

TEACH WITH MAGIC by rick lenski

Books #1

“Teach with Magic” contains object lessons taught from my lecture notes with the titles of, “Bible Object Lessons with a Magical Twist”, “More Bible Lessons with a Magical Twist”, “Much More Bible Lessons with a Magical Twist” and “Teach With Magic #2”.

God no longer amazes me at what he is doing in the lives my wife and myself. We should never be surprised by His miracles because he is God and nothing is impossible for God.

Early on when learning Gospel Magic and how to use it properly, we quickly learned that the message is more important than the method used to deliver it. In developing ideas for teaching, I must stress we must always be certain that the message we deliver can stand on it's own. NEVER, NEVER depend on the trick to carry your message. Work thoroughly; develop the message, then practice, practice. Practice your delivery and put it into an entertaining and attention-getting manner. Make it simple, make it fun, and make it the truth.

Back on the entertainment idea, many of the people I have come across say we are not there to entertain the children, but WE MUST TEACH THEM! Yes we must teach them, but we must be excited about what we teach when we are teaching. Let them know that serving God is fun and being a Christian is the best thing for them. Lose them with a poor presentation or a lack of enthusiasm and they will never hear the message you have prepared for them. But capture their attention and you can give them the “good news” of Jesus Christ.

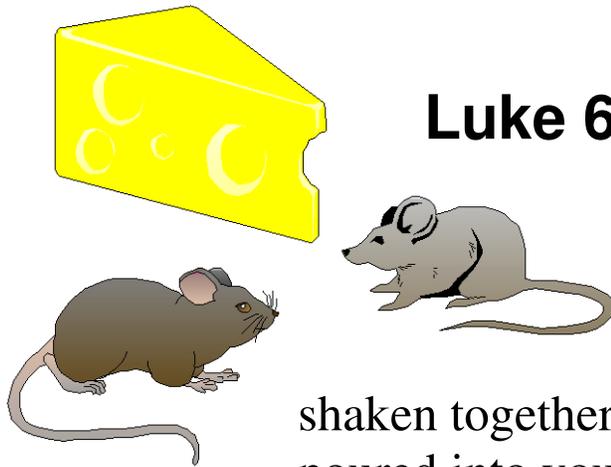
God has truly blessed us during the years we have been teaching. He has given us ideas and a joy in serving. We are grateful to be able to share these ideas with others because God did not give them to us to keep but to share. After all, they are His ideas, not mine. We hope these notes will encourage you to teach with magic and perhaps start to create your own lessons. Don't feel confined if you don't have a particular trick-be creative and learn to substitute. Feel free to use these ideas and adapt them to your style but most important of all have fun serving the Lord-I know we do. In Philippians we read, “I can do all things through Christ...” and that is so true. If you accept God and His word, step out and do it He will be faithful to use you and your talents beyond your wildest dreams.

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Sharing Luke 6:38 & Luke 10:30-37

Reference: “Give and it will be given to you, a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Needed: Square circle or change bag, one small bag of M&M candy and one large bag of M&M candy. The size of the square circle or change bag you will be using will determine the size of the large bag of candy.

Note: I combine the above verses to teach our class about sharing (giving and receiving). After reading the story about the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37) and the verse in Luke 6:38, we use the following message to reinforce the lesson.

LESSON

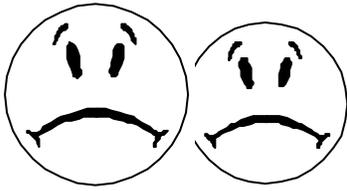
(At this time the square circle is put out for use.) Everybody likes candy. I do. This is my candy store, but there is one small problem with it. It's empty! But don't fear, here comes my delivery truck. (Bring the insert for the square circle, with both bags of candy inside, and put it into the square and produce the small bag of bag of candy.) Now we have a candy store filled with candy and an empty delivery truck. (Show the empty tube and put it back into the squared circle to hide the hidden load tube, which still contains the large bag of M&M's. Call up 4 or 5 helpers with the instructions that you will give them each some M&M's but they cannot eat them until you say they can. Put the remainder of the small bag back into the store, and then show the tube again empty.) I don't know what happened to all that candy, but all the candy we have left now is what is in your hands. Now you can eat them. (Look longingly at them and keep commenting they sure look

good. I bet they must taste good too.) Well you just enjoy them. (Invariably a child will come up and offer to share their M&M's with you. Its best to have a teacher or another adult in the group because if a child fails to share with you, the adult will, but I have never have had this fail on me. A child always shares with me. I guess I look like I need a chocolate fix to them.)

