornadoes - lilapsophobia
  10. Death - Necrophobia or thanatophobia
- There are 365 "Fear Nots" in the Bible - one for every day of the year. But how do we deal with the reality of fear in our lives? The cure for our fears is to walk closely with God, who is bigger and more powerful than anything that might scare us.





### Scripture References

“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” - Isaiah 41:10

### Keywords

Fears, Afraid, Trust, God’s Protection, Halloween Alternative, fall festival, harvest festival



# FIVE FINGER PRAYER

## Description

Use your hand to talk about prayer.

## What to do

1. Your thumb is nearest to you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C.S. Lewis once said, a “sweet duty.”
2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.
3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God’s guidance.
4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is fact that this is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.
5. And lastly comes our little finger; the smallest finger of all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, “The least shall be the greatest among you.” Your pinky should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

## Scripture References

None

## Keywords

Prayer







## Description

“You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free” -John 8:32

## Resources

1. Origami Paper Bird
2. Paper Cage

## What to do

1. Ask, “Would you like to be a bird? Why?”
2. Place the bird in the cage. Ask, “How do you think the bird feels now?”
3. But it’s a gold cage. He doesn’t need to worry about food or water. He doesn’t need to worry about rain or snow.

## Discussion

1. Discuss how the bird will feel being trapped in a cage.
2. Discuss what if the bird always lived in the cage.

## Application

1. In a way this describes us. The name of our cage is “sin.” We are born in sin. But if we know Jesus, (the way, the truth, and the life) then we will be set free from sin.
2. Only one key fits each lock. If you know the secret you can escape from the handcuffs. If you know the combination you can open the lock. If you are tied up, if you know the trick you can escape from the ropes which bind you.

## Variations

Use other keys and locks as object lessons, Trick handcuffs, combination lock, magician’s rope trick.

## Scripture References

John 8:32

## Keywords

None



# GOD CHOSEN

## Description

Chosen by God

## Resources

1. A bag full of 'ordinary' things, chosen because they have nothing significant or special about them
2. The Bible verses related to salvation inside a brown envelope at the bottom of the bag.

## What to do

1. Tell the children you have brought along some things to show them.
2. Pick up your bag and bring out the items one by one, with a commentary going something like this: "Here I have a mug. Well, it's rather ordinary. There's nothing much I can say about it. What's next? Here's a pencil... have a whole box just like it at home. Here is an exercise book. It's empty. Nothing special about it at all. A small piece of rope... I forgot what that was from. Next--a roll of sticky tape. Now why is that in the bag? A stone... hmm I wonder how that got in here... And so on until the bag is empty except for the envelope.
3. Take the envelope out and say, "Hmm I wonder what this is..."  
Read out the verse in the envelope: 1 Corinthians 1:26-28

## Application

God deliberately chooses 'ordinary' people-people who have nothing special about them. Does anyone here feel they are rather ordinary? Perhaps they never win at games, or shine in class. Perhaps they never place first, never are the best at anything. These are exactly the sort of people God wants to be his own! He deliberately chose each person here. We don't have to be rich, important or superstars to be special in God's eyes. He loves and wants ordinary people like you and me!

## Scripture References

Corinthians 1:26-28

## Keywords

Chosen by God



# GOD HEARS

## Description

Even when it may seem like God is not listening, we can have confidence that He is listening and that He cares.

## Resources

Ear Plugs (or Cotton)

## What to Do

1. Give each student some cotton or ear plugs.
2. Ask them to wait until you have demonstrated how to put them in before placing the cotton in their own ears .
3. Explain that it is more difficult to hear with cotton in your ears.
4. Put cotton in your own ears and ask, "Can everybody still hear me now?"
5. The answer will be yes because they don't have their cotton in yet, but pretend that you can't hear them.
6. Ask other questions & have fun with this.
7. Take the cotton out of your ears and tell them to put cotton in their own ears.
8. Ask them to listen carefully because you're going to say something important. Then ask them a question or two.
9. Be sure to speak softly so that they cannot hear you or can only barely hear you.
10. After a few tries (and have lots of fun with them on this) get them to remove the cotton.

## Discussion

Point out that it's hard to hear when your ears are stopped up.

Then, ask:

- Do you think God's ears are ever stopped up?
- Does God always hear us?
- Is there anything that might prevent God from hearing us?

## Application

Even when it may seem like God is not listening, we can have confidence that He is listening and that He cares. God is not deaf, nor is he ignoring us - we need to keep praying and have faith. Sometimes when we pray we may get the impression that either God is not listening, doesn't hear or worse, doesn't care. Assure them that God does hear, He does care. We need to have faith and continue to pray because God will answer in His time in the best way.





### Scripture References

Luke 18:1-8 - Persistent Prayer

### Keywords

persistent prayer, God hears prayers, God answers prayers





# GRAINS OF WHEAT



## Description

Give youth a visible reminder that God answers their prayers.

## Resources

1. Checker or chess board
2. Wheat

## Preparations

Set up a checker board or chess board with grains of wheat according to the following story.

## What to do

1. Some time ago there was a display at the museum of Science and industry in Chicago. It featured a checkerboard with 1 grain of wheat on the first square, 2 on the second, 4 on the third, and 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, etc. A few squares down the board there were so many grains of wheat they couldn't fit on one square. Above the display was this question: "At this rate of doubling every square, how much grain would you have on the checkerboard by the time you reached the 64th square?"
2. Ask youth how much grain they think that would be?
3. After they finish giving their answers, give them the correct answer: "Enough grain to cover the entire subcontinent of India 50 feet deep."

## Application

Give each youth a grain of wheat and ask them to visualize it as a representation of some area where they need to trust God. They must take it home and place it in a prominent place where they will see it regularly and be reminded to pray.

## Variation

Leave the board in place, but remove the grains of wheat and place them in a bowl next to it. Every time a prayer is answered youth must place a grain of wheat on the board and grab another grain of wheat to place with their previous one at home. As prayers are answered the grains will grow and youth will have a visible reminder to pray and that God answers our prayers.

## Scripture References

Our faith may start out small, but as God uses it, the end result can be very large! (2 Corinthians 9:6)

## Keywords

prayer, faith, petitions, supplications, intercession



# GREATEST PRIZE

## Description

The greatest prize is the calling of Christ.

## Resources

1. A trophy
2. A ribbon
3. A medal
4. A crown
5. A certificate of achievement.

## What to do

- I have some objects with me today that people work really hard will receive. They are awards for some great accomplishment. As you can see, these awards come in different shapes and sizes:
- This one is a statue with some writing at the base. (Read.) It's called a trophy. It was given to a person who did an excellent job at \_\_\_\_\_.
- Here is a ribbon. Blue means first place and red usually means second place.
- This is a medal. These are often awarded for soldiers for bravery or to someone who does an outstanding job. They are also given to Olympic athletes who are the best in their event.
- Crowns were awarded to those who were the victors in the ancient olympics. Today crowns are given to beauty queens.
- This certificate is designed to be hung on the wall. It describes the achievement of the person. (Read.)

## Application

It's wonderful to be able to win an award for working hard and doing something really great. But I want to talk about the most wonderful award of all. For Paul, the greatest prize is the calling of Christ. (Phil 3:12 - 16)

## Scripture References

Phil 3: 12-16

## Keywords

Award, Prize, Calling of Christ, Pursuits



# HELD TOGETHER



## Description

Love holds us together in unity.

## Resources

1. Tape
2. Glue
3. Stapler
4. A bolt
5. Clamp
6. Paper clip
7. Button

## What to do

1. I would like for you to discover what this tape, glue, stapler, and bolt have in common. Think about it.
2. (Allow them to answer.)
3. That's right! They are all used to hold things together. Most of you probably have tape and glue in your desk at school or in your room. You may also have a stapler of your own, or perhaps your teacher or parents do. Your father probably has a jar of bolts in the garage that he uses to hold metal or wooden objects together. Almost everything we have has to be held together by something.
4. Ask, "Can you name a few other things that hold things together?"

## Discussion

Discuss some of the things that hold things together.

## Application

There is something else that needs to be held together as well and that is people. We need to be close to people. If we are not, life becomes very sad and lonely. We need to be close to our family, to our friends, and to our fellow church people-plus many others. Let me tell you what holds people together better than anything else: Love! Love is the best tape, the best glue, the best staple, the best bolt that you can find to keep you close to people. There are other things that we sometimes think keeping us close to others but they don't work as well as love. You may think that it's because you live on the same street that you are friends with a certain person, but if that is all that makes you friends it will be over with the first time you have a serious fight. Sometimes we think we are close friends with someone because we like the same sport or the same games but this usually doesn't last either. Even living in the same house with your family will not automatically make you close to them. In





every case what we really need is love for that person. No matter what you like doing with someone close to you, just remember that to love that person is the most important thing of all. Love will be the tape, the glue, the staple, the bolt that holds us together in unity.

### **Possible Bible Stories**

Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22), Good Samaritan (Luke 10),  
They will know that we are Christians by our love (John 13:34),  
Command to Love one Another

### **Scripture References**

None

### **Keywords**

Love, relationships, Valentine's Day





# HOW DO I MEASURE?



## Description

How do we measure our spirituality?

## Resources

A variety of tools used to measure things... a scale, ruler, measuring cups and spoons of all different sizes, thermometer, carpenter's level, plumbline, voltage detector, protractor, stop watch, spring scale, watch or clock, etc.

## What to do

Q: What do all these things have in common?

A: They are used to measure things.

Q: What would be the best device to measure a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Fill in the blank with various objects around the room)

## Application

- How do we measure our Christian growth?
- How do we measure our spirituality?
- We could measure our growth and spirituality by many different means. We could use the 10 Commandments, the Fruits of the Spirit, the Great Commission and many other ways to measure our spiritual life. This could be used as an introduction to any of these topics. But Christ said that the primary way we will be known / measured as Christians in by our love for others. (John 13:35)

## Scripture References

John 13:35

## Keywords

Love, Measure, growth, spirituality



# IMAGE OF AN INVISIBLE GOD



## Description

This activity illustrates the truth that while God is all around us, it is through Christ and other Christians that we are able to see Him.

## Resources

TV set

## What to do

1. Explain that while we are surrounded by television signals, we cannot see them. In order to see this signal we need a TV to show it to us. Different channels are on different frequencies.
2. Demonstrate the TV set to the children.

## Application

A TV in some ways represents Christ. God is all around us but we cannot see him. But Christ came and brought the message of God to all the World in a visible form that people could see. Colossians 1:15-20

## Variation or Addition

Demonstrate the use of a balloon or have competitions and games involving balloons. For application, explain that while we are surrounded by air, we cannot see it. When we blow up a balloon, we cannot see the air, but we can see the change it makes in the balloon. In the same way, others may not be able to see Jesus or God around them, but they will be able to see the change he makes in us. (Colossians 3:10)

*This activity illustrates the truth that while God is all around us, it is through Christ and other Christians that we are able to see Him.*

## Scripture References

Colossians 1:15-20, Colossians 3:10

## Keywords

Christ, Seeing God, Visible God, God's Presence, Presence of God



# IMAGE OF THE FATHER



## Description

If you want to see God, Look at Jesus!

## Resources

1. A large mirror
2. A small mirror

## What to do

*(Pass around the small mirror for kids too look at themselves in it while asking a few questions)*

Q: How many of you like to see yourselves in a mirror?

Q: How many of you would like to see God?

A: Lots of people want to see God. It is sometimes difficult to believe in someone you cannot see.

## Discussion

One of Jesus' followers also found it difficult to believe something he could not see. In John 14:8, Philip said to Jesus: 'Show us the Father, that is all we need.' Jesus' replied: 'Whoever has seen me has seen the Father' (Jn 14:9).

## Application

(Turn your back on the children and look in the mirror. Turn the mirror so that everyone is able to see your reflection.)

Just like you can see me in this mirror we can See God's reflection in Jesus. When we look at Jesus we see God. Jesus was God's perfect reflection. If we want to see God clearly, we should read all about Jesus to get a complete picture.

## Variations

Ways to make this option more active:

- Have children write their names while looking into the mirror
- Print some things backwards (e.g. the scripture verse) that children must use a mirror to read.
- Have children use the mirror to shine light around different areas of the room. (Jesus is the light of the world)
- Have kids list things they do with mirrors
- Have two images that are mirror reflections of each other but with changes. Children must identify the differences in the two images. (Spot the Differences)
- Make several lines across the floor using tape, chalk or floor tiles equal in number to the number of teams. Obtain a car side mirror or makeup mirror. Children must hold the mirror above their heads, and then look up at the mirror positioning it in a way that shows the floor. If they look down they will be disqualified.





While looking up at the mirror so that it reflects the floor, kids must walk the line to the end of the room then return. If they miss stepping on the line they must return to the start. Using a stop watch, time the team in getting all members to walk the line (relay style) Team with the quickest time wins.

### Scripture References

John 14:9

### Keywords

God, Jesus, Reflections, Faith, Doubt, Seeing and Believing





# IN GOD'S HANDS

## Description

We can only accomplish the things we were designed to do when we place ourselves in God's hands.

## Resources

Bring in a variety of objects and tools. You might use drawing materials (i.e. rulers, colored pencils, colored paper, scissors, glue, stickers, etc)

## What to do

1. Have everyone create something with the tools you have provided. You could ask them to use the tools to draw things that are strong.
2. Then bring the tools back together and command the tools to create representations of things that are strong. Of course the tools will simply lie where they are put.

## Application

These tools are very useful, but only when they are in someone's hands. The same thing is true of us. We can be useful to God, but only when we place ourselves in his hands. This object lesson reminds us that we can only accomplish the things we were designed to do when we place ourselves in God's hands.

## Variation

This can be used as a teaching activity for youth by supplying a variety of tools and materials to youth and asking them to create something that represents a particular idea or concept. Award youth for the best creation, most creative representation, most realistic, etc.

## Scripture References

None

## Keywords

Yielding to God, God plan, serving God, obedience



# INVISIBLE HELPER

## Description

Jesus sends the Holy Spirit

## Resources

Bring a variety of items that involve air in some way. Possibilities are: balloons, a bicycle tire, a hair dryer, various types of inflatable balls (such as basketballs, soccer balls), an air pump, a water floatation device, an aerosol can, a fan, a paper windmill, soap bubbles, a super soaker water gun which uses air pressure, etc.

## What to do

Ask kids to identify what all the objects have in common? The answer is that they all use air. While we can't see the air, we know it is there because of the affects it has on each of these objects.

## Application

After Jesus left earth, we couldn't see him anymore. But he promised to be with us forever. He also promised to send a help John 14:16. We can't see the helper but we can see the things he does, the affect that he has on us and other people. We know he is there by the things that he does. The same is true of the Helper, the Comforter, the Holy Spirit.

## Scripture Reference

None

## Keywords

Helper, Comforter, Holy Spirit



# JACK O' LANTERN



## Description

Create a Halloween lantern with stars for eyes, the Christian fish symbol for a mouth, and a cross for its nose. Then pass out a poem to spread the gospel message.

## Jack O' Lantern

I am a Jack O' Lantern  
My lights will shine so bright  
For I'm a Christian pumpkin  
My symbols tell what's right

My nose is like the cross  
On which our Savior died  
To set us free from sin  
We need no longer hide

My mouth is like a fish  
The whole wide world to show  
That Christians live in this house  
And love their Savior so!

The story starts at Christmas  
My eyes are like the star  
That shone on Baby Jesus  
And wise men saw from far

My color, it is orange  
Just like the big bright sun  
That rose on Easter Day  
Along with God's own Son

And so on Halloween  
Let's set our pumpkins out  
And tell the trick or treaters  
What God's love is all about!

## Keywords

Christian alternatives to Halloween, October, fall, gospel, evangelism, witnessing, trick or treat, fall festival, harvest festival



# JELLY BEAN SALVATION



## Description

Use 5 colors of Easter Jelly beans to tell the Gospel.

## Resources

1. Jelly Beans of each color below: Yellow, Black, Red, White, Green.
2. Egg

## Preparation

You can choose to place all of one color together inside a plastic Easter egg, or place one of each color inside an egg.

## Discussion

Gospel According to Jelly Beans: The meaning and explanation for each color is as follows:

### Yellow Jelly Bean

The yellow Jelly bean reminds us of Heaven. Do you know what Heaven is? Heaven is God's home. Heaven is filled with the glory, the shining brightness of God. There is no night there The Bible says, "God is The Light and in Him is no Darkness at all"(I John 1:5). The Bible tells us that in Heaven, the street of the city is pure, clear gold-like glass (Rev.21:21). God tells us many other things about His home. No one is sick there. No one is crippled or blind. No one ever dies. Every person in Heaven will be perfectly happy-always (Rev. 21:4-2Psalm 16:11). The most wonderful thing about Heaven is that God the Father and His Son, the Lord Jesus will be there. God made Heaven. He made you too. He loves you very much. Because he made you and loves you, He wants you to belong to Him and be with Him in Heaven someday. Jesus promised long ago, "I go to prepare a place for you" (John 3:16; John 14:1-3).

### Black Jelly Bean

There is one thing that can never be in Heaven. That is sin. Because you and I are sinners we want to have our own way instead of God's way. Wanting our own way is sin. Doing, or saying, or thinking bad things is sin. Sin is anything that displeases God. Sin has caused sorrow and sadness in our world. God tells us in the Bible that all have sinned (Romans 3:23). All means every one of us.

This dark jelly bean reminds us of our sinful way (Proverbs 4:19). When it is dark, you stumble and cannot find your way. Because of your sin, you cannot find God. Your sin separates you from God,







who is holy (I John 1:5). God cannot allow sin where He is. I am sure you can think of a sin which you have done. God has said that sin must be punished. The punishment for your sin is death-to be separated from God forever (Rev. 6:23). The Lord Jesus, God's Son, said that if you die in your sin, you cannot go to Heaven where He is (John 8:21, 24). God knew there was nothing you could do to get rid of your sin. He knew you could not be good enough to please Him. But He loves you and He made a way for you to be forgiven.

### **Red Jelly Bean**

The red jelly bean shows the way God made for you to have your sins forgiven-taken away. God loves you. He sent His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, from Heaven to take the punishment for your sin (John 3:16). Wicked men nailed the sinless Son of God to the cross, but while He hung there God put all of your sins on Him. The Bible says, "...God bath laid on Him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6). (Iniquity is another word for sin). All your bad temper, all your lies, your meanness-all your sin-was laid on the dear Son of God, and He suffered and suffered until He cried out with a loud voice and said, "It is finished." When you finish a job, how much is left? Nothing. What did the Lord Jesus come to do? He came to save us from punishment for sin, didn't He? And He finished the work. When He was nailed to the cross, what came from His hands, and His feet? His blood. God calls it the precious blood of Jesus Christ, and He says "...the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7). There is no other way, for God says, "Without shedding of blood there is no remission [of sin]"-no forgiveness, no payment (Hebrews 9:22). Jesus not only died for you, but He was buried, and He rose again. He is a living saviour (I Corinthians 15:3, 4). God showed His love for you by sending His own Son to die for you. Now he says there is one way for you to be saved from your sin.

### **White Jelly Bean**

Tears cannot wash away sin. Prayers cannot wash away sin. Doing good cannot wash away sin. But the blood of the Lord Jesus can wash away all sin (Psalm 51:7; I John 1:7). This white jelly bean reminds me that you can be made clean from sin. Did Jesus die for everyone? (YES!) Is everyone going to Heaven? (No, because some do not believe that Jesus died for them. They have not received Him as their saviour from sin.) God's word says, "... as many as received Him to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name" (John 1:12). God has promised you when you receive the Lord Jesus as your





Saviour, you become a child of God. The Lord Jesus Christ died to save you from your sins. He wants to live in your heart and give you power to obey God. Are you sorry for your sin? Do you believe Jesus died for your sin? Would you like to receive Jesus today? You must decide. (Ask the Holy Spirit for discernment. Question the person to respond carefully. Encourage them to express to you before they pray: why they need to receive the Lord Jesus; what the Lord Jesus has done for them; what they want to tell God. When dealing with a group, emphasize what each person must personally believe and receive the Lord Jesus. Give opportunity for prayer. If possible, question each person individually after the prayer to clarify the meaning of His decision. Where is Jesus now? Where are your sins? What took them away?) (Any one of the following verses can be used effectively in helping to know what God has done: John 1:12; I John 5:13; Rev. 3:20.) God promises to you when you receive Him, "...I will never leave nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). Ask Him to help you each day to please Him. When you do sin, tell God that you have sinned. He will forgive you right away (I John 1:9). Ask Him and trust Him to help you not to do it again. (Lead the person in offering a prayer of thanks).

### **Green Jelly Bean**

The green jelly bean reminds me of the new life, everlasting life, you have received from God. The color green reminds me of things which are growing outdoors, like leaves, grass, flowers, and trees. when you receive the Lord Jesus as your saviour from sin, you are like a newborn baby in God's family. The Bible tells you to "grow in grace in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Peter 3:18).

*(As the time permits, talk with the person about those things which help him grow as a member of God's family. Explain you are not talking about growing taller or gaining weight, but the kind of growing which will help others know that he loves the Lord Jesus.*

- Listen to God- Learn God's Word reading and memorizing it (II Timothy 2:15; Psalm 119: 11).
- Talk to God. Pray (I Thessalonians 5:17).
- Talk for God. Witness or tell others (Mark 16:15).
- Worship God. Go to Sunday School and Church (Hebrews 10:25).

### **Blue Jelly Bean**

Some will also add a Blue Jelly bean to represent Baptism





### Applications

1. Use the various colors of the Jelly Beans to present the plan of salvation.
2. Use this as a presentation of the plan of salvation for Easter.
3. Instead of Jelly Beans, you can use balloons or other items of the different colors... even simply colored pieces of paper (sometimes known as the “Wordless book”) and beads for bracelets (sometimes known as the “Wordless Bracelet”)

### Scripture References

I John 1:5, Rev. 21:21, Rev. 21:4, 2Psalm16:11, John 3:16, John14:1-3, Romans 3:23, Proverbs 4:19, I John 1:5, Rev. 6:23, John 8:21,24, John 3:16, Isaiah 53:6, I John 1:7, Hebrews 9:22, I Corinthians 15:3,4, Psalm 51:7, John 1:12, John 5:13, Rev.3:20, Hebrews 13:5, I John 1:9, II Peter 3:18, II Timothy 2:15, Psalm 119:11, I Thessalonians 5:17, Mark 16:15, Hebrews 10:25

### Keywords

Easter, Salvation, Gospel, Evangelism, Witnessing, Sacrifice, Christ’s work, Gospel According to Jelly Beans





# JESUS IS THE KEY



## Description

Jesus is the key to a relationship with God and the only way to enter heaven.

## Resources

Lots of different kinds and sizes and shapes of keys: old-fashioned keys, keys on quirky key rings, a two-foot long honorary key (as “a key to the city”), hotel keys (both the traditional kind and the plastic card kind with the electronic code), etc. Also have a lock which can be opened by one of the keys.

## What to do

1. Each of these keys suggests an appealing quality. This key lets you into an ornate hotel room...this old key is itself ornate... this one hangs on a key ring you could never lose...this one promises shelter...this one is a ticket to a prestigious vehicle. (Explain the fantastic places and opportunities that each key offers.)
2. Explain that only the one key will fit this lock.

## Application

- Some people judge their lives by the keys they possess. An education is the key to a good job, a good job is a key to power and wealth, a car key to a new sports key shows you are going places, a key to a large house reveals security and comfort.
- But according to scriptures there is only one destination that is important and one key that will open that destination to you. That final destination determines where you will spend your eternity and the only key to open the way to heaven is Jesus Christ.
- Some say there are many different ways to God, and many ways to experience God. There are many ways to get to different places, but if your destination is God, there is only ONE WAY! This is what Jesus meant when he said, “I am the way.”
- He made claims about himself that no other leader has made. Jesus didn’t say he pointed to the way, or that he knew the way, or even that he could teach the way. He said he is “the way.”

## Scripture

John 14:5-14

## Keyword

Christ, Evangelism, witnessing, salvation, Gospel





# JESUS IS THE WAY



## Description

Jesus points us toward God.

## Resources

A compass

## What to do

1. As a small game, stand in the center of the room and let students arrange themselves in lines next to you to form a cross “+”.
2. Designate one line of the cross as “North.”
3. Designate the remaining three lines the other directions of the compass (East, etc)
4. Then using the compass, let youth / children rotate themselves so that the correct line is facing north. Ask them to freeze.
5. Move to another place in the room.
6. On your signal they are to reform the compass at the new location you have selected, pointing themselves in the correct directions of the compass. (To make it more difficult, stand in a doorway, next to a wall, squat under a table, etc.)
7. First line of the cross to get in the correct position wins, making sure they are all facing their respective directions of the compass.

## Application

- Ask the children to point to north at a given signal. Check who is right with the compass. Then try to confuse the youngsters by turning round, going to a corner or standing on a chair and asking where north is from those positions.
- Whatever position we are in, a compass will direct us accurately to north.
- And wherever we are, Jesus points us toward God.

## Scripture Text

John 14:5-14

## Keywords

Jesus, way



# JESUS LEAD US



## Description

Jesus will always lead us through the obstacles we face in life. When life is unfair, God will help us through.

## Resources

1. Three or four blindfolds
2. Several objects to set up a small obstacle course. Ask one or two adult assistants to help you set up the course. Alternatively, blindfold everyone and lead them about the church.

## What to do

1. As you begin your message, have your assistants set up an obstacle course in front of the area where the children sit. "Has anyone here ever gone through an obstacle course?" Let children respond.
2. "Obstacle courses are used to train soldiers to run fast and to be quick and alert when they're on the battlefield. We've set up a little obstacle course here today." Describe the course you've set up.
3. "Could I have three or four volunteers to try my obstacle course?" Choose three or four children.
4. Let them begin the course and then stop them.
5. "Oh, I forgot to tell you. You have to do this obstacle course blindfolded. But don't worry, I'll lead you." Have the volunteers hold hands.
6. Lead them through the obstacle course. Other children may call out directions or encouragement.
7. When children have completed the course, remove their blindfolds and have them sit down. "There, we made it! Congratulations!" Lead children in applause for volunteers.

## Discussion

1. "What would have happened if the blindfolded volunteers had to go through the obstacle course without a leader?" Let children respond.
2. "Without a leader, they might have stumbled and fallen. The Bible says Jesus leads us like a shepherd leads sheep. Listen." Read the scripture text from John 10:27-28.
3. "When we're following Jesus, we can't always see what's up ahead. Sometimes things may seem difficult and even unfair, but Jesus will always lead us, just like I led our brave volunteers."





4. "Of course, what happens in real life is a bit different from our obstacle course. When we're following Jesus, we don't reach the end of the obstacle course until we get to heaven. Yet, no matter how many obstacles are in our way, Jesus will always lead us through."

### **Application**

No matter how many obstacles are in our way, Jesus will always lead us through.

### **Scripture References**

John 10:27-28

### **Keywords**

sheep, shepherd, guidance, God will lead us, direction, protection



# LABELED



## Description

It's not the clothes we wear, the house we live in, the cars we drive, or names and titles people give us that determine our identity or our value as a person. It's what's inside us that count.

## Introduction

It's not the clothes we wear, the house we live in, the cars we drive, or names and titles people give us that determine our identity or our value as a person. It's what's inside us that count.

## Resources

Three similar sized canned food items but with different contents. Preferably, use two that youth or children would enjoy and another that they may not appreciate much (i.e. something like canned peaches, applesauce and dog food)

## Preparation

1. Carefully remove the labels from the cans and swap the labels and glue them on.
2. Trim the labels to fit if needed.

## What to do

- I brought something today I think you will enjoy - Do you like peaches?
- I love peaches! Is there anyone here who doesn't like peaches?
- What happens if I don't like peaches? Maybe I like applesauce instead. Take the applesauce label and put it onto the same can. Great! Now I can have applesauce. Anyone want some applesauce with me?
- What? You mean we can't just change the label? Why not? It says applesauce.
- Oh, well... let's have some peaches then.... anyone want some peaches.
- Open the can of dog food. Oops... this is not peaches. This is dog food....
- Looks like sometimes labels can be wrong.

## Discussion

- It doesn't matter what label we put on the can. It doesn't change what is inside. It's not the label that's important, but what's inside that counts.
- Sometimes we think that if we wear certain clothes, live in a certain kind of house or go to school in a certain type of car that will change us into something that others like more. But it's not the things on the outside that count.







- Sometimes someone might label us as stupid, as a nerd, a loser or some other name. But those names don't change our identity. We are still the same person on the inside.
- I can use the can as a hammer, or a football, or as a paperweight. But that doesn't change the fact that it is a can that was created with something unique inside.
- In fact, to God, everyone of us is special. Everyone of us is beautiful. He loves everyone of us! It's what's in your heart that counts.

### Applications

- Do you call others names, give them labels? Do you judge others by what is on the outside or do you look at who they really are?
- Do you try to impress others with the clothes you wear, by the things you say, with the things you own? Instead of trying to impress others with things that are on the outside, why not impress them with what you are on the inside.... by being loving, kind, caring.
- A peach is a fruit, but for us as Christians, God identifies us by different fruits that we have in our heart.... these are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self control. Make a commitment to bless others this week with one of these fruits of the spirit.

### Scripture Reference

- "The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (1 Sam. 16:7)
- Galatians 5:22 (Fruits of the Spirit)

### Keywords

identity, character, created, labels, calling people names, fruits of the spirit, heart, appearances





# LEGEND OF THE CANDY CANE

## Description

A candy cane can remind us of the true meaning of Christmas.

## Resources

A candy cane for each child.

## What to do

Candy Canes are everywhere. They are used as decorations on Christmas trees and are one of the most popular of all Christmas treats. I have heard several stories about the history and meaning of the candy cane. I don't know if they are true, but I do think that the candy cane can teach us a few things about the true meaning of Christmas.

- **J**  
First of all, if you look at the candy cane it looks like the letter J. Jesus starts with the letter J, so that should remind us of Jesus and help us to remember that Christmas is Jesus' birthday.
- **Shepherd's Crook**  
If you look at the candy cane like this it looks like a shepherd's crook. The shepherd used his crook to keep the sheep from wandering away from the flock and getting lost or eaten by a wild animal. The Bible says, "The Lord is my shepherd." The candy cane should remind us that Jesus is our shepherd and he will keep us from wandering away and getting lost or hurt. (John 10:11)
- **White**  
The candy cane is mostly white. White is a symbol of purity. That should remind us that Jesus was the spotless Lamb of God and that because he came to be the sacrifice for our sin, we can become as white as snow. (1 John 1:7)
- **Red Stripes**  
As you know, the candy cane has three red stripes. The Bible tells us that before he was crucified, Jesus was beaten with a whip which made blood-red stripes across his back. The Bible says that we are healed by those stripes. The stripes on the candy cane should remind us that Jesus suffered and died, so that we can have everlasting life. (Mt 26:28)
- **Sweet**  
The sweetness of the candy cane reminds us that God Loves us and wants us to enjoy the many gifts He has given us -- especially the gift of His Son, who came into the world on the first Christmas to save us. (John 3:16)





### **Application**

To many people, the candy cane is a meaningless decoration seen at Christmas time or just a piece of candy to be eaten and enjoyed. I hope that this year, every time you see a candy cane, you will be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas.

### **Scripture Reference**

Mark 12:13-17, Mark 12:41-44, John 10:11, I John 1:7, Mt 26:28, John 3:16

### **Keywords**

Christmas, Candy Cane, Symbols, Christmas Legends, Christmas Traditions



# LIFE ISN'T FAIR

## Description

God will always do what is best for you. Fairness is a matter of perspective.

## Resources

1. Masking Tape
2. Tape Measure

## Preparation

1. Tape two 4-foot strips of masking tape on the floor, 12 to 15 feet apart.
2. Tape markings to the wall labeled with the height.

## What to do

1. Invite participants in a competition to determine who can jump the highest.
2. Give them some time to warm up and practice jumping then give them 2 chances.
3. Award the girl and guy with the highest jump and the highest vertical jump (distance between reaching up and jumping up)
4. Then invite participants to compete in a distance jump.
5. Again let them practice. But this time choose a couple of participants to pull aside. Make them do leg exercises. You might even give a couple a jump rope so they can practice jumping. Be tough on them... many are likely to say its not fair because the others don't have to exercise.
6. With smaller children, allow them to continuously jump from one line and keep jumping in multiple jumps until they reach the other. Then ask them to try to jump the distance in a single jump.
7. With older participants simply allow them to jump and measure the distance where they land.
8. On the second attempt, choose one of the smallest participants in the group, pick them up under the arms and carry him or her across to the other tape strip. (get assistance if needed so you don't injure your back)

## Discussion

- Wow! Isn't (name) a great jumper?
- Let participants respond. Most will probably complain that the jump wasn't fair.







### Application

Sometimes God helps others more because they need more help. Being fair depends on the way people look at things. The little child may think it isn't fair because all the older children are bigger and have longer legs to jump. Some think it isn't fair because I help the little one. Others may think it isn't fair because I made life tough for some of you and made you work out. But I was making your muscles stronger so you could jump farther. Yes God doesn't help everyone in the same way so it may seem like he isn't fair. But God will always do what's best for you. If he always carried you, your legs would become very weak, but sometimes he will carry you when you really need it. Sometimes he will allow things to be difficult to make you stronger. There are some things we just can't do by ourselves. We have to trust God to help us. God promises to support us just like I supported (name). When we're feeling weak, we can just jump into God's arms, and he'll help us be strong.

### Scripture References

Isaiah 41:10, Hebrews 12:1-17

### Keywords

Fairness, Justice, Care of God, Needs, God's Provision



# LIGHT OF THE WORLD



## Description

A lit candle is easily missed in a bright room. But when the lights go out it is impossible to miss it! Use this creative object lesson to illustrate the importance of being lights in the world, especially in those places where people are living in darkness.

## Resources

1. Candle
2. A room that can be darkened.
3. A water soluble marker and newsprint for each group.

## Preparation

Before participants arrive light a candle and place it somewhere in the room where it is not easily noticed. Make sure there is no chance for a fire hazard and that the candle is large enough to last until it is needed. Also make sure that it is away from any air draft or air conditioner / fan so that it doesn't go out!

## What to do

1. As people arrive, divide them into groups and ask the following discussion question: What are some things in the world that attract people's attention?
2. As groups write the responses on a whiteboard, flipchart, or some newsprint (small print classifieds work best).
3. After a while have groups share their answers.
4. Then turn off the lights and note the responses.

## Discussion

- While the lights are still off and the candle is burning and illuminating the room, ask the following questions for discussion:
- Did anyone notice the candle before? What did you think? Did you disregard / dismiss its presence in the room?
- How did things change when the lights went off?
- How is the candle like Jesus in the world? (When so many other things grab our attention it is easy to miss God!)
- Why are people in times of tragedy and difficulty more likely to seek and find God?
- Why is it so difficult to see God in life?
- Why do the attractions of this world distract us from God?
- How can we get the attention of the world?
- What are some of the dark places where life takes you where people need to see the light?
- Where can you personally shine brightly for Christ?
- What are some of your personal distractions?





- How can you avoid the distractions and stay more focused on Christ?

### **Application**

Make a decision to shine for Christ in the world, especially in those dark places. What s something you can do to shine more brightly for Christ?

### **Scripture References**

None

### **Keywords**

light, darkness, witness, shine for Christ, evangelism



# LIKE A HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN



## Description

Use a pumpkin to share the gospel.

In Athens, Paul was disturbed by the culture around him. (Acts 17:16). But instead of coming against it, he used things from that culture to present the gospel. (Acts 17:22-31).

## Resources

- A pumpkin (instructions for preparing it are below)
- A candle or flashlight to go inside the pumpkin
- Lighter or matches if you are using a candle
- A large knife (not sharp, it is for effect).
- Some mud or clay dirt
- A damp cloth
- A cloth large enough to cover the pumpkin

## Preparation

1. Cutting carefully so that you can set it back in place, cut the top from the pumpkin
2. Scoop out the seeds and inner membrane. Rinse, dry and save it. You may want to soak them in coffee or something similar to turn them dark. We will be returning them to the pumpkin.
3. Making sure to keep the cuttings on one side of the pumpkin only, cut a design into the pumpkin. You can use a traditional jack-o-lantern or some other design. Carving 'JESUS' into the pumpkin or carving a candle is effective. Be careful not to carry the design to the sides or back of the pumpkin as you do not want to show the cuts at the beginning of the lesson.
4. Put the seeds and membrane back into the pumpkin. If it is going to be over a few hours before the lesson, it would be better to put the seeds and membrane in the refrigerator until closer time.

## Just before the session

1. Set the pumpkin in front of you so that the carved part is toward your body. You do not want the audience to see that it has been carved.
2. If the seeds were refrigerated, return them to the pumpkin.
3. Put the top on the pumpkin matching it as good as possible so that the cut is not too obvious.
4. Smear a little clay or mud on the front of the pumpkin so that the audience can easily see it.
5. Set the other supplies (knife, light, damp cloth) where you can reach them.







6. Cover the pumpkin with a cloth so that it is not visible from any side when your group comes in.
7. PRAY

### What to Say

Sometimes people ask what it is like being a Christian.  
I'd like to tell you that it is all fun and easy.

But I'm a Christian.  
I'm supposed to tell the whole truth.  
And here it is.

It is fun to be a Christian because I am God's child and God loves me. And it is never too hard for me because God helps me.

But sometimes it is pretty hard to be a Christian.  
(Lift the cloth off of the pumpkin)  
I think I can use this pumpkin to help explain.

We all start out like pumpkins.  
We're out in the garden along with all the others.  
God is always walking through that garden asking if any of us what to belong to Him.

When we say 'yes' to God, he picks us up out of the garden.  
(Use damp cloth to clean the dirt off the pumpkin.)  
And he gently washes away the dirt.

That feels really, really nice.  
(Pick up the knife)  
But there is more to be done.

You see, dirt was not the only thing we brought with us from the garden.  
(Pretend to cut around the top of the pumpkin)  
Some of what we brought back requires surgery and that can hurt.

(Lift off the top.)  
While we were out there in the garden, some things grew inside us.  
(Take out a few seeds and hold them out to be seen.)

Sometimes the others were not fair to us.  
(Take out more of the seeds)  
We became angry and the seed of bitterness started to grow inside.





(Continue to take out seeds as you talk)  
Sometimes others let us down or hurt our feelings.  
We began to feel sorry for ourselves.  
And the seeds of rejection started to grow.

We try to get even with those who hurt us.  
The seeds of unforgiveness and violence begin to grow inside.

(Remove the last of the seeds)  
Yes, all of this cleaning up hurts a bit.  
But if we won't let God clean all of this out, it gets infected.  
And then we really have problems.

Christians who won't let God clean out all the junk from the pumpkin patch are really miserable.  
They have spiritual infections and they can spread them to others.  
(Wipe the inside with the cloth)

(Pretend to make a few cuts with the knife on your side of the pumpkin)  
I'm learning to hold really still and let God take care of anything that needs cleaning!  
Sure it hurts sometimes.  
Put the light inside the pumpkin and light it  
And sometimes I wonder what God is trying to do!