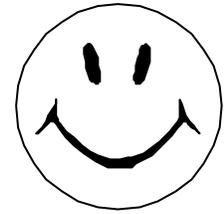
(Thank all the children and send them all back to their seats except for the one who shared with you.) Today we listened to the story of the Good Samaritan. This young (boy/girl) heard what was said and learned from the message of the lesson. The lessons of sharing your love, time, and material with others in need. (Now produce the remainder of the M&M's and give them to the children as a reward.)

Boys and girls, God's word is true and He will give back to you more, much more, than you could ever give to Him. Maybe the reward is not immediate as it was when (name of child) received the reward of the candy, but God will reward you someday, somehow, even if it is in heaven. (Discuss the Good Samaritan and his reward. Discuss what motivates us to give, and that we give out of love and not for the reward.)

FINAL NOTE: At first we used a change bag for the lesson. I found it to be very noisy because the candies rattled inside the bag when it was turned inside out. What really surprised me is the fact that no one even noticed the noise and even if they hear it, they don't associate with the trick. Whenever using food or candy for a reward, be careful about serving children with allergies or if they are too small to handle the candy or food given out. Safety first!



DON'T LET OTHERS DRAG YOU DOWN



II CORINTHIANS 6:14

REFERENCE: “Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?”

NEEDED: Sponge balls: Including a Growing Ball, Ball to Jumbo Square, several different sponge balls of different colors and sizes and a tray.

NOTE: Sponge balls are easy to work with and the above tricks easily mastered.

LESSON

(Hold up a sponge ball) Does anyone know what this is? That is right it is a “Nerf ball”. Does anyone know how they make them? Well, I will tell you. They grow them. It seems as if you don’t believe me. Let me show you how they grow them. They take seeds like this, plant them, (Push the ball into your hand, open your hand and let it grow) and when they reach the right size, they pick them, (Pick it from your hand.) and they are ready to play with. (Put this ball away and bring out the other balls on a tray.) See we now have all different balls here of all different colors and sizes. Sometimes when these things grow, (Push Ball to Jumbo Square into your hand.) they come out different like this one. (Put square on the tray with the other balls.) You can see how different this one is.

You know as I look at these balls, I notice they come in different shapes and sizes, just like people come in different shapes and sizes. Why look at all the people on this tray. (Slowly begin to tilt the tray from side to side to get the balls moving but still staying on the tray.) Look at them following each other around, just like some people do. At least they are all following each other except for this

square one here. This one is not tied to or yoked to the others - it doesn't follow the others around. We find in II Corinthians 6:14 it says, "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common?"

This ball is different from the others. It stands out. It is just like Christians around nonchristians. No, we are not squares, we just stand out. You as a Christian are different. Your values are different. These others will run and chase after the world and the things of the world, but the world will only bring them down. (Start having the balls fall off the tray.) And if you are yoked to them you will go down too.

Don't let them drag you down, stand firm in God, stand firm in your beliefs. Be a witness for God and don't let them pull you down with them.

Friends

Mat 22:38, I Cor 7:7, Mat 16:25

REFERENCE: Make a friend, be a friend, lead that friend to Christ.

NEEDED: Make a sign out of paper or card stock as indicated in the drawing at the end of this lesson. Start with only the letter "I" exposed and expose each additional letter as indicated by the patten.



LESSON

(Show "I") Everyone say "I". Everything you do begins with you. Everyone say, "I am responsible for what I do and for what kind of friend I am."

(Show "ID") Psychologists say your innermost self is call the "ID". It is what drives you to do what you do. Matthew 22:38 says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and mind." This is what should drive us as Christians. We love the Lord and should try to serve him and please him in everything we do. The Lord should be the driving force of our ID.

(Show "IND") "IND" stands for individual. We are all special and equal in the eyes of God but we are all different and unique in our own special way. We read in I Corinthians' 7:7, "each person has their own gifts from God." We all have different talents and gifts we use to serve God and we use to reach our friends and others for the Lord.