(Turn the pumpkin around for the group to see)  
Then God reminds me that He has a wonderful plan for my life.  
He wants the beauty of Jesus to shine through me so others can see the way to Jesus.

That's what we are, you know.  
We are not really better than those poor pumpkins who are still in the garden.  
We are just a whole lot better off because Jesus has taken us out of the darkness and into His wonderful light.

(Lights off)  
Jesus said, "You are the light of the world.  
A city on a hill can't be hidden.  
Also, people do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl.  
Instead, they put it on its stand.  
Then it gives light to everyone in the house.  
In the same way, let your light shine in front of others.





Then they will see the good things you do.  
And they will praise your Father who is in heaven.\*

Please pray with me.  
Father God, thank You for asking us to be Your children.  
Father, we want to be more like Jesus.  
We want others to see Your light shining in our lives.  
Help us to open our hearts to You.  
Take away all our bad attitudes.  
Give us Your light and love inside.  
We're asking this in Jesus' Name. Amen

**Source**

<http://www.beau.org/~vickir/halloween/>

**Scripture References**

None

**Keywords**

Redemption, Evangelism, Witnessing, letting our light shine, fall festival, halloween alternative, harvest festival



# MAGNIFYING GLASS



## Description

Questions are like magnifying glasses for our understanding.

## Resources

Magnifying Glass

## What to do

1. Magnifying glasses are fascinating and lots of fun. Let the children play with it for a minute - making their EYES big, looking at plants, etc.
2. Point out that magnifying glasses are very useful. They are found in microscopes to help scientists & doctors see the “invisible,” and they are in telescopes to help us see things far, far away. The principle is easy - we look through them and can see things better.

## Application

Questions are like magnifying glasses for our understanding. When we don't understand, we ask questions and things become clearer. And just like in a microscope - sometimes the things we cannot see or understand become clear. We can see the “invisible”

## Scripture References

None

## Keywords

None





# MOTHER SAYS



## Description

Use this game on Mother's Day

## What to do

### *Simon Says*

1. You can play this game like "Simon says", but simply replace the name "Simon" with "Mother."
2. "Mother Says" has a very simple rule. If youth are given a command and the teacher does not preface it with "Mother Says", everyone must ignore it. If youth mistakenly follow it they are eliminated from the game.
3. Continue until only one youth remains.

Instead of playing "Simon says", play a game of "Mother May I?"

### *Mother May I?*

1. One person (it could be Mom) stands facing away from a line of youth.
2. She then chooses a youth (at random, or in order), and gives the youth an instruction. These follow a pattern, such as, "Brian, you may take (NUMBER) "giant steps" forward/backward."
3. The youth then responds with "Mother may I?"
4. Mom then states "Yes" or "No", depending on her whim, and the youth complies.
5. If the youth forgets to ask "Mother may I?" he/she goes back to the starting line. First youth to touch Mother wins.
6. Other possibilities for phrasing in the instructions given are: "regular steps", "baby steps", "ballet steps", "Scissors steps" - jump while crossing your feet, then jump while uncrossing them, "Banana steps" - laying down with feet at current spot and marking where the top of your head was and then standing up there for new spot, and "Bunny steps" - a hop.

## Application

Obedying our Mother's is one way of showing them we love them.

## Scripture References

None

## Keywords

Mom, Mother's Day, Mother



# MULTIPLIED



## Description

Jesus took a small boys lunch and fed a BIG crowd of 5000 people. Jesus can take whatever we give him, even if it is small, and make a BIG difference in the lives of others.

## Resources

1. A large deep basket, filled with loose cloth/ towels. A picnic basket with a cover flap on each side is ideal. You can put the small item in one side and open the other side to remove the larger items. (A large box could also be used) Make sure your basket or container is large enough to hold items use you choose for this activity, yet hide them from view.
2. Locate several objects of which you can find both a small and large size examples that look alike (such as a small spoon and a matching large one). If your class is small, you might consider collected one object for each student. Possibilities are: spoon, fork, plate, knife, napkins, bags of potato chips, cups, salt and pepper placed in different size ziplock bags, etc. Only be sure that they look alike. Food related items might be best in theme with a picnic idea, but you can also use paper clips, screw drivers, etc. Include among the items a small bread roll and a similar shaped large loaf bread. As well as 2 small fish and 2 large fish
3. 50 of any object - marbles work great!

## What to do

1. If you have chosen an object for each child, allow each to choose one object as they enter the room.
2. "In today's lesson, Jesus went on a picnic. While on the picnic he did something very special. He took a boys lunch, and multiplied it to feed 5000 people. Let me show you an example of what Jesus did." "I'll take this small spoon and put it in this basket." [Wait a few seconds then take out the large spoon.]
3. "Here's a small bag of chips." [Place it in the basket and pull out a large bag of chips.]
4. "One boy brought Jesus his lunch. And Jesus made his little lunch so big that 5000 people could eat and there were still leftovers. [Put in the small bread loaf and take out the Big loaf.]
5. Give everyone a slice of bread.
6. Put in the two small fish and take out the two large fish.
7. "But Jesus didn't just feed a small class of students... and the little boy's lunch didn't just become a little bigger. The little boy's lunch fed 5000 people! 5000 is a lot of people. [Show them the large loaf and 2 fishes...]





8. Pull out the small loaf and the two small fishes again and ask, "How many people do you think this could feed?" "Probably not very many.. And these were people of all ages... Moms and Dads too!" [Show them the 50 objects... in a basket... then help them image what 100 of them would look like.. (would they cover the whole floor of the room?)] "Jesus fed 5000. Jesus can take anything you give to him and do big things with it!"

### **Application**

Jesus can take whatever we give him, even if it is small, and make a BIG difference in the lives of others.

### **Scripture References**

Matthew 14:13-21; 26:26-30

### **Keywords**

Jesus Feeding the 5000, one loaf and two fishes, bread and fishes



# NO POWER

## Description

Electrical appliances serve as an object lesson to children and youth that God created us with a special purpose, but that purpose can only be accomplished when we rely on his power rather than our own.

## Resources

Electrical appliances and other items which are useless without power

## What to do

Demonstrate various electric tools and appliances without plugging them in:

1. Use your electric screw driver to manually turn a screw.
2. Mix a drink with a spoon using your blender.
3. Sit in front of a fan that is off, fanning yourself with your hand.
4. Sharpen your pencil by hand in an electric pencil sharpener.

ADD YOUR OWN IDEAS

## Discussion

- Explain to the children how useful these tools are. Of course someone will speak up and tell you why they are not working too well.
- These things were all created to work under electrical power.

## Application

- In the same way we were all created to work under God's power
- While we were each created with a purpose, only through God's strength can we be fully effective and do all the things God created us to do.
- 2 Corinthians 4:7
- In this object lesson, children and youth are reminded that God created us with a special purpose, but that purpose can only be accomplished when we rely on his power rather than our own.

## Scripture Reference

2 Corinthians 4:7

## Keywords

Created, purpose, power of God, Strength of God, rely on God, Depend on God







## Description

Jesus is the one way to know God personally

## Resources

1. An illustration or photo of the moon
2. An illustration or photo of a space rocket or the space shuttle

## What to do (Discussion)

Q: "Do any of you know how far the moon is from the earth?"

A: 238,860 miles.. The moon looks close, but it is very far!

Q: Has anyone ever been to the moon?

A: In July 1969 the US spacecraft, Apollo 11, landed two men. Five more visits took people to the moon between 1969 and 1972.

Now the United States wants to send people to the moon again!

Q: Would any of you like to go on a trip to the moon?

A: (Let kids raise their hands)

Q: What does it take to go to the moon?

A: A rocket, a spaceship, oxygen, food, a spacesuit, etc.

Q: Does anyone sometimes feel that God is a very far away, like the moon?

Q: Is reaching the moon difficult or easy? Does it seem easy or difficult to reach God?

Q: Can anyone reach God or only a few selected people, like those that have visited the moon?

Q: How can we reach God?

## Application

1. The way to God is easy. Anyone can go to God.
2. Read the Scripture Text: John 14:5-14
3. Jesus said: 'I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except by or through me.'
4. If we want to reach God, we have to put our faith and trust in Jesus. Anyone can do it!
5. Jesus identifies himself as "the way, the truth, and the life." All have relevance. The "way" speaks of a connection, of the link between God and man. Jesus not only shows us the way, but he IS the way.

## Scripture References

John 14:5-14

## Keywords

Salvation, Evangelism, Jesus, Gospel, Way to God



# OUR SINS ON THE CROSS



## Description

Pins which at first hold the memory of our sins which Jesus died for are then used to hold decorations for celebration of Easter's message of forgiveness.

## Resources

1. Large bulletin board
2. Pins
3. String
4. Black or brown construction paper

## What to do

1. Using a large bulletin board, place pins strategically to outline a cross.
2. Wind a piece of string around the pins to create the form of the cross.
3. Cut small pieces of black or brown construction paper.
4. Explain to the children that Jesus died for our sins - things we do but know we shouldn't do. Talk about the things we do that are wrong - sinful. (e.g. lies, taking something that doesn't belong to us, hitting someone, talking bad about someone, etc)
5. Let everyone write their sins on the small dark pieces of construction paper (one sin per piece) and pin it within the outline of the cross.
6. Encourage everyone to add more of these pieces as they reflect on their sin, and when new sins are remembered.
7. Take off the sin papers, leaving the pins in place. These pins hold the memory of our sins which Jesus died for, and will now be used to hold decorations.
8. Create flowers out of construction paper and pin them on the cross with the same pins. An artificial vine with flowers could also be wound around the pins to create the triumphant cross.
9. The sin papers are then burned by the Easter fire: a white candle symbolizing the new beginning we have in Christ.

## Application

- Explain to the children that Jesus died for our sins.
- Easter's message of forgiveness is brought across.

## Variation

Instead of construction paper, use pieces of "flash paper" available from a local magician's shop. When touched to a flame "flash" paper vaporizes in a flash of fire and leaves nothing behind.

**Warning: Have a teacher touch the papers to a flame and quickly let go to avoid getting burnt.**





**Scripture References**

None

**Keywords**

Easter, Forgiveness, Redemption



# OUT OF TUNE

A simple black stick figure stands on the left, with a long, dark shadow cast to its right. The shadow is elongated and tapers off to the right, suggesting a light source from the left.

## Description

Is your life in tune with God?

## Resources

Guitar that is intentionally “out of tune”

## What to do

1. Choose a song that everyone is familiar with and begin singing it with a guitar that is badly “out of tune”. Participants are sure to stop you or say something about the “out of tune” guitar.
2. Get someone to tune only the first guitar string using a tuning fork, piano, electronic tuner, or a pitch pipe. Sing again!
3. Keep trying until you have tuned each string.

## Application

- Christians are like this “out of tune” guitar. Everything has to be right, each string right, so that we are in tune with God. A string can’t be too tight or too loose or it will not be right. All of us have to make choices in life. Some things are right and some choices are wrong. When we make bad choices we get out of God’s will - out of tune and our life sounds terrible to God.
- What are some things you might be too tightly strung about? What affect does that have on your relationship with God?
- What are some things you might be too loose about? What effect does that have on your relationship with God?
- What did we use to correctly tune the guitar strings?  
A standard for comparison. A pitch fork et. al. is already set to the correct pitch. By comparing the sound of the string to the sound of the pitch fork we can set the string to the right tune.
- What is the standard we need to determine if our life is correct or not? Our standard is the bible. We compare our life to what the Bible says is right and wrong and we can discover if our life is in tune.
- After the guitar has been tuned, sing through several songs the youth know that deal with following God.

## Scripture Reference

None

## Keywords

God’s Will, choices, decisions, listening to God





# PACKAGES



## Description

Most people at some time or another have spent time, effort and money on things that did not satisfy, that left us feeling empty and maybe even cheated. This object lesson reminds us that fulfillment is only found in Christ!

## Resources

1. Empty boxes( try to use boxes that are from items the participants would enjoy such as toys, snacks, etc.)
2. Bright wrappers

## Preparation

Wrap up several empty boxes in bright wrappers. If the box obviously looks like object participants like, this object lesson is more effective.

## What to do

1. Give participants a lot of play monopoly money and then hold an auction for the gifts. As you hold up gifts allow the students to try to guess what is wrapped up. (Don't let them touch the gifts or they will guess the boxes are empty) You might suggest that some of the students can team up to buy an item and pool their money together.
2. After all gifts have been auctioned off, allow everyone to open their gifts. Of course they will all be dissapointed that the boxes are empty.
3. Bring out a treat for everyone.

## Application

We often spend a lot of time, money, and effort for things we think are going to be so wonderful and when we finally get them we still feel empty and disappointed like these empty boxes. Yet Jesus promises us a gift of eternal life to everyone. We don't have enough money to pay for it, but he paid for it with his life on a Cross. That's what Easter is about. That's what salvation is about. Jesus paid the price so we could have the gift of eternal life. We can try to find enjoyment and happiness in life through all kinds of things, but they can only be found in God.

*This object lesson can be adapted for all ages and used as a children's sermon, a teaching illustration or as an object lesson. Most people at some time or another have spent time, effort and money on things that did not satisfy, that left us feeling empty and maybe even cheated. Only the pursuit of God will bring true fulfillment in life.*





### Scripture References

None

### Keywords

Satisfaction, gift, success, pursuits in life, goals, objectives, meaning in life, Easter



# PEACE IN THE TURMOIL



## Description

Learn how to deal with worries in life.

## Resources

Use three balloons to understand the concept peace during times difficulty and persecution.

## What to do

1. Begin with a deflated balloon in your hand.
2. Explain that you're going to use the balloons to help them understand peace.
3. Inflate the balloon about half full. Sometimes troubles come into life and the tension builds as we give over a portion of our time, energy, and thought to deal with the situation. One way to deal with tense situations is to pray and trust God to work things out. Trusting God frees us for other things and we are back at peace again. But when we spend all our time and energy concentrating on difficulties things can get more and more tense.
4. Inflate the balloon fully and hold it in front of you. When we concentrate on the difficulties, our lives become more and more crowded and tense, until we finally burst (pop the balloon).
5. Ask for examples of things people become worried about.
6. Next, take a second balloon and inflate it less than half full. Hold it out in front of you and poke it with your finger, allowing the surface of the balloon to contract and expand.
7. Explain that when trust God we're more flexible and less sensitive to other pressures.
8. Inflate the balloon fully and tell the kids that a life filled with pointless worry makes us less able to deal with other pressures that come our way, and can cause even small problems to explode emotionally (For added emphasis, make sure you take your time inflating the balloon and popping it.) Some of the kids will slightly dread the pop, exhibiting a form of worry.
9. Ask the kids for examples of times when they or someone they know overreacted to some small irritation or pressure because they were already worried about something.
10. Finally, take a third balloon and tell the kids that some things happen in life that causes us a great deal of concern such as someone who is leaving for a long time, the death of a friend, or a divorce in the family. Explain that often during such times people are full of fear or anger or confusion.
11. Inflate the balloon and ask the kids what they can do in a situation like that. Tell them that God has something to say about that situation, and about all the times when they're tempted to worry.





### **Discussion**

Discuss examples of things people become worried about.

### **Application**

Read or quote John 16:33. Assure them that God will help them deal with their worries and concerns and will give them his peace. Let the balloon go so that it flies round the room until it's deflated.

### **Scripture References**

None

### **Keywords**

Worries, difficulties, troubles





# PERFECT LOVE...



## Description

How do we restore our relationships with God and others?

## Resources

A sheet of clean, unwrinkled paper.

## What to do

1. Give each youth a clean, unwrinkled sheet of paper.
2. Ask the youth to close their eyes, and imagine this piece of paper represents the person in their life they love most.
3. Order them to wrinkle it up into a ball.
4. Then ask the youth smooth it out back to the way it was. "How do you feel?"

## Discussion

- Who was the person you thought of when holding the piece of paper?
- Were you hesitant to wrinkle up the paper? Did you find crumpling up the piece of paper difficult? Why or why not?
- In what ways does this paper represent relationships in life?
- Think about a time in your life when you felt like this wrinkled piece of paper? What happened?
- How did you feel when you tried to restore this piece of paper to its original state?
- Think about a time when you did something in a relationship and wished you could have set things back to the way they were before. What happened?
- Why is it so difficult to repair damaged relationships?
- What lessons does this simple object lesson hold for us when it comes to relationships in our own lives?

## Application

- In what ways do people ruin relationships? What can be done to put things back to the way they were?
- The common saying is "forgive and forget" but it is rarely that easy. In some relationships, people have greatly suffered physical, sexual and emotional abuse. How can they forgive? Sometimes we wonder, "How can I ever forgive this person for what s/he did to me?" How do we forgive? How do we receive forgiveness? How do we restore things back to the way they were?
- It is impossible to smooth everything out when the paper has been damaged. Wrinkles and rough areas will remain. In the same way, when we take the important relationships in life lightly, there is a great potential for us to create rough areas and





other areas that are difficult to smooth out. While forgiveness may take place, scars may still remain. Sometimes only God and time can repair the scars.

- Things we do can damage our relationship with God AND with people. “Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, or his ear too dull to hear, but your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that He will not hear.” (Isaiah 59:1-2) “He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.” (Proverbs 17:9)
- But fortunately, God can mend broken hearts and he himself is forgiving and eternally loving. Sin has the same effect on our lives... Especially in the area of sexual purity. But when we go to God seeking forgiveness he restores the relationship with Him completely. We can find NEW life in Christ. In this lifetime there may still be some scars, but in the life to come everything will be made new. When we confess our sin, His blood washes us white as snow, and purifies us. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9) “I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.” (Isaiah 43:25)
- And in the same way God forgives us, we need to forgive others. “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:32)

### Scripture References

Isaiah 59:1-2, Proverbs 17:9, 1 John 1:9, Isaiah 43:25, Ephesians 4:32

### Keywords

forgiveness, purity, true love, relationships, Valentine’s Day



# PETER PUMPKIN

## Description

Has your light gone out because of sin in your life?

## Theme

When the light of Jesus, shining through us flickers and goes out because of sin in our life, Jesus' death can restore that light.

## Resources

1. One pumpkin, ready to carve
2. sharp knife
3. candle for inside of pumpkin
4. matches

## What to do

1. Have children offer their suggestions on how to carve a face in the pumpkin.
2. Proceed to carve a mouth, nose, and two eyes.
3. Insert the candle and light.

## Story

"Now let's pretend that this pumpkin is one of our friends. Let's name him Peter Pumpkin. Pete Pumpkin is in (pick a grade or class that matches your group) like us."

Peter woke up one morning bright and happy and ready for the day. His light was shining and he felt good. Let's see what happens Peter's day.

"Oh, Peter!" cried his mother, "Did you remember to brush your teeth this morning?" "Yes, Mother," Peter lied. He really hadn't brushed his teeth, but if he stopped to do it now, he'd be late for school! So Peter lied. Peter's mouth wasn't shining quite so brightly any more. (Put the mouth piece from the pumpkin back in the mouth hole)

So Peter went on his way to school. He felt kind of bad lying to his mother, but he wasn't going to let it spoil his day. When he got to school, some of his friends were playing with the toys already. Peter went over, too, but they had already started using the ones he wanted. (you can adapt this to be art supplies or whatever matches your group) Peter wanted the toys too. When one of the boys left, to go talk to his teacher, Peter took the toy. Oops, there goes part of Peter's happy face. (insert eye piece)





Continue with similar stories for the remaining parts of the pumpkin face, each time, inserting another piece until the whole face is back in place. Watch what happens to the light.

“Peter’s light has gone out. His face is all dark and sad now.”  
(Relate this to sin in our lives.)

“There is a way for Peter’s face to get bright and happy again. It’s the same way that our sin can get taken care of. Do you know who helps our sin?”

With the answer of “Jesus” --carve a cross into the other side of the pumpkin. Pop out the face pieces again, and light the candle.

“With Jesus in your life, your light will never go out. The Bible tells us that Jesus is our light and that when He shines through us, our sins are forgiven and His love shines through instead!”

Relate how we may still sin (at this point put the pieces back into the face, except the cross) but with Jesus, the light will not go out-- He is with us always!

Use your “Christian Jack-O-Lantern” at home and shine the cross out the window on October 31st. A witness for all the passers-by!

*(originally from \*Karen Schuster, Redeemer Lutheran--Flint, MI)*

**Source**

<http://www.sunday-school-lessons.com/pumpkin.html>

**Scripture Reference**

None

**Keywords**

Pumpkin, Christian alternatives to Halloween, sin, evangelism, fall festival, harvest festival





# PIZZA PRAYER

## Description

Is calling upon God in prayer like calling and ordering a pizza?

## Resources

Order a pizza for your Sunday School Class or group meeting. (you can order it in advance microwave it to control the arrival time..) Alternatively, you can just bring in a pizza box or pizza coupons.

## What to do

1. Enjoy pizza with the youth if you brought one. If not, just show the pizza box and coupons to the group.
2. Take it to the next level
3. Have volunteers read aloud Psalm 50:15; Matthew 7:7-11; 21:22; and Mark 11:24.

## Discussion

- Have volunteers read aloud Psalm 50:15; Matthew 7:7-11; 21:22; and Mark 11:24.
- How is prayer like ordering pizza?
- How is prayer different from ordering a pizza?
- Do you think of God as a delivery person? Why or why not?
- Is prayer like the pizza guarantee “Delivery in 30 minutes or your pizza is free”? Why or why not?
- What’s wrong with calling on God the way we call for Pizza?
- How do you think God wants us to view prayer?

## Application

- How is prayer like ordering pizza?
- How is prayer different from ordering a pizza?
- Do you think of God as a delivery person? Why or why not?
- Is prayer like the pizza guarantee “Delivery in 30 minutes or your pizza is free”? Why or why not?
- What’s wrong with calling on God the way we call for Pizza?
- How do you think God wants us to view prayer?

## Scripture Reference

None

## Keywords

prayer, calling upon God, answered prayers, God’s provision



# PUMPKIN PRAYER

## Description

Object Lesson on Prayer using a pumpkin

## Resources

1. Large pumpkin
2. a carving knife.

## What to do

1. {cut off top of pumpkin}  
Lord, open my mind so I can learn new things about you.
2. {remove innards}  
Remove the things in my life that don't please you.  
Forgive the wrong things I do and help me to forgive others.
3. {cut open eyes}  
Open my eyes to see the beauty you've made in the world around me.
4. {cut out nose}  
I'm sorry for the times I've turned my nose at the good food you provide.
5. {cut out mouth}  
Let everything I say please You.
6. {light the candle}  
Lord, help me show your light to others through the things I do.  
Amen

## Source

Adapted from an idea by Liz Curtis Higgs

## Application

Prayer using a pumpkin.

## Scripture Reference

None

## Keywords

Christian alternatives to Halloween, pumpkin, prayer, fall festival, harvest festival



# PUMPKIN SEED TOSS

## Description

Use this game as a discussion about the power of our words, or about how we choose goals in life.

## Resources

1. Several Carved pumpkins with different size mouths.  
As an alternative, have a watermelon seed toss on a hot summer afternoon. Cut off the ends of the watermelon. Hollow it out and then pit it back together with toothpicks. Carve funny faces in the watermelons as you would a pumpkin.
2. Small Bean Bags (Referred to as Pumpkin seeds / or watermelon seeds)
3. Place the pumpkins on a bale of hay or cloth covered table some distance from the participants.
4. Choose one of the discussion ideas below... Choosing only one will keep everyone focused and create a more powerful object lesson.

## What to do

Each Youth / Child is given 5 chances to try to toss the pumpkin seeds into the pumpkin. Each pumpkin, depending on the size of the hole is worth different points.

## Discussion Idea #1: Targets

1. Why did you choose your pumpkin target?  
*Some people chose the smaller pumpkins because they were worth more. Others chose the pumpkins with the larger mouth because they were an easier target.*
2. When it comes down to real life, do you choose your targets based on value or upon which is easier?
3. What are your targets in the Christian life? Are they easy? Why do you value these targets?

## Discussion Idea #2: Your Mouth

1. In this game you were judged by your ability to toss an object into a mouth. But in God's kingdom we are not judged by what goes into our mouths, but by what comes out of our mouths
2. What do your words reveal about you?
3. When is it more valuable to be a "big mouth"? To keep your mouth closed?
4. What does the Bible say about our words?

## Application

Discuss about the power of our words or about how we choose goals in life.





**Scripture Reference**

None

**Keywords**

Halloween Alternative, 4th of July Watermelon party, Words, Mouth, Goals, Targets, fall festival, harvest festival, thanksgiving





# ROSES AND THORNS



## Description

God can restore

## Resources

A Rose (or other flower)

## What to do

1. Show a beautiful flower to the children - talk about how fragrant and pleasing it is.
2. Bruise some of the rose petals and point out the thorns. Jesus Body was bruised for our iniquities and a crown of thorns was placed on his head.
3. Enlist someone to be a timekeeper and someone to take the rose and see how fast he/she can pull all the petals off the flower. (Make this into a fun contest).
4. At the end of the "race" announce the time - ask for another volunteer.
5. Get the timekeeper ready and then announce - "Ok, let's see if you can beat that time. Are you ready? Ok, get set....put it back together."
6. This is an interesting moment.

## Application

Sometimes things may seem hopeless. Christ was crucified, his body bruised, his blood shed and he was dead. Point out that only God can make a rose. We can destroy it like Christ's body was crucified and it may seem impossible to bring it back to life. But with God all things are possible. No matter how hard one tries, you cannot rebuild a rose. It's ruined. But then point out that God can restore life through Jesus Christ.

## Scripture References

None

## Keywords

restoration, grace, redemption



# SAND DOLLAR

## Description

The markings on a sand dollar represent aspects of Christ's birth and death.

## Application

The markings on a sand dollar represent aspects of Christ's birth and death.

1. The five-point outline on the front of the sand dollar represents the star of Bethlehem.
2. The five holes in the sand dollar represent the pierced hands, feet, and side of Christ.
3. When the sand dollar is opened, it yields five small objects that look remarkably like doves in flight, thus representing the Holy Spirit.

## Scripture Reference

None

## Keywords

Easter



# SENSITIVE TO THE SPIRIT

## Description

The Holy Spirit helps us to be sensitive to the things of God. Christians are sensitive to sin because of the presence of the Holy Spirit inside them

## Resources

1. A pile of cushions on the floor
2. A dried pea

## Preparation

Hide the dried pea underneath the pile of cushion.

## What to do

Get some volunteers to sit on the cushions and see if they can guess what is hidden underneath. Does anyone know the fairy-tale of the princess and the pea? Because she was a princess she could feel a single pea under her mattress when she slept. It is a very silly story because although our skin is very sensitive, it could never be sensitive enough to feel a pea under a mattress.

## Application

We are like princes and princesses because we are Children of the King! One of the things the Holy Spirit does is to make us sensitive—not to peas, but to sins like jealousy and lying, selfishness and sulkingness. We should not be surprised that we notice these 'peas' in our lives, because God wants us to admit that they are there and get rid of them. We can only get rid of them when we recognise them. Without the Holy Spirit, we do not even notice them. This sensitivity is an essential part of the Holy Spirit's work to make us like Jesus.

## Scripture References

John 16:8; Psalm 51:3-5; 1 John 1:8-9

## Keywords

Spirit, sensitive, spiritual sensitivity, guidance, conviction, conscience



# SHELTER IN THE STORMS?

## Description

Stress and storms make us stronger and can bring out the best in us.

## Resources

Bring in a variety of plants, flowers, etc. You can also bring in various vegetables and fruits. Buy two small plants.

## Preparation

Water one to make it green and full of life. Let the other one dry and shrivel up.

## What to do

1. Ask youth to identify the different plants if they can. What fruits do they produce? What is their purpose? Is anyone good at taking care of plants? What do plants need to thrive?
2. Ask youth to explain the difference between the green plant and the one that is shriveled and dead.

## Discussion

- Have you ever been frightened in a storm?
- Where was this storm?
- What did you do?
- How did you feel?
- How many of you like storms...thunder... Lightening?
- How many of you are afraid of them?
- Have you ever been caught outside in a storm?
- Are storms good or bad?
- Would a plant describe a storm as good or bad?

## Application

Storms are necessary to water the plants, but sometimes frightening. Trees that have weather storms are stronger than those that have not been tested by the winds. Sometimes God shelters us. Other times he is with us as we are forced to endure the storms. Whenever things get bad and we think of the fear and the difficulties, remember the flowers, trees, and plants that give us fruit and vegetables that result from the storms.

## Scripture Reference

- God sometimes allows storms in our lives to help us grow stronger.  
James 1:2-4, 2 Corinthians 4:16-17, Isaiah 43:2, Psalms 121:4,8, John 14:27, 2 Corinthians 12:9, Psalms 46:1.







- Storms season the trees. The stress on them makes them stronger as they grow—able to withstand the winds. Sheltered trees will have weaker wood. Scripture tells us that certain kinds of stress not only make us stronger but can even serve to bring out the best in us (Jeremiah 9:7; Zechariah 13:9; Malachi 3:2-3; 1 Corinthians 3:13-15; 1 Peter 1:6-7).

**Keywords**

difficulties, stress



# SINK OR FLOAT

## Description

Christianity LITE

## Resources

1. Diet Coke
2. Regular Coke

## What to do

Demonstrate the fact that Diet coke will float but regular coke will sink. (Technically this is because the sugar substitute used in diet coke is not as dense as real sugar) Be sure to test this as I have had some cans of diet coke that also sink.

## Application

How many of us live on LITE or Diet Christianity... We want the grace but not the cross, we want forgiveness without obedience, we want blessing without the trials, we want security without the trust, we want service without sacrifice. Too often our Christianity has no depth. We just live Christianity on the surface.

## Scripture Reference

None

## Keywords

None



# SPORTS EQUIPMENT



## Description

Sports equipment is used as an illustration of using the wrong equipment to play the game of life which God has ordained for each of us.

## Resources

A variety of sports equipment. Possibilities include: (a baseball mitt, baseball, bat, and baseball cap), (soccer ball, soccer shoe, shin guard), (golf club, golf ball, putter, golf tee), (table tennis table, ping-pong ball, racket, net), (basketball, basketball net), (chessboard, chess pieces), (chinese chess pieces and board), (tennis ball, tennis racket), (croquet set), (swimming fins, goggles, swimsuit, skull cap), (bowling ball, shoes, and glove) and various balls and equipments from other sports. While using actual equipment will make the lesson more exciting, if you can't obtain the different sports equipment you can write the names of the items on note cards.

## What to do

Have children or youth group the items together. As a children's sermon make believe you are playing the different sports, but use the wrong equipment. For a fun youth lesson, actually play a sport with the wrong equipment.)

## Discussion

While we may be able to play with the wrong equipment, we are NOT going to break any records. If I hit a basketball with a golf club it will take me forever to reach the hole and when I reach the hole the ball won't fit! While some small items like a baseball cap may not make a difference, other equipment may be impossible to use for the wrong game. Imagine running a race in flippers. If you want to be successful and victorious you need to use the right equipment.

## Application

Solomon tried a lot of things in life. While some of them worked for a while, his relationship with God was the only thing that could let him be successful and victorious spiritually.

## Alternate Application

Applied to Spiritual gifts, God gives us each gifts with a purpose. Like a piece of sports equipment, we each have our own role to play in this game called life. We are not all called to play the same game or even to use the same gifts and skills. If we try to serve God in ways for which we were not created or for which he did not intend





for us to serve, we may be able to function, but we will be far from our potential in Christ.

### **Alternate Application**

While some of the wrong equipment may work for a while, you won't realise your true potential until you use the right equipment for the right task and are pursuing the right goal. For Paul, (Phil 3:12-16) there was only one goal that mattered. His relationship with God was the only thing that could let him be successful and victorious spiritually. We have to make sure that in life we are playing the right game and pursuing the right goals.

### **Scripture Reference**

Philippians 3:12-16

### **Keywords**

equipment, gifts, pursuits, goals, objectives, service





# SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

## Description

We use the Bible as our standard in which to evaluate our life.

## Resources

1. Find a few of the puzzles which display two pictures where there are differences between the pictures. (If you cannot find such puzzles, photocopy a children's coloring book then "whiteout" lines and add additional lines etc. to make your own puzzles.
2. As a variation, you can copy a couple puzzles to transparency sheets and place them on the overhead projector for kids to find the differences.

## What to do

Kids must identify the differences in the two pictures.

## Application

- We use the Bible as our standard in which to evaluate our life. When things are missing that should be there, or things are added that should not be there, it is called sin. Sin is when our lives do not exactly match God's standard.
- There are two types of sin in the Bible since of omission (leave out something) or sins of commission (adding something that we shouldn't do).
- Can you spot the mistakes in your life? The key to finding the differences is to compare our lives to the Bible. If we are not doing the things the Bible commands then we are sinning. If we are doing the things the Bible forbids then we are also sinning. Only through comparing our lives to God's Word will we know if we are living rightly.

## Scripture Reference

None

## Keywords

Sin, Christian Living, Evaluation, Christ like, Pleasing God



# STANDARDS

## Description

Our physical lives are governed by standards. Do we also allow the Bible to govern our spiritual life? By looking at some common standards of measurement in this object lesson, youth will consider the standards we use to measure the life we live.

## Introduction

Life is filled with standards. We have standards of measurement for time, weight, size, length, distance, etc. Standards make life easier by providing a commonly agreed upon reference for measurement.

## Resources

1. Bathroom scale
2. Food scale
3. Measuring cup
4. Ruler
5. Yard stick
6. Tape measure
7. Thermometer
8. Barometric pressure gauge
9. Clock
10. Dictionary
11. Calendar
12. A teaspoon
13. Tablespoon
14. A chalk line
15. A plumb line
16. A level
17. One dollar bill,
18. A Bible.

## Preparation

1. Gather as many common “standards” as you can find.
2. Standards can be pulled from a bag, laid out on display, or incorporated into a game so that the youth identify what each standard is used to measure.
3. You could add items to the standards that are unusual or maybe don’t even fit at all. Some unusual ones might be a battery (voltage), ring (ring size), t-shirt (small, med large), an egg, a dozen, a street sign, a law book, light bulb, radio (volume), etc.
4. Make sure a Bible is included among the items.





### What to do

You can use a variety of methods for this object lesson:

1. Have youth identify which standard of measurement they would use to measure a particular item.
2. Have youth identify what units each standard uses.
3. Have youth identify what things can be measured with each standard.
4. Have students identify which items are standards of measurement from a group of items.
5. Reveal and discuss each standard of measurement.

### Discussion

- What are the advantages of having standards?
- Why are standards necessary?
- How are standards decided?
- Who decides the standard?
- Are there different standards in different countries? Why?
- Do standards allow you to cheat? (As an example, how can one cheat while using a scale to measure weight?)
- How do you measure a person's life? What are some standards people use to evaluate their lives?
- In what ways is the Bible a standard?
- What do we measure with the Bible?

### Application

- When there are no standards everybody thinks they are right and there can be a lot of misunderstanding and arguments. Its hard to compare anything unless you have a standard of comparison.
- The Bible is a standard to evaluate a person's life. We can compare ourselves with God's law, with God, and with Christ.
- When we look at God's standard we realize that none of us measure up. Not of us can meet his standards. We learn what is right and wrong and because we can compare ourselves to God's standard we know we have done things that are wrong.
- The Bible is a standard for living, for life. But no matter how far we fall short, Jesus has already bridged the gap between where we are and the standard of God. He has filled the different so that God can accept us according to his standard of righteousness.
- We need to know God Word, his standard, so that we can live our lives accordingly. We need to look to Christ, seeking forgiveness for our shortfall, so that he will bridge the gap for us.





**Scripture Reference**

None

**Keywords**

standard, righteousness, judgment, Christ





# SWEET GRAPES OR SOUR GRAPES?



## Description

Grapes serve as an object lesson regarding the parable of the vines and the branches.

## Resources

Bowl of seedless grapes

## Preparations

Place a bowl of seedless grapes in the middle of the room. There should be enough grapes for everyone to have one. You may have additional grapes to be used as a snack.

## What to do

1. Ask everyone to sit in a circle around the bowl.
2. Have each person to look into the bowl and choose a grape, remove it from the bowl, and study it carefully.
  - \* How did this grape grow?
  - \* What is the purpose of this grape?
  - \* What determines a bad grape from a good grape?
3. Have everyone return their grapes to a different bowl. (These might not be edible again after they touch them and possibly mangle them)
4. Mix up the grapes and see if the youth can find their original grapes.
  - \* Are you sure it is the same grape?
  - \* How can you tell?
  - \* What special marking or color does your grape have?
  - \* Who has the best grape? Why?
  - \* In what ways are we like these grapes?

## Discussion

Like the grapes, no two of us are alike, but we all have the same purpose in life: To abide and reproduce. What determines a good or bad grape is what lies beneath the skin. The skin doesn't matter. A grape may be nutritious, good, tasty, sweet, sour, rotten, worm eaten, hard or soft. People may have sour personalities, rotten, eaten inside by sin, hard hearts or soft hearts. Other people may be sweet, good, a delight to be around, and beneficial to others.

## Application

The vine, the roots of the vine, water, sun, circumstances, and drawing from the vine what it needs all determine what the grape will be like. In the same way, the source from which we fulfill our needs, the Living Water in our lives, the SON, and circumstances all





affect what we are like. How consistently we draw from our Source (abide) also affects us. Circumstances and sin may cause us to be bruised or if it becomes sin becomes the primary characteristic of who we are we become rotten or sour. (See John 15)

**Scripture Reference**

John 15

**Keywords**

Spiritual Growth



# SYMBOLS



## Description

The Lord's supper is a powerful reminder of what Jesus has done for us.

## Resources

1. Picnic basket
2. Thermos filled with grape juice
3. Red-checkered picnic tablecloth
4. A wooden cross lying in the bottom of the basket
5. Load of French bread sticking out of basket.

## Preparations

Cut some corporate Logos from newspapers and magazines and glue them to sheets of paper. Some possibilities are the McDonald's Logo, Nike, Coke, Pokeman character, Disney, IBM, etc. Try to choose logos that would be recognized by your age group. You can also use common signs like a stop sign, streetlight, male and female toilets, \$, MRT logo, etc. Place all of these items in the basket.

## What to do

1. (Show the children / youth the items but do not open the picnic basket to see the contents yet.) What do you think of when you see these items? Most of us think of a picnic!
2. Lay out the picnic tablecloth on the floor and set the basket in the middle of it.
3. Invite the children / youth to join you around the basket.

## Application

- One night, Jesus had supper with his disciples. We call it the Last Supper. What do you think they ate at the last supper?
- Jesus took two things at the supper and used them as symbols. Take out the sheets with symbols you have created and see if the children can guess what each symbol represents.
- Lastly, take the bread and pour the grape juice into a clear cup or glass. Ask the children what these things represent.
- Explain the significance of the broken bread and the wine.
- Explain that just symbols are a reminder of something important, the last Supper reminds us that Jesus' body was broken and his blood was shed so that we might have forgiveness from our sins.
- Finally take out the cross and tell them that just as the cross has become a symbol of churches (you find them on top of most church buildings to advertise that it is a church) the Lord's supper is supposed to advertise the death of Christ for our sins.