(Show "FIND") Your friends may need help in finding the Lord and you may be that guide God uses for that purpose. Finding eternal life is the focus of Matthew 16:25. It says, "For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will find eternal life." If you are going to find something, I say there is no better thing to find than eternal life with God.

(Show FIEND) Back in the fifties, a low budget monster movie was made and it was titled, "Fiend without a Face." It was about a large flying brain made up of about fifty pounds of rubber and it tried to control the minds of people. It floated throughout the movie, with the aid of wires, and caused all sorts of problems. It had no face and was supposed to be scary. Now when I look back at it, I can see how really stupid it looked. That is just like the devil who is always tempting and teasing us in his own little deceptive ways. He never comes out and says, "Hi, I'm the devil and I am here to tempt you." No he is sneaky and deceptive. He is truly a fiend without a face.

(Show FRIEND) Are you a real friend or a fiend? Are you leading your friends to Christ or away from Him. Some groups of Christians I know have a motto: "Make a friend, be a friend, lead that friend to Christ." What better gift can you give your friend than eternal life? What kind of friend are you? Look at yourself. It all starts with "I".





FIRE FROM HEAVEN

I Kings 18:17 & Psalm 145:3

Reference: Elijah and the prophets off Baal.

“Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.”

NEEDED: Flash paper (approximately 8"X 9"), sheet of typing paper with the above verse printed on it, fake brick, rock or imaginary building materials. A pitcher of confetti or streamers, small sticks, (I use Popsicle sticks) matches and I use a small carton that makes a mooing sound, like a cow, for fun.

SET-UP: Take the typing paper with the verse as found in Psalm 145:3 and fold it up tightly into a small three inch square. Hide this in a pocket or area where you can pick it up without being noticed. The fake brick, stone or imaginary building materials will be for a volunteer to build an altar. Fill the pitcher with confetti or streamers. This will be dumped onto the altar and the child just as Elijah drenched the altar three times. Handle the pitcher so it appears to really have water in it.

DANGER: Flash paper is EXTREMELY FLAMMABLE and MUST be used with caution. Practice with it. Author assumes no liability for the use and/or misuse of flash paper.

LESSON

Today children we are going to learn about a prophet whose name was Elijah. Elijah was a man who loved and followed the Lord. I need a volunteer to help me. Who will be my Elijah? (Select a volunteer and after you ask them their name, say I asked for an Elijah, you are not Elijah. Well from now on your name is Elijah.) Elijah, you were sent to see Ahab, the king of Israel, by God. Your job

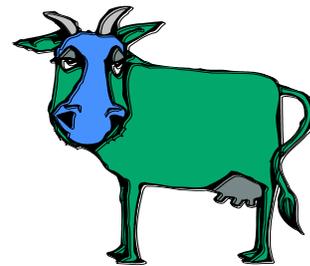
was to straighten out King Ahab and the people of Israel. They were not worshipping the one true God but a false god named “Baal.” Now you, Elijah, confronted King Ahab and challenged his prophets to a test. This test would prove which god is the right and real God. Is it the Lord? Or is it Baal? OK, Elijah, tell them what happened. (Turn to the child and asked them what happened? Usually they don’t know, but if they do, let them help you tell the story. Have the child repeat key parts of the story with you and keep asking them what happened next. You can have fun with this. Get them involved.)

Elijah said to King Ahab, “Your prophets and I will each build an altar, put wood and a sacrifice on it and the first god that sends fire down to consume the wood and sacrifice is the one true God. I will even let you losers go first.”

Now the prophets built their altar, put wood and their sacrifice on it and marched round and round and round it and crying and crying to Baal and you know what happened? Right, NOTHING. Nothing happened because Baal was not and is not the one true God. Elijah said, “Maybe your god is sleeping and you didn’t yell loud enough to wake him. Hey, maybe he is on vacation.” Then Elijah laughed and began to build his altar. (Have your volunteer begin to build their altar and half way through, stop them. Say you want them to remember the moment and you want to draw a picture of them on the flash paper. Draw just a terrible picture. Everyone will laugh at it. Now crumble the picture up and put it aside, you will need it later. IMPORTANT MOVE: when crumpling the paper, wrap it around the paper with the verse on it. Have them continue building and finishing up with the sticks for the fire.)

Well, Elijah you have built a wonderful altar, the fire wood is ready but there is something missing. What could it be? I know-who brought the cow? (At this time, I use a novelty milk carton that sounds like a cow when it is turned over.)