**Scripture Reference**

None

**Keywords**

Lord's Supper, Communion





# TAKING THE HEAT



## Description

Heat conduction serves as a simple object lesson of God taking the heat for us in times of trouble.

## Resources

1. 1 cm diameter and 6+ cm length of copper tubing or copper pipe
2. A couple sheets of ordinary paper cut to a length slight short than the copper pipe
3. Lighter
4. Matches, or a lit candle.

## What to do

1. This is a simple demonstration from physics in that some materials conduct heat more efficiently than others. Take a strip of paper and place it in a flame. Within seconds it will catch fire and burn.
2. Wrap an identical piece of paper tightly around a length of copper tubing or copper pipe and you can place it in the flame indefinitely without it catching fire. This is because copper is a better conductor of heat than paper and the copper tube dissipates the heat so that it never reaches the combustion point. (The easiest way to do this is to cut 4 or 5 cm wide strips from a piece of a4 size paper. Place the copper pipe in the middle of the strip of paper then hold the two ends of the paper together so that it grasps the pipe)

## Application

When we are on our own and placed over the fire we are toast! We can't take the heat. But when our lives are warped tightly around God he takes the heat for us. God helps us deal with the difficult times in life by taking the heat off of us.

## Scripture References

None

## Keywords

None



# TARGET PRACTICE



## Description

Is it the proper Christian response to knock others down in order to be lifted up, or to simply lift others up?

## Resources

1. Paper or styrofoam cups
2. A rubber / foam dart gun.
3. A ladder with steps at different heights. In place of nerf darts you can use pink pong balls, small rubber balls or even wads of paper.

## What to do

1. Give each youth a cup and allow them to write their name on the cup.
2. Line the cups up for target practice from across the room. If a youth's cup has been knocked off, they must shoot down another cup in order to place their cup back up.
3. Each time they shoot another cup down they can raise their cup up one level (step) on the ladder.
4. When a cup is knocked off, it begins all the way at the bottom again.
5. Continue for a specified amount of time and then reward the victor(s) at the top of the ladder

## Discussion

- How is this activity similar to life and being at the top of the ladder?
- What are some ways we knock others down in order to raise ourselves up?
- Is this part of life and acceptable for Christian behavior? Explain.
- How did you feel at the top? When knocked down?

## Application

Is it the proper Christian response to knock others down in order to be lifted up, or to simply lift others up?

## Scripture Reference

Ephesians 4:29

## Keywords

The greatest and least, first and last, humility, pride, criticism, harsh words, edifying speech, edification, encouragement, discouragement, back-biting, gossip, cutting others down, building others up





# TELLING THE EASTER STORY

## Description

A hollowed egg contains messages that tell the Easter story.

## Resources

Egg (Hollowed out)

## What to do

1. Carefully poke 2 holes in an egg, one at each end, and blow out the contents.
2. After it has dried inside, take a lot of 1/4 inch wide slips of paper, write on them such phrases as ,”Jesus loves you,” “Jesus died for you,” ‘Jesus lives” and so on.
3. Thread the slips of paper into the egg. You can get many inside.
4. Ask children what they think of at Easter. Many will say, Chocolate, Eggs, Candies, Bunnies etc. (some will make the right connection)
5. Hold the egg and talk about how the egg was an Easter symbol - portent of new life and that Jesus’s rising from the dead meant that we too could have new life. I then said, “If ever I heard somebody give me the right answer right away, I would clap my hands ....” clapping my hands and squashing the egg. The children’s faces will be a mixture of horror and glee as they imagined your hands covered with goo. Instead, imagine their surprise when the egg contains, not yolk and stuff, but messages that tell the Easter story.

## Application

Tell the Easter story in a unique and interesting way.

## Scripture References

None

## Keywords

Easter, Resurrection, Easter egg ideas



# TENSION IN RELATIONSHIPS



## Description

Rubber bands will be used as an object lesson for youth on relationships, stress in relationships, closeness in relationships and the hurt we can experience in broken relationships with God and others.

## Introduction

Relationships often have tense moments. Use this youth object lesson / creative teaching idea to discuss the topic of relationships.

## Resources

1. A thin rubber band for each participant.
2. Additional rubber bands
3. A few larger, thicker ones.

## What to do

1. Gather everyone in a circle
2. Pass around the rubber bands and have each person get one.
3. Have participants hook a finger inside the rubber band and link them together with the person on the right and left so that they are linked in one big circle by a rubber band on the left and right.
4. Have group members gradually step back stretching the rubber bands between them as far as possible without breaking them
5. Observe the responses of the participants as the rubber bands are being stretched.

## Discussion

- What will happen if you continue to step apart?
- Who will likely be hurt when the rubber bands break?
- How is the tension like that in relationships with God, parents, family members, friends and others?
- What are the things that connect us in relationships?
- Make a list of some of the more significant relationships in your life. Who's on your list? How are the significant to you?
- What are the things that draw us closer?
- What are the things that move us apart?
- What are the consequences when we move away from God? Parents? Family members? Friends? Others?
- Throughout life relationships are always changing. At times we draw closer to God and others while at other times we may drift apart or even break the relationships. At times there will be tension and sometimes there will even be hurt. How can we more effectively manage relationships with others? Is it possible to end a relationship without causing hurt? What are some ways







we can minimize the pain in relationships? How can we handle things gently?

- The closer to a person we are, the stronger the bonds that develop and more connections are established. This is similar to adding more rubber bands between a person and thicker rubber bands. How does this increase the risks for hurt if the relationship is broken?
- What are some of the biblical instructions regarding relationships with other Christians? With God? With family members? With our parents? With the lost? In general?

### Application

- What are some ways you can manage your relationships better?
- With God?
- With your parents?
- Friends?
- Various family members?
- The lost?
- Significant people in your lives?

### Scripture References

A few of the many Scripture References on relationships:

- James 4:8
- Galatians 6:2
- Exodus 20:12
- Ephesians 4:26
- Philippians 2:3-4
- Philippians 2:14
- Proverbs 4:1-17
- Proverbs 6:20-23
- Ephesians 6:1-4
- 1 Timothy 5:1-3
- Matthew 7:12

### Keywords

relationships, closeness, intimacy, tension, stress, hurt, pain, biblical relationships



# TEN LEPERS



## Description

Use this Thanksgiving Children's sermon / Thanksgiving Object lesson to create a situation in the Sunday school classroom or Worship service to illustrate the story in Luke 17 of the healing of ten lepers and the ONE that return to Jesus and thanked him for what he had done.

## Resources

10 small gifts. (You can choose any gift as long as the gifts are the same and something the participants would enjoy. A candy bar or individually wrapped piece of candy works well.)

## Preparation

1. Put all the smaller gifts inside a box and wrap it box so that it looks special! (Do not individually wrap the smaller gifts.)
2. Write instructions on slips of paper for each youth and put them in a bowl:
  - On one slip of paper write:

“Do not show this to anyone. Do not talk about it to anyone. Congratulations: You are the grand prize winner! Later when I announce the prize, come forward and claim your prize! But before you can claim your prize you must agree to ONE condition. If ANYONE asks you to share, you MUST give them one of the smaller prizes found inside, even if it means you will have none left for yourself!”
  - On 10 of the slips of paper, write the following instructions:

“Do not show this to anyone. Do not talk about it to anyone. Someone will be announced as a grand prize winner. Once the person has unwrapped his prize, go to him and ask him to share it with you. When he does, do not say ANYTHING. Do NOT say thank you or anything else. Take the candy and return to your seat. If you say anything after he shares his prize with you, you will lose it”
  - On the remaining slips of paper (one for each other person participating) write:

“Do not show this to anyone. Do not talk about it to anyone. Something interesting is going to happen today. Watch carefully. Do not do make any comments until I announce that “We are going to discuss what just happened.”





### Variation

Add an additional instruction to the 10. "Leave the room and stay outside until you hear that someone has received the grand prize. Do not talk to anyone inside the room. Do not touch anyone inside the room."

### Discussion

- To the whole group:  
What was strange about what just happened?
- To the grand prize winner:  
How did it feel to receive the prize?  
Did you say any words of thanks for it? why or why not?  
How did it feel to have to give what you received away to everyone else?  
Were you upset that no one said "thank you"?  
Would you have felt different if someone has expressed a few words of thanks?
- To the 10 who received gifts:  
Did any of you receiving the candy feel bad about accepting it without expressing your thanks?
- To all:  
Why is thanks important?
- Read the story of the ten lepers in Luke 17.
- Lepers were required to keep away from people in fear that others would catch their disease. The disease is quite terrible. They cannot feel anything. No pain, nothing. Because of this they get infections and injure themselves without knowing it. Then the infection spreads and they smell like rotting meat. They often lose fingers, arms, feet and other body parts.
- Lepers were outcasts. Their condition had made them unclean in the eyes of the public and the authorities. They were not allowed to join in with the rest of society. They had to avoid ANY contact with any other people. They could not touch anyone and no one dared to touch them. They could not touch anything that others would touch. And no one dared touch anything that belonged to them. They could not stay in the same place, they could not worship with others, they could not work, could not drink the same water, could not eat the same food. They were forced to live away from everyone else - completely isolated. They were rejected. Lepers were not allowed to mingle with the public in any way.





- If the lepers had tried to approach Jesus there would have been a riot. Instead, they kept their distance and shouted all together as one voice “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” In this way, Jesus was drawn to them.
- By what they had heard about Jesus, they knew that had the power to heal them.
- Jesus healed them, but then Jesus did something that may seem a little strange. He asked them to go to the Priests? Why? Because even though healed, people would want to have a public validation that they had been healed. Only the Priests could do that. Priests were the ones who could inspect a leper and say, “yes, you are clean now, go free. You don’t have to remain an outcast anymore”. By this, Jesus not only healed the lepers, but also brought them back into fellowship with the community.
- How do you think the Savior felt as the lepers left?
- How do they think it felt when the one leper returned to thank Jesus for healing him?
- What kinds of things should we be grateful for? (Make a list on the board)
- What are some things that have happened to you for which you should be thankful?

### **Application**

Make a list of the things you are personally thankful for, then let’s offer God a prayer of thanks for what he has done in our lives.

### **Scripture Reference**

None

### **Keywords**

Thanks, gratitude, leprosy, ten lepers, 10 lepers, giving thanks, thanksgiving, Thanksgiving Holiday





# THE CROSS OR HELL?

## Description

God gave us a choice of heaven when he died on the cross for us.  
(drama/object lesson, visual - Use caution when discussing Hell with young kids)

## Resources

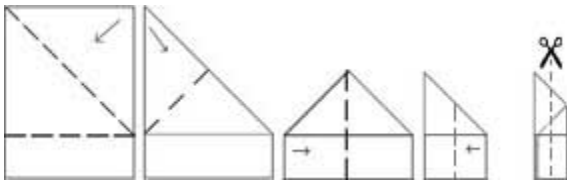
1. A piece of paper
2. Scissors

## The Background Story

A Japanese man was in prison for his faith. He was told by his interrogator the next day he was going to be executed. But since they were such experts in origami he could go free if he could make a cross with only 1 cut in a piece of paper. The man asked for a piece of paper to practice on but he was told that he could not have one. He went and prayed and the next morning he was brought before his interrogator who was all smiles. He was given a piece of paper and a pair of scissors. The prisoner took the paper and folded it as follows.

## Preparation

1. Fold the top right corner to left side of paper, forming a triangle.
2. Then fold the point at the top left over to the right side of the paper. Now it looks like a house with a pitched roof.
3. Then fold it in half down the middle so that the left side overlaps the right side and it looks like an arrow.
4. Fold it again in half along the middle to make a thinner arrow.
5. Now cut the paper vertically down the middle as indicated below.



## What to do

After unfolding all the pieces he found he had a cross. He was free and would have an opportunity for a new life of freedom,, but he wasn't finished. He put all the other pieces together to make the word HELL.

HELL





Easter gives us the choice of the CROSS or HELL.

**Application**

Jesus suffered and sacrificed Himself for our sins and offers us the only way to heaven.

**Scripture Reference**

None

**Keywords**

Easter, cross, crucifixion, new life





# THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO A TEA BAG

## Description

Use a tea bag as an object lesson to tell the story of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. It's the Easter message for children and adults.

## Resources

1. Tagged teabag
2. Two saucers
3. A clear glass of hot water
4. A match or lighter.

## NOTE

**Please test first as not all brands of teabags will float when lit.**

## What to do

### The Label

1. Remove the tag/label and hold it up for the children to see.
2. Explain: The label identifies the tea. Jesus was labeled with many tags. He was called Christ, Messiah, teacher, Savior, the King of Kings, the man from Galilee, the carpenter, the Son of God, Redeemer, friend of sinners, good shepherd, Great Physician, King of the Jews and many more. At the cross, he had a sign placed over his head as "King of the Jews." Jesus was in the very nature God, but he wasn't concerned with titles. He did not consider equality with God something to be grasped. Instead he took the nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. He emptied himself made himself nothing.

### The String

1. Remove the string and show it to the children
2. Explain: People often become attached to things here on earth. They are often attached to possessions, pleasure, and power. Jesus was tempted by Satan after 40 days in the desert with the very same things. But Jesus was not attached to these things. His focus was on doing the will of God. He came to earth with a purpose. That purpose was yours and my redemption.

### The Staple

1. Carefully remove the staple and show it to the children.  
Explain: This tea bag was pierced and has holes from a staple. Jesus was not pierced with a staple but with nails and a spear. His body was attached to a cross.





### The Tea

1. Carefully open the tea bag without tearing it. Display the bag of tea leaves to the children.
2. Explain: Tea looks like dirt. If you put it in water the water will be changed to the color of the tea. It will no longer be clear and pure.
3. Demonstrate by dropping a bit of tea into the glass of hot water and stirring it around.
4. Explain: We are all like this tea bag in that we are born with dirt in our lives. We are not pure. The Bible calls this dirt, this impurity, sin. We need help from God to remove the sin from our lives. That's exactly why Jesus came - to help us remove the sin from our lives. We must trust Jesus to remove the sin from our lives. When we ask him for forgiveness, he will make us clean and pure again.
5. Empty the tea leaves into the saucer.

### The Tea Bag

1. Carefully open up the tea bag completely. It will open into a long tube that you can stand on the second saucer.
2. Explain: When Jesus removes the sin from our lives we can stand pure and proud in the sight of God. We will become a light for God. Philippians 2:15 says that among the perverse generation we will shine as lights in the world.

### Lights for Christ

1. Light the bag from the top and allow it to burn.
2. Explain: As you shine for Jesus you shall become closer to God in your Christian walk, and one day your soul shall join him for eternal life. Just as Christ was resurrected and went to be with the Father, we will also rise up to be with him. We will be exalted and raised with him.
3. The tea bag will float up as it burns.

### Application

That's the story of Easter. Jesus set aside his titles and emptied himself and became one of us. He came with a purpose, to cut us free from the things of the world. He was pierced for us. And when we ask his forgiveness, he will take away the dirt from our lives and make us pure. We will can stand strong and become his light to the world. Just as he was risen we will also rise to be with him.

### Scripture Reference

Ephesians 2:5-10







**Keywords**

Easter, resurrection, crucifixion, gospel, atonement, sacrifice, redemption, forgiveness



# THE GREATEST LOVE WAS NOT SHOWN ON VALENTINE'S DAY

## Description

The Greatest Love was not shown on Valentine's Day, but when Jesus opened the way to heaven for us 2000 years ago! Use this evangelistic Valentine's Day object lesson as a Children's sermon or teaching activity. Based upon the "wordless book" concept, it uses black, red, white, green, and gold (or yellow) hearts to explain the key points of the gospel message.

## Introduction

On valentine's day, people often show their love to each other. Someone who is special is called a "sweetheart" or a "Valentine." Chocolates and Flowers, especially roses, are also given to sweethearts on Valentine's Day. Sweethearts often send little notes to each other with messages of love or with the simple question, "Would you be my Valentine?" But the Greatest Love was not shown on Valentine's Day, but when Jesus opened the way to heaven for us 2000 years ago!

## Resources

Black, red, white, green, and gold (or yellow) coloured paper

## Preparation

Create several hearts from colored paper.

## What to Do

Hearts are the main symbol of love seen on Valentine's Day. Today I have some special Hearts to tell you a story of a very special love.

### **Yellow Heart**

Our hearts are treasures, which we lay at the feet of God when we get to heaven. The yellow heart also reminds us of Heaven itself. Do you know what Heaven is? Heaven is God's home. Heaven is filled with the glory, the shining brightness of God. There is no night there. The Bible says, "God is The Light and in Him is no Darkness at all"(1 John 1:5). The Bible tells us that in Heaven, the street of the city is pure, clear gold-like glass (Rev.21:21). God tells us many other things about His home. No one is sick there. No one is crippled or blind. No one ever dies. Every person in Heaven will be perfectly happy-always (Rev. 21:4-2Psalm 16:11). The most wonderful thing about Heaven is that God the Father and His Son, the Lord Jesus will be there. God made Heaven. He made you too. He loves you very much. Because he made you and loves you, He wants you to belong to Him and be with Him in Heaven someday.





Jesus promised long ago, "I go to prepare a place for you" (John 3:16; John 14:1-3).

### ***Black heart***

The black heart is just like our hearts are before Christ comes in to be our Savior. It is black with sin. There is one thing that can never be in Heaven. That is sin. Because you and I are sinners we want to have our own way instead of God's way. Wanting our own way is sin. Doing, or saying, or thinking bad things is sin. Sin is anything that displeases God. Sin has caused sorrow and sadness in our world. God tells us in the Bible that all have sinned (Romans 3:23). All means every one of us.

This black heart reminds us of our sinful way - that we walk in darkness (Proverbs 4:19). When it is dark, you stumble and cannot find your way. Because of your sin, you cannot find God. Your sin separates you from God, who is holy (I John 1:5). God cannot allow sin where He is. I am sure you can think of a sin which you have done. God has said that sin must be punished. The punishment for your sin is death-to be separated from God forever (Rev. 6:23). The Lord Jesus, God's Son, said that if you die in your sin, you cannot go to Heaven where He is (John 8:21, 24). God knew there was nothing you could do to get rid of your sin. He knew you could not be good enough to please Him. But He loves you and He made a way for you to be forgiven.

### ***Red heart***

The red heart shows the way God made for you to have your sins forgiven-taken away. God loves you. He sent His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, from Heaven to take the punishment for your sin (John 3:16). Wicked men nailed the sinless Son of God to the cross, but while He hung there God put all of your sins on Him. The Bible says, "...God bath laid on Him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6). (Iniquity is another word for sin). All your bad temper, all your lies, your meanness-all your sin-was laid on the dear Son of God, and He suffered and suffered until He cried out with a loud voice and said, "It is finished."

When you finish a job, how much is left? Nothing. What did the Lord Jesus come to do? He came to save us from punishment for sin, didn't He? And He finished the work. When He was nailed to the cross, what came from His hands, and His feet? His blood. God calls it the precious blood of Jesus Christ, and He says "...the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7). There is no other way, for God says, "Without shedding of blood





there is no remission [of sin]”—no forgiveness, no payment (Hebrews 9:22). Jesus not only died for you, but He was buried, and He rose again. He is a living saviour (I Corinthians 15:3, 4). God showed His love for you by sending His own Son to die for you. Now he says there is one way for you to be saved from your sin.

### **White heart**

Tears cannot wash away sin. Prayers cannot wash away sin. Doing good cannot wash away sin. But the blood of the Lord Jesus can wash away all sin (Psalm 51:7; I John 1:7). This white heart reminds us that Jesus has healed our black hearts by washing away the sin with his blood. A white heart is pure again. It is clean again. Did Jesus die for everyone? (YES!) Is everyone going to Heaven? (No, because some do not believe that Jesus died for them. They have not received Him as their Saviour from sin.) God’s word says, “... as many as received Him to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name” (John 1:12). God has promised you when you receive the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, you become a child of God. The Lord Jesus Christ died to save you from your sins. He wants to clean your heart and live in your heart and give you power to obey God. Are you sorry for your sin? Do you believe Jesus died for your sin? Would you like to receive Jesus today? You must decide.

(Ask the Holy Spirit for discernment. Question the person to respond carefully. Encourage them to express to you before they pray: why they need to receive the Lord Jesus; what the Lord Jesus has done for them; what they want to tell God. When dealing with a group, emphasize what each person must personally believe and receive the Lord Jesus. Give opportunity for prayer. If possible, question each person individually after the prayer to clarify the meaning of His decision. Where is Jesus now? Where are your sins? What took them away?)

Any one of the following verses can be used effectively in helping to know what God has done: John 1:12; I John 5:13; Rev. 3:20.) God promises to you when you receive Him, “...I will never leave nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5). Ask Him to help you each day to please Him. When you do sin, tell God that you have sinned. He will forgive you right away (I John 1:9). Ask Him and trust Him to help you not to do it again. (Lead the person in offering a prayer of thanks.)

### **Green heart**

Green is the color of plants. It is the color of growth, of life. The







green heart reminds me of the new life, everlasting life, you have received from God. The color green reminds me of things which are growing outdoors, like leaves, grass, flowers, and trees. When you receive the Lord Jesus as your saviour from sin, you are like a newborn baby in God's family. The Bible tells you to "grow in grace in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Peter 3:18).

(As the time permits, talk with the person about those things which help him grow as a member of God's family. Explain you are not talking about growing taller or gaining weight, but the kind of growing which will help others know that he loves the Lord Jesus.)

- Listen to God- Learn God's Word reading and memorizing it (II Timothy 2:15; Psalm 119: 11).
- Talk to God. Pray (I Thessalonians 5:17).
- Talk for God. Witness or tell others (Mark 16:15).
- Worship God. Go to Sunday School and Church (Hebrews 10:25).

### **Blue heart**

Some will add a Blue heart to represent Baptism

### **Applications**

1. Use the various colors of the hearts to present the plan of salvation.
2. Use this as a presentation of the plan of salvation for Valentine's Day.

### **Scripture Reference**

I John 1:5, Rev.21:21, Rev.21:4, 2Psalm16:11, John 3:16, John 14:1-3, Romans 3:23, Proverbs 4:19, Rev.6:23, John 8: 21-24, Isaiah 53:6, I John 1:7, Hebrews 9:22, I Corinthians 15:3, 4, Psalm 51:7, John 1:12, John 5:13, Rev.3:20, Hebrews 13:5, I John 1:9, II Peter 3:18, II Timothy 2:15, Psalm 119:11, I Thessalonians 5:17, Mark 16:15, Hebrews 10:25,

### **Keywords**

Valentine's Day, salvation, evangelism, hearts



# THE WAY TO GOD

## Description

Many people see the road to heaven as a map with many possible routes.

## Resources

1. A world map
2. A geographic map of your country
3. A street directory or detailed map showing your church location

## What to do

1. Bring out the world map or a globe. Give children places/ countries to find on the globe. Reward the children who find them first.
2. Then pretend you have been invited to someone's house which is in a small road not too far from the church. Explain that you do not know exactly where it is.
3. Ask the children to find it for you on the globe -- Look first at your world map, and then your country map. These do not help you.
4. If we want to find out where a particular street is in our town we need a map with an even smaller scale: a street map. These maps give details right down to houses, churches and parks.
5. Show the kids a map and ask them to find the street or show them the location of the friend and the location of the church.
6. Ask kids to show A WAY between the church and the place where the person lives. It does not have to be the smartest, shortest, or fastest way. Each kid can actually come up with a way to get there. In fact there will be lots of ways to get from point A to point B.
7. Then ask the kids to show you THE WAY to get from point A to point B. They will look confused. Usually, they will ask, "Which way?" The use of the word THE implies that I have a certain way in mind.
8. Read the Scripture Text: John 14:5-14
9. Explain  
Jesus identifies himself as "the way, the truth, and the life." All have relevance. The "way" speaks of a connection, of the link between God and man. Jesus not only shows us the way, but he IS the way. The "truth" reminds us of the complete reliability and trustworthiness of Jesus in all that he is, he does, and he says. Jesus not only reveals the truth, but is the embodiment of truth. The "life" stresses the fact that mere existence matters little. The only life that is meaningful is that which Jesus brings, for He is life itself. Because of these three things, no one can come to God except through Jesus.





### Application

Many people see the road to heaven as a map with many possible routes. They say that it doesn't matter which way you go. We will all end up at the same place. In John 14:6, Jesus said I am THE way, THE truth, and THE life. Not A way, A truth, and A life. Of course, the best way to get there would be to find someone who knows the place and follow him there. That's Jesus!

### Scripture References

John 14:5-14

### Keywords

Jesus, Way to God, Direction, Salvation, Evangelism, Gospel, Sharing Christ





### Description

We need to make room for God in our lives before he can fill us and satisfy our thirst.

### Resources

1. A clear plastic cup
2. A pitcher of water
3. A large bowl.
4. Have the cup full of marbles, rocks, sand etc.
5. Salted peanuts.

### What to do

1. Allow the kids to enjoy the salted peanuts which will make them thirsty.  
Would anybody here care for a drink?  
I'll fill this cup and then you'll be able to have a nice drink.
2. Pour the drink into the cup.  
There seems to be a problem. What seems to be wrong?
3. Let a child answer.  
Yes, the problem is that the cup is already filled.  
I can't drink from the cup until I empty it out first.

### Discussion

Write each child's name on a cup and give it to them.

- What is it that fills your cup?
- What things are most important to you?
- How do you spend all your time?
- What activities fill your day?
- Are there some things that are bad, that dirty your cup? - All you have to do is confess to God what they are and he will cleanse them away.
- Are you thirsty? Do you really want God in your life? If you want God in your life you need to make room for him.
- In what ways can we create a thirst for God in others?
- In what ways can we be salt that creates a thirst for God in Others?

### Application

This is something like Jesus did with the woman at the well in John 4:1-26. He met her and talked to her. Then by his questions he made her curious. He made her thirsty to know about God. But then after she was thirsty Jesus showed her that he could not fill her cup with the Living Water because the cup was dirty. She had to clean the cup first. Her cup was dirty with sins she needed to confess.







**Scripture Reference**  
None

**Keywords**  
Thirsty for God



# TICKETS



## Description

Tickets serve as a reminder that Jesus is the way to heaven

## Resources

Gather all kinds of tickets and ticket stubs to share with the children. (i.e. plane tickets, bus ticket, movie tickets, amusement park ride tickets, zoo tickets, etc.)

## What to do

- Discuss the different tickets and what you gained access to with that particular ticket.
- Point out that just about everything requires a ticket to get in.
- We pay some price (large or small) and in exchange are given a ticket.
- It can be expensive for some tickets (plane tickets to Hawaii for example) or not so expensive (50 cent bus tickets).

## Application

- “How much do you think it would cost to get a ticket to ride to heaven and live in a beautiful mansion forever?”
- Point out that no amount of money or good deeds can purchase us a ticket to heaven.
- There’s only one way to get in to heaven- Jesus has to take us there.
- He has given us salvation as a free gift. All we need to do to get in to heaven is to tell God we know Jesus and he will let us in.
- Jesus has gone to prepare the place for us and God will let us in if we know Jesus.

## Scripture Reference

None

## Keywords

Salvation



# TIME FOR GOD

## Description

Reminder to take time for God.

## Resources

1. Obtain a variety of clocks, watches and other time pieces.
2. Bright colored small sticker dots from the stationary store.

## Preparations

Write "Take time" on Sticker dots

## What to do

Ask youth to choose a clock that represents them and to tell the group why they chose it.

## Application

Ask youth to place the stickers on their watches so that every time they look at their watch they will be reminded to "take time" for God. Distribute 3X5 cards and ask youth to write goals such as, "every time I look at my watch I will spend a moment in meditation with God." etc.

## Scripture Reference

None

## Keywords

Time, Priorities, Living for God



# TREASURES



## Description

Our treasures are where our heart is.

## Resources

One or two items which are of value to your personal “treasures”

## What to do

1. Bring out your “treasures” and explain, one by one, why each of them means so much to you.
2. Do any of the youth/children have anything special which they treasure? Ask, “What are some of your treasures?”
3. You might also ask youth/children the following question. Your house is on fire and you only enough time to save three of your personal items... What would you save? Why?

## Discussion

- Ask if any of the youth have anything special which they treasure.
- Ask, “If your house is on fire and you only enough time to save three of your personal items... What would you save? Why?”

## Application

Matthew 6:19-21 tells us that our treasures are where our heart is. God’s kingdom is the greatest treasure of all. Jesus is the greatest find of all. He is so valuable that all of our treasure becomes worthless in comparison. People who find Jesus give up everything else to follow him. When anyone finds him they find riches beyond compare. Yet like Israel we often let other treasures take the place of God.

## Scripture References

Matthew 6:19-21

## Keywords

Treasure, Materialism, worth, value, Importance, Priorities





# TREE-MENDOUS GROWTH



## Description

An object lesson that teaches about the vine and the branches.

## Resources

1. Ground sheet
2. Several Bibles

## Preparation

Select a location where there are several large trees growing.

## What to do

1. Take your group to the selected trees.
2. Form groups of no more than five and have each group select a tree.
3. Have kids lie under the trees, looking up at the branches.
4. Have a volunteer in each group read John 15:5-10, then have kids answer questions about themselves and their trees in their groups.

## Discussion

1. Imagine this tree is a picture of Christ and his followers.
  - Which part of the tree would you label as Christ? Explain.
  - Which part would be his followers? Why?
2. Have kids look for branches that are dead and are in need of pruning.
  - Why do branches die?
  - How might someone become spiritually dead, like a dead branch?
3. Look for new growth.
  - In what ways have you experienced new growth spiritually?
4. Look for evidence that the tree is reproducing, such as seeds or fruit.
  - What areas of your Christian life are producing fruit?

## Additional Activity

Have each person choose a branch that is most like him or her spiritually and explain why they've chosen this branch. For example, someone might say, "This branch is like me because it has lots of new growth, and I've been growing a lot in my faith recently."

## Application

Close by having groups each form a circle around their tree and pray that they'll grow in Christ, the true vine.

## Scripture References

None



# UMBRELLAS



## Description

An object lesson teaches about God's protection over us.

## Resources

Umbrella

## What to do

5. Talk about the last time you were caught outside on a rainy day and how glad you were that you remembered to bring an umbrella. You were warm and safe while other people without an umbrella were scurrying for shelter.
6. Step to one side, out from under the umbrella and say, "What if it's still raining and we step to one side, out from under the umbrella?"
7. Say, "That's right, we're going to get wet! Our clothes might get soaked, our shoes will be sloshing all day. It's a real yucky feeling being wet all day."
8. Ask kids, "Why would we ever want to choose to step out from under the umbrella when it's raining? Is that a smart thing to do?"
9. Well, God's protection is a lot like an umbrella. It is like His spiritual covering over us, as long as we were walking in His will and His ways.
10. In the same way, when we step outside of God's will through the decisions that we make and the actions that we take, we remove ourselves from God's protective covering. We will end up bearing the consequences of our choices, being outside of God's protection.
11. God doesn't remove His protection from us, His umbrella stays open but we made the choice to step out of it and get wet.
12. When we walk away from God and His will for us, we give the devil permission to come into our lives and do us harm.
13. Just as we think how silly it is to step out from under our umbrellas on a rainy day, let's not do the same thing with God. Let's walk in God's will and His ways and make choices in our lives that are pleasing and honoring to God. That way, we'll always be warm, safe and dry under His protection.

## Discussion

- In what areas of our lives have we chosen to step out of God's protection?
- What are some choices that we have made without consulting God first? What happened?
- What are some things we can commit to doing to ensure we are making decisions that are in line with God's will?



**Keywords**  
Growth



**Application**

Bring learners to a point of commitment to honor God in the decisions they make and the things that they do.

**Scripture References**

Josh 7:2-5; 8:1

**Keywords**

God's protection, choices, decision making.



# WAITING ON GOD



## Description

Waiting on God

## Resources

1. Egg timer
2. Stop watch
3. Alarm clock
4. A metronome
5. Anything else used to tell time that requires a wait.

## What to do

Explain that each of these clocks tells you how long to wait.

- You can set an egg timer so that you know how long to wait until the egg is done.
- A stop watch tells you how long you waited until something was finished.
- An alarm clock tells you how long to wait until you need to wake up.
- A metronome tells you how long to wait between each beat of music.
- A calendar tells you how long you need to wait for meetings and special occasions like holidays and birthdays.

## Questions

- What are some things you really would like to have, but don't have yet? Things that you need to wait to get?
- What are some things you would like to do, but haven't done yet? Things you need to wait to do?
- Where are some places you would like to go, but haven't gone yet? Places you need to wait to go?
- Why is waiting often difficult?

## Discussion

It's often hard to wait on things.

- For some things we are not old enough yet?  
(i.e. You are not old enough to drive a car. )
- For other things we don't have the money yet?  
You may not have enough money for a new bike.
- Maybe we don't even have the ability yet.  
You may not have the skills to be a doctor yet.
- God has plans for everything, but not everything may be ready yet. Sometimes we have to wait until God has everything ready. We have to trust he knows the right time for everything.







- Show children all the time devices. Explain how each works. Then explain how each can be used to measure how long we need to wait for something.

### Application

- God says that learning to be patient is good for us.
- We can't expect everything we want immediately. We must learn to wait on God's perfect timing.
- (Hold up a clock) God has a set time for everything to happen, according to his plan. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)
- We must trust God completely, because we know he has a perfect plan for each one of his children.
- Sometimes doing God's will means waiting for his timing. See also Romans 5:3-4; Hebrews 10:36

### Scripture References

Ecclesiastes 3:1, Romans 5:3-4, Hebrews 10:36

### Keywords

Choices, decision making, patience, time



# WALKING IN FAITH (TRUST)

## Description

Faith and trust is the same thing in the Christian Experience. We trust in God and have faith that he will guide us and protect us in our walk with Him.

## Resources

A blindfold

## Preparation

Scatter chairs and obstacles around the room.

## What to Do

1. Ask for a volunteer.
2. Explain that the volunteer will be blind-folded and then receive directions from you to walk from predetermined points A to B in the room. The goal is to get the volunteer to the predetermined destination without bumping into things.
3. Before blindfolding the volunteer ask, "Do you trust me to guide you? "Do you have faith in yourself and in me to get from here to there without being able to see where you're going? I will be with you for the journey and guide you along the way. Are you ready?"

## Take it to the Next Level

You can use this to illustrate faith, trust, and also raise awareness of visual impairment and other physical challenges.

- How is this similar to following God?
- How is this like our spiritual walk in faith?
- Why do you think the Bible calls our spiritual life a "walk"?
- In what ways does God guide us?
- What is the destination that God has planned in advance for us?
- Is everyone's journey the same?
- What lessons can you learn from this to help you in your own spiritual walk?
- What is ONE step you will take this week in your spiritual walk?

## Application

We learn to trust in God and have faith that he will guide us and protect us in our walk with Him.

## Scripture References

None

## Keywords

Trust, faith, spiritual walk, journey, guidance, direction



# WHICH ONE DOESN'T BELONG?



## Description

A manger scene, also known as a nativity scene, serves as a creative object lesson in this Children's Sermon which teaches children that Jesus is the most important element of Christmas.

## Resources

Classic Manger Scene containing:

- A manger
- Shepherds
- Animals
- Mary
- Joseph
- The Wise men
- A stable
- Baby Jesus
- Add a small Santa figurine of the same size as other figures in the nativity.

## Preparation

1. Have all the pieces of the manger scene lined up across a table or a pulpit
2. Add a Santa and do not include the baby Jesus.

## What to do

- Ask the children to correctly position the figures in the nativity scene.
- Some of the children may correctly recognize that Santa doesn't belong. It's great if they do, but if they don't simply ask, "Is there something that shouldn't be here?"

## Explain

Santa wasn't part of the original Christmas, but became part of our Christmas Tradition many years later when a person named St. Nick brought gifts to people who were in need, sick, or suffering. So actually Saint Nick really wasn't at the manger scene. Actually the wise men weren't there either. They had a very long journey and only arrived later. They visited Jesus at his house, not in the stable.

## What to do

The children may notice that the Baby Jesus is missing from the nativity scene! That's Great! If they ask where Baby Jesus is, respond by asking "Are you sure Jesus should be there?" If they don't mention it ask, "Is anything missing?"





### Explain

Yes, the most important part of Christmas is the birth of Jesus. Some people seem to forget about Jesus. Sometimes they even focus more on Santa than on Jesus. But the birth of Jesus is the real reason we celebrate Christmas. Jesus was a gift from God - the greatest gift. And God sent him to help us! Jesus would grow up and one day shows us how much God really loves us!

### Application

- So this Christmas remember that the best gift was? JESUS.
- The reason we celebrate Christmas is? JESUS
- When someone asks you what you want for Christmas? Say - JESUS!

### Scripture References

None

### Keywords

Christmas, Advent, Nativity scene, manger scene, object Lesson, Children's Sermon, Holiday





# WINDOW CHRISTIANS

## Description

Mirror or Window Pain: Do we focus on self or focus on others.

## Resources

1. A small mirror
2. A piece of window pane glass.

## Discussion

1. These two objects that are both made from a flat piece of glass, yet they are quite different. Name some of the differences? (In one you see yourself. Through the other you see other things.)
2. As you go through the day are your thoughts more on yourself or on others?
3. Imagine living in a house where all the windows have been turned into mirrors. How would you like living there? You wouldn't be able to see outside. You wouldn't see the sun, the trees, the clouds, your friends walking by, or anything else. It would also make your house very dark as it is at night because no light can get through a mirror.
4. The same thing happens when you and I think mostly about ourselves. Life gets dark for us. We stop seeing the beautiful things around us and the exciting ways we could help other people. We only see ourselves.

## Application

God doesn't want us to always be focused on ourselves but to be focused on him and other people. God wants us to spend more time looking out for others than looking out for ourselves. When we spend more time thinking about what other people need and less time about our own wants and needs, we become happier more blessed people.

## Scripture References

None

## Keywords

focus, care, giving, self-centered



# WONDERFULLY CREATED

## Description

Does God have a personal and specific will for each person's life?

## Resources

Obtain various tools and accessories associated with different occupations.

*Some possibilities include:*

fireman's hat-fireman, police badge-policeman, sheriff badge-sheriff, cook's beater-cook, baker's hat-baker, basketball or sport's equipment-athlete, axe-woodsman, paintbrush-artist, stethoscope-doctor, briefcase-businessman, driver's license-driver or taxi driver, trowel-bricklayer, shovel-gardner, Bible-pastor, hammer-carpenter, Microphone- singer or speaker, telephone-secretary, bow tie-waiter, knife-butcher, ETC.

## What to do

Have participants match the items with the occupation.