We are ready except for one more thing. You Elijah, like a challenge, don’t you? You wanted to make this hard, didn’t you? Tell everyone what you did. Right, you wanted to make this hard by dousing your altar with



water. Once? Twice? No, you doused your altar three times. Stay right there. I have some water over here. (Get the water pitcher, walk toward them and pretend to trip and dump the confetti on them and the altar.)

Elijah then called to God for fire from heaven. Do you children want to see what that fireball looked like? How about you Elijah? OK, stand right there next to your altar and don't move. (Walk some distance away pretending you don't want to be hit by the fireball.) Elijah, now ask for God to send fire. (They will call for the fire, stand there and look up for a while.) Then turn toward the other children and say, "I guess now is not the time or the place for the fire but you still want to see that fireball, don't you?" (They of course will say yes. Pick up the crumpled piece of flash paper, with the paper and verse inside of it.) Because you all laughed at my drawing, we will use it to make the fireball.

Elijah, I am going to light this paper and throw it up into the air. It will burst into a fireball and when it comes down you catch it so it won't mess up this nice floor. (They will balk at catching any fire and rightly so. Have them use a trash can or anything else you can find. In the end, tell them to stand there and just watch. You do not want them to run after the burning flash paper. **AGAIN, A VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: Practice lighting and throwing flash paper. SAFETY FIRST!!!!** You want the flash paper to be completely consumed before it even comes near the floor. **NEVER** throw it directly at the child. Check for low ceilings or other flammable material. A good idea is to locate a fire extinguisher and have it handy. Light the paper and throw it into the air. The flash paper will burn so fast that the paper inside will not burn and fall to the ground.) Elijah, what fell out of the fire? Get it and see what it is. (Have them read it out loud.)



it handy. Light the paper and throw it into the air. The flash paper will burn so fast that the paper inside will not burn and fall to the ground.) Elijah, what fell out of the fire? Get it and see what it is. (Have them read it out loud.) "GREAT IS THE LORD AND GREATLY TO BE PRAISED."

Turn to the children and say, "You know boys and girls the Lord proved He was and is the One True God. He sent Elijah, provided for him to be His witness to the people of Israel. Because Elijah was faithful, God showed everyone who He

was and the people of Israel were amazed and fell on their faces and praised the one and only TRUE GOD.

FINAL SAFETY NOTE: USE FLASH PAPER ONLY WITH EXTREME CARE AND PRACTICE. IF YOU ARE A MINOR, GET YOUR PARENTS PERMISSION AND HELP.

Just Ask

Isaiah 64:5-6a & Salvation

Reference: “...How can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags.”

NEEDED: Small trick called “Lollipops.” This is a simple fake sucker with two ends on it. Each end has two different colors (flavor) on it and by turning it properly you can make it seem as if you have four different flavors of suckers in a bag. You should also have a real sucker handy for a reward.



NOTE: This is a simple salvation lesson that also works well as a walk-around for a clown or for street witnessing.

LESSON

(Ask for a volunteer.) Do you like suckers? I do. In this bag, (Shake it so it seems there are several in the bag.) Let me give you one. There are several different flavors in this bag and I will give you a choice. Let's see. I have Lemon. Do you like lemon? (Put it back into the bag.) I have cherry. (Show it and put it into the bag.) There is also grape, and we have lime. You know lime is my favorite and I will keep this one. (Put the sucker in your pocket and now the bag is empty.) You know, I think I will just give you the whole bag. Is there something wrong? The bag, it's empty? How did that happen? You went through all that trouble and got nothing.

That reminds me of how it works in the kingdom of God. People try to work so hard to get into heaven and you know what? God says all our works are like filthy rags. We can never work our way into heaven. Our salvation, our entering into heaven can never be earned because it is free. The blood of Jesus has already paid it for. He paid the price for us and the only thing we have to do to get into heaven is to ask. Ask, Jesus into your heart, ask Him to be Lord of your life and heaven is free for the asking.

Do you still want that sucker? All you have to do is ask, no work, just ask. (Give your volunteer a real sucker for a reward. Thank the child, send them back to their seats and continue on with a discussion of salvation.)

ARE YOU A MEDIATOR OR A FACILITATOR?

I Timothy 2:5

REFERENCE: “For there is one God and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus.”