## Discussion

1. What do you / did you want to be when you grow/ grew up.
2. Does God have a personal and specific will for each person's life?
3. Does he have a detailed blueprint for our life?
4. How much leeway do we have in submitting our personal choices?
5. Is everything predestined?
6. Does it include every detail relating to my life? If so, how do we discover it?

## Application

- End by discussing various things that Christians can do.
- Discuss the person each of us can become.
- Talk about the different roles in the church and how God might use some of the youth to accomplish these roles.

## Scripture References

Psalm 139:15. Before you were even a baby, God knew you and what you would become. God intimately knows us. He knows our thoughts, words, and deeds (v7-12). Verse 16 says God planned all your days, all your life, before you were ever even born. He had a plan for you before you even existed.

## Keywords

Purpose, God's will, Choices, Decisions, Destiny



# WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD



## Description

In grace, God gives us gifts not because we are good, but because HE is good. God is generous and treats us all alike.

## Resources

Obtain M&M (snack) rewards or other rewards like bookmarks etc. for everyone

## What to do

1. Begin by asking the children if they like to play 'Let's pretend'. Who do they like to pretend to be? Ask children what they would like to be when they grow up? Do any of them ever pretend to be servants? Would they like to be servants when they grow up? Probably not!
2. Announce that you are going to have a pretend game now and give out some jobs that some volunteers can pretend to do for you. Perhaps someone could pretend to clean your car. Someone else could pretend to cook your dinner. Others could make your bed, tidy your bookshelves, iron your clothes or whatever.
3. Come prepared with a list relevant to your situation.
4. Ask the rest to pretend to hang up your coat.
5. Call a halt to the proceedings, and announce that it is time for the payments to be made for the work done. Everybody receives one snack.

## Discussion

Talk about what has taken place and ask whether the children think it is fair that everybody received the same reward.

## Application

Sometimes life doesn't seem fair... but God is always fair. But I never told you I was going to give anyone a gift. I gave you a gift for helping me because I am a generous person. I didn't give it to you because you were good, but because I am good. God gives us gifts, not because we are good, but because HE is good.

## Scripture References

Story of the Workers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-15)

## Keywords

God's grace, God's gifts, salvation by grace, not by works



# YIELDING TO GOD

## Description

Puppets are an object lesson on yielding to God's hand at work in our lives.

## Resources

1. Paper lunch sacks or socks
2. Misc. materials needed to make puppets

## What to do

1. If you can obtain a puppet or two, bring them to your class. Using paper lunch sacks, or socks, provide children with materials to make puppets of their own.
2. Have children design and name their puppets. You might give them a couple of stories to act out with their puppets. Another option is to have the children each make the puppet introduce itself to the rest of the class. You might give awards for the most unusual, best dressed, funniest, puppets, etc.
3. After all the puppets have been created and all the kids have used them a bit, ask the children the following question: "Who decides what the puppet does, the puppet or the person who's hand is in the puppet?"

## Discussion

"Who decides what the puppet does, the puppet or the person whose hand is in the puppet?"

## Application

- Of course the puppet can't make any decisions. It can only do what the hand makes it do. Nothing can hold back God's "Hand" as He does what he pleases like a hand in a puppet. But God gives us some choices and we can resist the hand of God in our lives.
- Our task in doing God's will is to present ourselves to him (Romans 12:1&2) and to be filled with Him (Ephesians 5:18) so he can accomplish the tasks for which we were created. (Daniel 4:35, Proverbs 21:1)

## Scripture References

Romans 12:1&2, Ephesians 5:18, Daniel 4:35, Proverbs 21:1

## Keywords

Guidance, sovereignty on God, Providence of God, choices, decisions, yielding to God





# YO-YO'S



## Description

Life is full of ups and downs, mountains and valleys, depressions and mountaintop experiences, difficulties and triumphs.

## Resources

2 or 3 yo-yos

## What to do

1. Invite someone skilled with a yo-yo to give a demonstration.
2. And/ Or have a yo-yo competition and invite all who have yo-yo's to bring them to the meeting.

## Application

1. Each yo-yo looks a little different, but all yo-yos are made the same way.
2. Hold up a dangling yo-yo, string unwound. This string is attached to a post inside the yo-yo. When you hold on to your string and drop your yo-yo, the yo-yo spins up and down the string.
3. This yo-yo reminds me of the Christian life. God puts us down on earth. (Spin the yo-yo down.) We spin around for awhile, but eventually we need God's power to keep on spinning. (Take the yo-yo up). Like the string, we are connected to God by prayer and worship.
4. Even though we're on earth, God wants us to aim for the things in heaven. God wants us to remember that we belong to him. If we run out of strength down here (let the yo-yo stop its spin), God reaches down and gathers us back up (wind the yo-yo up). And one day God will take us up to heaven to be with him forever.
5. In the meantime, as Christian yo-yos we keep spinning around, living on earth (spin the yo-yo down), but always connected to God up in heaven (take the yo-yo up).

## Scripture References

None

## Keywords

Difficulties, Trials, Ups and Downs, Highs and Lows, Connected to God, God's Purpose, God's Will





# OBJECT LESSON IDEAS USING BIBLICAL IDIOMS

## **A drop in the bucket**

Isa 40:15

Water bucket or container with a coin or small object

## **A fly in the ointment**

Ecc 10:1

Antiseptic cream, hand cream, topical medicine

## **A man after my own heart**

1 Sam 13:14; Acts 13:22

Magnet

## **A thorn in the flesh**

2 Cor 12:7

A thorn, rose or a shoe and a small rock

## **All things must pass**

Matt 24:6-8

Calendar, clock

## **All things to all men**

1 Cor 9:22

Modelling clay, Play-doh, water takes the shape of any container

## **Apple of my eye**

Deut 32:10

An apple or other delicious fruit / food

## **As you sow, so shall you reap**

Gal 6:7

Seeds, garden tools

## **Ashes to ashes**

Gen 3:19

An urn, a tombstone, ashes

## **Can a leopard change its spots?**

Jer 13:23

Picture of a leopard or spotted animal, pet

## **Faith will move mountains**

Matt 21:21

Large pile of sand or gravel





**Fight the good fight**

1 Tim 6:12

Boxing gloves, martial arts robe, black belt, fencing gear

**For everything there is a season**

Ecc 3:1-8

Calendar, Christmas tree, Jack 'o' Lantern, leaf in autumn, ice, fresh sprout, flower, seasonal fruits

**From strength to strength**

Psa 84:7

Dumbbells, weights, chin-up bar

**Good Samaritan**

Luke 10:30-33

First aid kit, bandage

**It's better to give than to receive**

Acts 20:35

Gift-wrapped box, greeting card

**Let not the sun go down on your anger**

Eph 4:26

Picture of a sunset, teach the lesson at sunset

**Love of money is the root of all evil**

1 Tim 6:10

Credit card, cash, checkbook

**Love your neighbor as yourself**

Matt 22:39

Picket fence, mirror

**Man does not live by bread alone**

Matt 4:4

Bread, pastries, cake, pretzels

**Pearls before swine**

Matt 7:6

Pearl necklace, jewelry

**Sour grapes**

Eze 18:2

Sour grapes, vinegar, spoilt wine, flat carbonated drink





**The blind leading the blind**

Matt 15:14

Blindfold, walking cane, sunglasses

**The salt of the earth**

Matt 5:13

Salt

**The wages of sin is death**

Rom 6:23

Paycheck, Income tax return

**The writing is on the wall**

Dan 5:5-6

Graffiti, mural, poster

**To cast the first stone**

John 8:7

Rock, boulder







# OBJECT LESSON IDEAS USING NAMES OF GOD

## **Abba**

Romans 8:15

“Daddy”, necktie, baby photos with Father

## **Advocate**

Job 16:19; I John 2:1

Lawyer’s case file, witness stand, courtroom scene

## **All Seeing**

Genesis 16:13

Webcam

## **Alpha**

Revelation 1:8; 21:6; Revelation 22:13

Letter Alpha, Greek Alphabet

## **Amen**

Revelation 3:14

Hymn book open to a song ending with Amen,

## **Ancient of Days, Ancient One**

Daniel 7:9, 22; 13:21-22

Old things, antiques, pictures of ancestors, calendar, history book, old photos,

## **Anointed One**

Psalm 2:2; Acts 4:27,

Anointing Oil

## **Architect**

Hebrews 11:10

Level, plumb line, blueprints, square

## **Arm of the Lord, Everlasting arms**

Isaiah 53:1, Deuteronomy 33:26

Mannequin without arms, do things with arms behind back,

## **Atoning sacrifice**

I John 2:2

Fully Paid Receipt, Pardon

## **Author of life**

Acts 3:15

Books





### **Author of our Faith**

Hebrews 12:2  
Books

### **Banner**

Exodus 17:15, Isaiah 11:10  
Banners

### **Beauty**

Psalms 27:4  
Makeup Mirror

### **Beginning**

Revelation 21:6  
Ruler, racetrack, the number 1, Grocery List

### **Blessed and Holy Ruler**

1 Timothy 6:15  
King's scepter, robe, crown, throne, signet ring, seal

### **Branch**

Jeremiah 33:15, Isaiah 4:2  
Branch

### **Bread of God, Bread of Life**

John 6:33-35  
Various Breads,

### **Breath of the Almighty**

Job 32:8; 33:4  
Breathe on a mirror, Balloon, Blow out a candle,

### **Bridegroom**

Isaiah 62:56; Matthew 9:15  
Wedding dress, Wedding Photos

### **Bright Morning Star**

Revelation 22:16  
Star Chart, Telescope,

### **Brightness**

Psalms 18:12  
Flashlight, spotlight, magnifying glass focusing the sun,





### **Brother**

Hebrews 2:11

Photos of siblings

### **Builder**

Hebrews 11:10

Power Tools, saw, hammer, builder's square, plumb line, level, blueprint,

### **Carpenter**

Mark 6:3

Saw, wood, hammer, sandpaper, wood chisel,

### **Chief Shepherd**

1 Peter 5:4

Shepherd's staff, sheep

### **Chosen One**

Isaiah 42:1; Luke 23:35

Multiple choice test, Ask them to choose something, favorite ice cream, favorite personal object

### **Comforter**, Consolation of Israel

II Corinthians 1:4; John 14:26, Luke 2:25

Comforter (quilt), comfort food, comfortable chair, favorite pillow

### **Commander**

Joshua 5:15; Isaiah 55:4

Military Uniform, Uniform rank bars / stars

### **Consuming Fire**

Deut. 4:24; 9:3; Heb. 12:29

Fire, match, flash paper from a magic shop,

### **Cornerstone**

Isaiah 28:16

Church cornerstone, stone, brick, lego bricks

### **Counselor**

Isaiah 9:6

Book on counseling, White robe, straight-jacket, counseling chair

### **Covenant for the people**

Isaiah 42:6

Agreement, contract, guarantee





### **Covenant Maker**

Genesis 9:11; 15:18; Exodus 24:8; 34:10;27; 34: 27; Deuteronomy 5:2-3; 9:9; 29:1; 29:12; 29:14; 29:25; 31:16; 1 Kings 8:21; 2 Kings 11:17; 17:15 35; 38; 23:3; 2 Chronicles 6:11; 21:7; 29:10; 34:31; Ezra 10:3; Nehemiah 9:8; Psalm 50:5; 89:3; 55:3; 61:8; Jeremiah 11:10; 31:31-33 40; 34:13 15 18; Ezekiel 34:25; 37:26; Hosea 2:18; Zechariah 11:10  
Agreement, contract, guarantee

### **Creator**

Genesis 14:19 -22; Deuteronomy 32:6; Ecclesiastes 12:1; Isaiah 27:11; 40:28; 43:15; 45:18; 1 Peter 4:19  
Something you created, a watch

### **Cup**

Psalm 16:5  
Various cups and drinking glasses

### **Defender**

Psalm 68:5  
Shield, soldier

### **Defense / High Tower**

Psalm 18:2; 59:17; 144:2  
Tower, Jenga

### **Deliverance/Safety**

Psalm 25:5; Psalm 68:20  
Life jacket, life saver, first aid kit

### **Deliverer**

II Samuel 22:2; Psalm 18:2; Romans 11:26  
UPS, Fedex, Shipping container, Airplane, boat

### **Desired of all nations**

Haggai 2:7  
Name brand goods

### **Door**

John 10:7  
Door, Door knob, door keys

### **Dwelling Place, Dwelling, Habitation, Refuge, Den**

Psalm 90:1 cp Psalm 68:5 and 26:8; Deuteronomy 33:27  
Tent, House plans, photos of your house







### **Eagle that leads His people**

Deuteronomy 32:11

Eagle Feathers, photo of an eagle

### **End**

Revelation 21:6

last page of a book

### **Eternal**

Genesis 21:33; Psalm 90:1-3; 93:2; Isaiah 26:4; Jeremiah 10:10; Deut. 33:27

Infinity symbol, pi (3.14....), circle, recycle symbol

### **Everlasting Father**

Isaiah 9:6

Infinity symbol, pi (3.14....), circle, recycle symbol

### **Everlasting to Everlasting**

Nehemiah 9:5

Infinity symbol, pi (3.14....), circle, recycle symbol

### **Exceeding Joy**

Psalm 43:4

Laughter, Joke book, Smiley Face

### **Faithful**

Deuteronomy 7:9; Isaiah 49:7

Marriage Vows, Marriage Ring

### **Faithful and True**

Revelation 19:11

True or False Test, Fool's Gold and real gold

### **Faithful Witness**

Revelation 1:5

Witness Stand, Witness Oath, testimony, product endorsement

### **Familiar with suffering**

Isaiah 53:3

Handkerchief

### **Father**

Matthew 6:9; Matthew 11:25

Necktie, photos with Father,





### **Father of Promise**

Acts 1:4

Wedding Ring

### **Father of the Fatherless/Orphans**

Psalms 68:5

Adoption papers for pet, Picture of an orphanage, an adopted Child,

### **Fear/Terror/Dread of Isaac**

Genesis 31:42; 53

Scary Halloween Mask, horror movie, things that people are afraid of like spiders, etc,

### **Firstborn**

Rom.8:29; Rev.1:5; Col.1:15

Recognize firstborn children

### **First fruits**

1 Cor.15:20-23

Pristine fruits

### **Forgiveness**

Nehemiah 9:17; Psalm 99:8

Pardon, Paid receipt

### **Fortress/Bulwark**

2 Samuel 22:2; Psalm 18:2; 31:3; 71:3; 91:2; 144:2

Picture of a Castle, castle toy

### **Foundation**

I Corinthians 3:11

Building foundation, layer cake, play jenga on a pillow

### **Fountain of Life**

Psalms 36:9

Water fountain, water bottle

### **Friend**

Job 16:20, Matthew 11:19

Friendship ring or bracelet

### **Gardner**

John 15:1

Garden tools, potted plant, soil and seeds, pruning tools





### **Gate for the sheep**

John 10:7

Gate hinge, gate, sheep

### **Gentle Whisper**

1 Kings 19:12

Whisper as you teach, Keep Quiet Sign, hearing aid

### **Gently flowing Waters**

Isaiah 8:6

Stream, portable water fountain

### **Gift of God, Giver**

John 4:10, James 1:17

wrapped gift, gift certificate

### **Glorious Crown**

Isaiah 28:5; 62:3

Crown, Tiara

### **Glorious Sword**

Deuteronomy 33:29

Sword, Play sword, knife, letter opener

### **God of all Comfort**

II Corinthians 1:3

Comforter (quilt), comfort food, comfortable chair, favorite pillow

God of all the kingdoms of the earth

II Kings 19:15

World Map, Globe

### **God of Heaven and Earth**

Deuteronomy 4:39; Ezra 5:11

World map, map of the solar system

### **God of Knowledge**

1 Samuel 2:3; Job 36:26; Proverbs 2:5; Daniel 1:17

Bible, Encyclopedia, Have the lesson in a Library

### **God of Old**

Deuteronomy 33:27

Old things, antiques, pictures of ancestors, Past year's calendar, history book, old photos





### **God of our fathers**

Deuteronomy 26:7  
Pictures of ancestors

### **God of Peace**

Romans 16:20; I Thessalonians 5:23  
Peace symbol, dove

### **God of the Heavens**

Nehemiah 1:5; Psalm 136:26; Lamentations 3:41  
Map of the solar system, photos of the stars, starry night

### **God of Truth**

Psalm 31:5-6; Isaiah 65:16  
Lie detector, Fools God and real gold, fake pearls and real pearls, fake items and corresponding real items

### **God Over All**

Romans 9:5  
Teach it at a lookout point where you can see the whole city, aerial map

### **God Who Sees**

Genesis 16:13, Genesis 22:14  
Telescope, eye glasses, magnifying glass

### **God With Us**

Isaiah 7:14; 8:8  
Paperclip, safety pin, staple, zip tie

### **Good Shepherd**

John 10:11  
Sheep, shepherd's staff

### **Gracious**

Isaiah 30:18; Nehemiah 9:17  
Gifts, gift certificates

### **Great - Mighty Awesome God**

Deuteronomy 10:17; Nehemiah 9:32  
Guinness Book of World Records

### **Great High Priest**

Hebrews 4:14; Hebrews 3:1; Hebrews 6:20; 2:17; Hebrews 5:6  
Vestment, Clerical Collar, Senior Pastor







### **Great Shepherd**

Hebrews 13:20

Sheep, shepherd's staff

### **Guarantee**

II Corinthians 1:22; 5:5; Hebrews 7:22

Product Guarantee

### **Guide**

Psalm 48:14

Guidebooks, map, compass, directional signs, GPS

### **He who turns blackness into dawn**

Amos 5:8

Flashlight, spotlight

### **Head Lifter, Lifter of my head**

Psalm 3:3

Travel pillow for airplane

### **Head of the body - the church**

Colossians 1:12,18, Ephesians 5:23

Mannequin

### **Head over every power and authority**

Colossians 2:10

World Map

### **Healer**

Exodus 15:26; Psalm 103:3; Isaiah 30:26; 61:1; Jeremiah 3:22; 30:17

Bandage, First Aid Kit, Stethoscope, nurse's hat

### **Heart Searcher**

Romans 8:27; Revelation 2:23

Microscope, x-ray, magnifying glass

### **Heir of all things**

Hebrews 1:2

Will, deed,

### **Help in Trouble, Ever present Help**

Psalm 46:10, Hebrews 13:6, Psalm 10:14, Psalm 30:10

Lever, help line, 911, emergency sign, ambulance, EMS technician





### **Hiding place**

Psalm 32:7

Scavenger Hunt, Hide and Seek, Treasure Hunt, Word Search puzzle, find the hidden object in a picture

### **High God**

Micah 6:6

Measuring Tape, Height chart, step ladder

### **High Tower**

2 Samuel 22:3; Psalm 18:2; Psalm 59

Pictures of Skyscrapers

### **Him who is able to keep you from falling**

Jude 24

**Safety net, climbing gear, walker, cane**

### **Holy, Holy One; Our holiness**

Leviticus 11:44; Joshua 24:19; I Samuel 2:2; Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8; Isaiah 49:7; Isaiah 43:15; Luke 1:35; I John 2:20; Acts 2:27; Leviticus 19:2; Joshua 24:19; Isaiah 5:16; 40:25; I Corinthians 1:30; 2 Kings 19:22; Psalm 71:22; 78:41; 89:18; Isaiah 1:4; 5:19; 5:24; 10:20; 12:6; 17:7; 29:19; 30:11-12; 15; 31:1; 37:23; 41:14;16; 20; 43:3 14; 48:17  
Cleaning supplies, sterilized bandages,

### **Home**

Psalm 84:3&4; Psalm 90:1

Tent, House plans, photos of your house,

### **Hope**

Psalm 71:5; Titus 2:13

Wish list

### **Horn of Salvation**

II Samuel 22:3; Psalm 18:2; Luke 1:69

Animal's horn

### **Husband**

Hosea 2:16

Wedding pictures, groom

### **Image of God**

2 Cor. 4:4; Hebrews 1:3

Mirror





Immanuel, God with Us

Matthew 1:23

Paperclip, safety pin, staple, zip tie

### **Immortal**

I Timothy 1:17

Tombstone, cemetery

### **Indescribable Gift**

II Corinthians 9:15

Gifts, gift certificates

### **Inheritance**

Ezekiel 44:28

Will, deed

### **Intercessor**

Job 16:20; Isaiah 53:12; Romans 8:26

Bridge, power cord, water hose, things that connect two things together, lawyer, case file

### **Invisible**

I Timothy 1:17

Invisible ink, watermark

### **Judge**

Genesis 18:25; Psalm 7:18; 96:13; Isaiah 33:22; Acts 10:42; Acts 10:42; Psalm 94:12; II Corinthians 5:10; II Timothy 4:8

Judge robes, Gavel

### **Keeper**

Psalm 121:7; John 10:29

Goal Keeper's mitt, safety deposit box key

### **Key-holder**

Revelation 1:18

Key ring

### **King**

Psalm 5:2; 24:7; 29:10; 44:4; 47:6-8; 48:2; 68:24; 74:12; 95:3; 97:1; 99:4; 146:10; Isaiah 5:1; 5; 41:21; 43:15; 44:6; 52:7; 10; Psalm 24:7; 44:4; 47:7; 74:12; 95:3; Jeremiah 10:10; Daniel 4:37; Zechariah 9:9; 1 Timothy 1:17; 1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 15:3

King's scepter, robe, crown, throne,





**Knows us**

Psalm 139:1  
X-ray

**Lamb of God**

John 1:29; 1 Cor. 5:7  
Lamb

**Lamp**

II Samuel 22:29  
Lamps

**Lawgiver**

Isaiah 33:22; James 4:12  
Ten commandment tablets, speeding ticket, law book

**Light**

Psalm 27:1; Isaiah 60:19-20; John 8:12; I John 1:5  
Flashlight, light

**Like an Eagle**

Deut. 32:11  
Eagle Feathers, picture of an eagle

**Lily of the Valley**

Song of Songs 2:1  
Lily

**Lion of the tribe of Judah**

Revelation 5:5  
Lion

**Life, Living God, God of Life**

Deuteronomy 5:26; Joshua 3:10; 1 Samuel 17:26; 36; 2 Kings 19:16;  
Psalm 42:2; 84:2; Isaiah 37:4; 17; Jeremiah 10:10; 23:36; Daniel 6:20;  
26; Hosea 1:10; John 14:6; I John 5:20; Colossians 3:4

**Living plant**

**Living Stone**

I Peter 2:4-7  
Stone, Chia Pet

**Living Water**

John 4:10; 7:38; Jeremiah 2:13  
Water fountain, water bottle







**Lord Most High**

Psalm 7:17

Measuring Tape, Height chart

**Love**

1 John 4:8

Heart

**Maker**

Psalm 95:6; Isaiah 44:2; Psalm 146:6; Jeremiah 10:16

Modeling Clay

**Man of Sorrows**

Isaiah 53:3

Handkerchief

**Manna**

John 6:49&50

Bread, Marshmallows

**Mediator**

1 Timothy 2:5

Bridge, power cord, water hose, things that connect two things together, lawyer, case file

**Messenger of the Covenant**

Malachi 3:1

Mailbox, addressed envelop

**Mighty**

Genesis 49:23-26 24; Deuteronomy 10:17; Psalm 132:2; Isaiah 1:24; 49:26; 60:1; Isaiah 60:16

Exercise Weights, dumbbells

**Mighty Hero**

Isaiah 9:6; Nehemiah 9:32

Superhero comics, costumes

**Morning Star**

II Peter 1:19; Revelation 22:16

Star Chart, Telescope

**Name above all names**

Philippians 2:9&10

Attendance Chart, Phonebook





### **Offering and sacrifice to God**

Ephesians 5:20; Romans 8:3  
Offering bag or plate

### **Omega**

Revelation 1:8; Revelation 22:13  
Greek letter, Greek Alphabet

### **One**

Deuteronomy 6:4; 20:4; 31:3; 32:39; 1 Samuel 2:2; 2 Samuel 7:22; 1  
Chronicles 17:20; Psalm 55:19; 113:5; Isaiah 45:21; 46:9; 64:4; Malachi  
2:10; 15,  
#1

### **One and Only Son**

John 1:14; 3:16  
#1, which object doesn't belong

### **One greater than Solomon**

Matthew 12:42  
Greater than sign ">"

### **Owner**

II Corinthians 1:22  
Owner's Manual, Deed to property

### **Pardoner**

Micah 7:18, Pardon, Paid receipt, open handcuffs

### **Parent**

Deuteronomy 32:18; Psalm 90:2; Proverbs 26:10; Isaiah 45:10  
Pictures of Parents, family photos

### **Pasture**

Jeremiah 50:7  
Green Field

### **Patient**

II Peter 3:9; Romans 9:22  
stopwatch, boil water

### **Peace**

Judges 6:24; Ephesians 2:14  
Peace symbol, dove





### **Physician**

Luke 4:23

Bandage, First Aid Kit, Stethoscope, Hospital Sign, Medical symbol

### **Portion**

Psalm 119:57; Psalm 73:26

Pizza slice

### **Possession**

Ezekiel 44:28

Deed to property, things you own

### **Possessor of Heaven and Earth**

Genesis 14:19; 22

Deed to property

### **Potter**

Isaiah 64:8; Romans 9:21

Pottery, Molding Clay, Potter's Wheel

### **Power of God**

I Corinthians 1:24

Electrical Cord, Battery, power screwdriver vs normal screwdriver

### **Praise**

Psalm 109:1, Psalm 22:3

Song Book, Hymnal

### **Protector/Defender of Widows**

1 Peter 2:25; Genesis 15:1; Psalm 27:1; 18:2; 3:3; 91:2; 31:2; 40:17; 144:2; 46:11; 62:2; 37:39; 71:3; 28:7-8; 33:20; 31:4; 54:4; 68:5; 84:9; 71:6; 46:7; 115:10; 115:9; 59:11; 18:30; 119:114; 115:11; 59:9; 18:18

Umbrella, shield

### **Purifier**

Malachi 3:3

Water purifier, water purifying tablets, filter,

### **Quieter**

Psalm 23:2; Zephaniah 3:17

Ear plugs

### **Rabbi**

John 3:2; John 20:16

Teacher's apple





### **Radiance of Gods Glory**

Hebrews 1:3

Crystal Chandelier

### **Ransom**

I Timothy 2:6

Money

### **Reaper**

Revelation 14:15

Sickle

### **Redeemer**

Genesis 48:16; Job 19:25; Psalm 19:14; 78:35; Proverbs 23:11; Isaiah 41:14; 43:14; 44:6; 24; 47:4; 48:17; 49:7; 26; Isaiah 54:5; 8; 59:20;

60:16; 63:16; Jeremiah 50:34; Job 19:25; Psalm 19:14

Redemption coupon

### **Refiner, Refiner's Fire**

Malachi 3:3

Crucible, fire

### **Refuge; Refuge from the storm**

Psalm 14:6; 46:1; 62:7-8; 71:7; 91:2,9; 9:9 94:22; 142:5; Proverbs

14:26; Isaiah 25:4

Umbrella, tent, tarp

### **Restorer**

Psalm 51:12; Lamentations 6:21; I Peter 5:10

Hair restorer, upholstery restorer, wood restorer, picture of restored painting compared to original

### **Resurrection and the Life**

John 11:25

Cross, plant

### **Revealer of Mysteries**

Daniel 2:28-29

Question Mark Symbol “?”

### **Reward**

Genesis 15:1

Reward Poster







### **Rock**

Deuteronomy 32:18; Psalm 18:2; 42:9; 144:1; Isaiah 30:29; 1 Cor.10:4;  
I Peter 2:8

Rock or stone, flagstone

### **Root and offspring of David**

Revelation 22:16

Root

### **Rose of Sharon**

Song of Songs 2:1

Roses

### **Royal Diadem**

Isaiah 28:5; 62:3

Chandelier

### **Ruler of God's Creation**

Rev. 3:14; Micah 5:2; Revelation 1:5

World map, crown, scepter, king's robe, throne

### **Salvation, Savior**

Psalm 62:1; Isaiah 12:2; Psalm 38:22; Exodus 15:2; Psalm 27:1; John  
4:42; Acts 13:23; I Timothy 4:14; Luke 2:11; Isaiah 43:3; 49:26

Life jacket, life saver, first aid kit

### **Sanctuary**

Isaiah 8:14

Church, church steeple

### **Scepter out of Israel**

Numbers 24:17

Scepter

### **Seal**

Ephesians 1:13

Seals, signet ring, notary seal

### **Secret/Hiding Place**

Psalm 31:20; 32:7; 61:4; 91:1; 119:114

Scavenger Hunt, Hide and Seek, Treasure Hunt, Word Search puzzle,  
find the hidden object in a picture,



**Seed**

Genesis 3:15  
Seeds

**Seeker**

Psalms 119:176; Luke 15:4; 19:10, metal detector,

**Servant**

Isaiah 42:1; 53:11; Acts 4:27  
Towel and basin

**Shade**

Psalms 121:5  
Shade tree, silver umbrella, wide brim hat,

**Shelter**

Psalms 31:20; 61:4; 91:1  
Umbrella, tent, tarp

**Shepherd**

Genesis 48:15; 49:24; Psalms 23:1; 79:13; 80:1; 95:7; 100:3; Isaiah 40:11; I Peter 2:25; John 10:11; Hebrews 13:20  
Shepherd's staff, sheep

**Shield or Buckler**

Genesis 15:1; Psalms 3:3; 18:2; 30  
Shield

**Song**

Psalms 118:14  
Hymn book open to a song ending with Amen

**Source**

Hebrews 5:9  
Battery, power cord

**Sower**

Matthew 13:3  
Seed, gardening tools

**Star out of Jacob**

Numbers 24:17  
Star Chart, Telescope





### **Stone**

1 Peter 2:8; Genesis 49:24; 2 Samuel 23:3; Isaiah 8:14; 30:29; I Peter 2:7

Stones, rocks

### **Strength**

Exodus 15:2; 1 Chronicles 16:11; 27-28; Job 12:16; Psalm 18:1; 21:1; 13; 28:7-8; 29:1; 11; 46:1; 59:9; 17; 62:7; 68:34-35; 73:26; 74:13-14; 81:1; 86:16; 89:17; 93:1; 6-7; 105:4; 118:4; 132:8; 140:7; Isaiah 12:2; 45:24; 49:5; 62:8; Jeremiah 16:19; Micah 5:4; Psalm 22:19

Exercise Weights, dumbbells

### **Stronghold**

II Samuel 22:3; Psalm 9:9; 27:1; 84:11; Psalm 43:2

Picture of a Castle, castle toy

### **Sun of Righteousness**

Malachi 4:2

Picture of a sunset or sunrise

### **Sustainer**

Psalm 55:22; Isaiah 46:4

Life support system, crutches

### **Teacher**

Mark 9:17; John 3:2; John 13:13

Teacher's apple

### **The First**

Isaiah 44:6

Ruler, racetrack, the number 1, Grocery List

### **The Last**

Isaiah 44:6; Revelation 22:13

Last page of a book

### **The Name**

Leviticus 24:11

Phone Book

### **Thirst quencher**

John 4:13&14

Gatorade of energy drink





### **Tower of Salvation**

2 Samuel 22:51; Psalm 61:3; Psalm 61:3; Proverbs 18:10  
Tower, Jenga

### **Trap and snare**

Isaiah 8:14  
Mousetrap, fish hook, crab trap, snare, roach trap

### **Treasure**

II Corinthians 4:7; Colossians 2:3  
Treasure map, scavenger hunt, treasure chest

### **Truth**

John 14:6  
True or False Test, Fool's Gold and real gold

### **Unchanging**

James 1:17  
Pencil Eraser, correction fluid, permanent marker,

### **Unique son of God**

John 3:16  
One of a kind items, which object doesn't belong

### **Very Great Reward**

Genesis 15:1  
Reward Poster,

### **Victor**

Psalm 45:4; I Corinthians 15:54  
Medal, award ribbon

### **Vine**

John 15:5  
Vine

### **Voice of the Lord**

Psalm 29:3  
Megaphone, microphone

### **Warrior**

Exodus 15:3  
Toy Soldier







**Watcher of Mankind**

Job 7:20

Spy glasses, binoculars

**Way**

John 14:6

Map, path, GPS; guidebooks, compass, directional signs

**Word**

John 1:1; Revelation 19:13

Bible, dictionary



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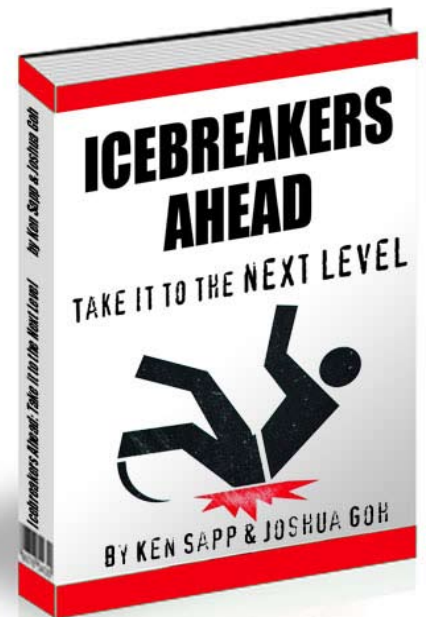
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- **The Blacksmith’s Shop: Tools to be Used by God** - The blacksmith begins to pound, envisioning what the tool was planned for, making it sharper, more durable, useful. The pounding and melting down of the metal is not comfortable or easy. Change is never easy, but over time the flaws are removed, the cracks are filled, and the impurities are burned away. The dull becomes sharp. The crooked becomes straight. The weak becomes strong. The useless becomes useful. Then we are plunged into water & the moldable becomes the strong tool to be used!
- **The Christian Frontier: Becoming Christlike** - What is the new frontier for new believers? In actuality it is as much the journey as the destination, but the ultimate aim for all believers is to become Christlike in character, attitudes and actions.
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# A Whale of a Tale?



Jonah could be called the “Reluctant Evangelist.” “Don’t send me to Ninevah? God, you mean I have to love them and preach to them so that they can be spared your wrath? They don’t deserve your grace! Can’t you send someone else?” For whatever reason, we are often reluctant witnesses ourselves. We have our own prejudices. And like Jonah, sometimes God has to get our attention, sometimes in dramatic ways in order to impress upon us his heart for the lost.

This Bible Study series uses the life of Jonah to teach the basic truths of obedience to God’s call to be an evangelist to the lost. By looking at one man’s personal story, we see not only God’s teaching but a practical example often reflecting our own struggles and difficulties. Because it is easy for us to relate, God’s truth becomes much more real and personal!

You’ll explore how principle characters probably felt and how they responded. Then you’ll explore how each of us would also feel and respond in similar circumstances. We are able to see Jonah from beginning to end, his disobedience and his obedience, his faults and his triumphs, his bad attitudes and his good ones.

Student questions take the form of multiple choice with options. At times the options provided are seem humorous and while we might laugh or shake our head at Jonah’s actions, we will soon realise we do the same things ourselves. Each key point takes the form of a rhyme and is applied both to Jonah’s situation and to ours.

This ebook is in an downloadable format (PDF) format that includes both a teacher’s guide and student worksheets. You can have it in mere minutes. The Teacher’s guide explains the options and comes with an additional commentary on the book of Jonah. Student worksheets are found at the end of the teacher’s guide and are intended to be printed on three sheets of letter-size paper (front and back) and folded in half. Make as many copies as you need of the teacher’s guide and student worksheets. It couldn’t be easier!



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# Who Do You Say that I Am?

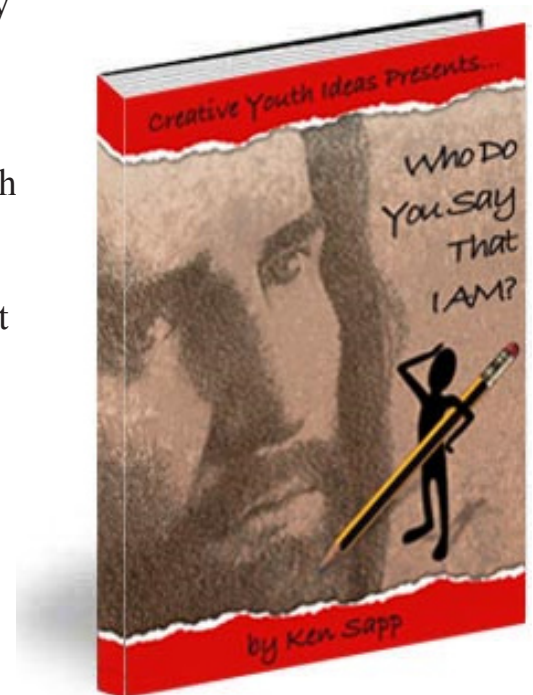
Jesus asked the disciples, "Who do others say that I am?" It was easy to answer because it required no conviction, no commitment, and no risk. But then he follows that question with another, "Who do YOU say that I am?"

It was a simple but profound question and one that each of us must still answer today. Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God." Then Jesus responded, "Blessed are you. . . . For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven." It was a defining moment for Peter and he would spend the rest of his life figuring out what that answer meant for who he was and how he lived.

Jesus was many things to many different people. Certainly if you are the Alpha and Omega, you must be everything in between! In these lessons and activities, my objective is to bring each participant, teacher and student, into a functional relationship with Jesus Christ so that each person KNOWS who Christ is to him or her.

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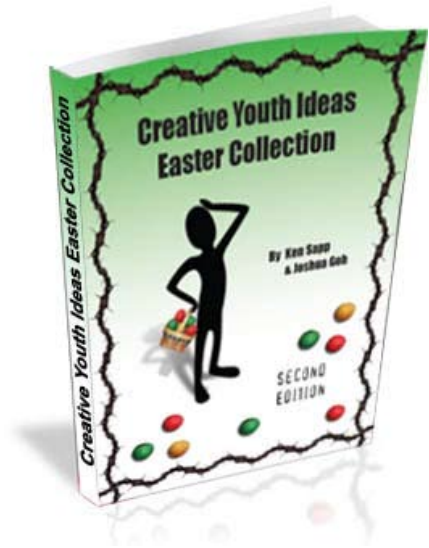
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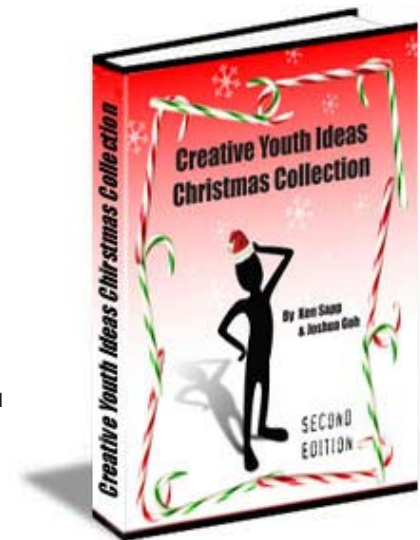
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You will get more than 200 ideas including games, icebreakers, devotions, illustrations, object lessons and MUCH MORE!

This is an electronic book (e-book) that can be downloaded to your computer in a flash. Which means you can be reading it and discovering all these wonderful ideas in as little as 5 minutes from now.

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