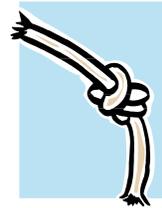


NOTE: Six to eight feet of rope, knowledge of the performance of “cut & restored rope” trick and a sign to hang around a person’s neck that reads “GOD.”

NOTE: During our prayers in class we found many of the children were directing their prayers toward the teachers instead of taking them directly to God. We used the following object lesson to help children to understand that they can that their prayer request to God. Within the next few weeks we did see a change in many of their prayers. It was a pleasure to be cut out of that loop.

LESSON

I need two volunteers. (Choose two children.) You will be God. (Put “GOD” sign on them. Usually I stand them on a chair so they will be higher up than the other child.) You will represent God in heaven for you and us, (other child) will represent all the other children here. We will let this rope be our prayer line to heaven. When we pray and talk with God, we have a direct line to God. But sometimes there is a problem. (Take rope away from the children and perform the “cut & restored rope trick” and give it back to them.) Now what has happened to our prayer line? It has a problem, doesn’t it? We will call this knot a hindrance. We now have a hindrance in our prayer line to God. This hindrance in your prayer line could be I or your other teacher. We shouldn’t be there between you and God and the bible, God’s word, tells us that there is no one between you and God. No one, between you and God, except Jesus. So I should not be there and we will have to get rid of this.



(Grab the knot and slide it down to the child’s end of the rope.) Now the hindrance is very close to our child here. That hindrance could be your parents or relative. You never pray to your parents or relatives. You pray in agreement with them but never to them. Now we know where the hindrance could be right by you, how about a hindrance that is closer to God? (Slide the knot up to the “GOD” end of the rope.)

Near to God we have angels. Should we pray to angels? Of course not, the bible says Jesus is the only one we should pray to. Jesus died for us so we can pray directly to God. There is to be NO HINDRANCE in our prayer line to God. (Slide the knot off the end of the rope and throw it across the room.) No people, no angels or no sacrificial animals should get in our way of our communication to God. It comes down to a simple conversation between you and God. He wants to hear from you. He loves you. Talk to Him!

Making Traps Useless

I Peter 5:8-11



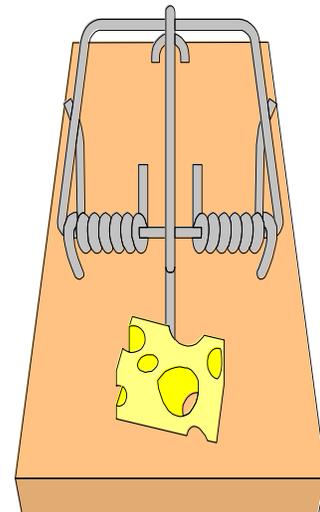
REFERENCE: “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, stand firm in the faith because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of suffering. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered for a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To Him be the power forever and ever. Amen.”

NEEDED: Rattrap

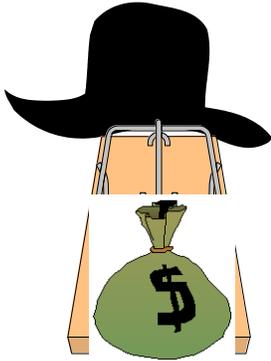
SETUP: There is a spring that makes the trap spring shut. By moving these springs off the arm of the trap, the trap will not spring shut and will be rendered safe. You will start this lesson with the trap set. Trip it with a stick to show how it works. Now reset it, but slip off the spring arms and hold it so it appears to be armed. You can do this by putting your thumb under the arm and putting pressure on the bar. Now a person can put their finger into the trap to set it off and it will not spring shut because it will have been defused.

LESSON

We find in I Peter 5:8 the devil is like a roaring lion running around looking for someone to devour. Someone to capture in his lies. Someone to trap and turn them from a relationship with God. The devil never sets his traps so they are obvious. No, he dresses them up so we won't recognize them but the results are



are still the same. (Set the trap off with a stick. While you get some children to pick up pieces of the stick, reset the trap. This time reset the trap with the tension springs off so now it is disarmed. Use the diversion of picking up the pieces of the stick to disarm the trap. Set it and by holding your thumb under the bar. It will appear ready to spring shut but won't because the springs are not on the bar.)



Money with the devil could trap you. Now money in and of itself is not evil. For example, let's say you have a job and earn money from that job. You take your paycheck, tithe, save some and of course spend some. In that situation, the money is being used properly, but what if you work and only use the money for yourself. You never tithe, never save and only earn money so you can buy more and more stuff. It becomes a trap for you because it is all you care about, all you want and nothing else matters. By keeping money in its proper place and resisting the devil's plan of putting money and the things you can buy with it first, then his traps become ineffective. Resist the devil and he will flee is part of I Peter 5:9&10. If you go to God, ask for help and resist the devil, God will help you be strong, and the devil will flee.

Now I need a volunteer to help me to show you how this works. (Pick a volunteer.) This is one of the devil's traps and you saw how it could hurt you. I want you to put your finger into to it, but first you have to pretend you have been resisting the devil and asking God for help. His word says that he will help you and the devil will flee. Now that you have done all that, put your hand into it. (Remember it will not hurt them. You have disarmed it.)

See, it didn't go off, you were resisting the devil and he had to flee. By resisting him you have made his trap ineffective. Remember the devil is like a roaring lion. He is always around, always looking for ways to trap you. Pay attention to things in your life; don't let them own you, put them into their proper place.

NOTE: Remind the children NOT to stick their hands onto real traps.

WORSHIP THE KING

Matthew 2:11 & Wise men

REFERENCE: “On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.”

NOTE: This small lesson can be used in conjunction with other material to tell the Christmas story or to introduce a lesson on the wise men.

NEEDED: A trick called “Silk Blow” and three 9" or 12" silks. This trick is available for about \$4 without the silks. It is a clear tube, and you put the silks into one at a time. You blow on one end of the tube and they come out the other end tied together.

SETUP: No special setup required, just follow the instructions on the trick.

LESSON



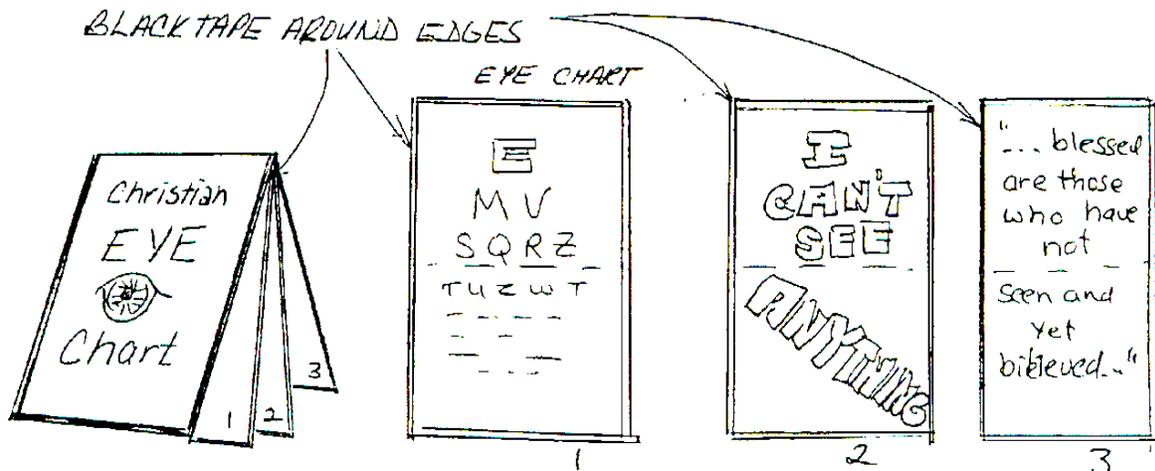
We often see three wise men or Magi when we see a nativity scene but the bible never specifically said there were three. We really don't know how many there were. We will use these three pieces of cloth to represent the wise men, no matter how many there were. What we do know about them is that they were lead from a land in the east by a star. They came to Jerusalem and asked King Herod, “Where is the one born King of the Jews.” They knew the star was important and after leaving Herod they followed it until it stopped over the house where the child Jesus was. These men, (Take the tube and load the silks into it one at a time.) traveled together on a trip to find an answer. They were three individuals but on one quest and upon entering the house, (Blow out silks that are now tied together.) They bowed down and worshiped the child as one. They had found the answer. They had found the King of the Jews. They had found the Savior of the world.

A CHRISTIAN EYE CHART

JOHN 20:29

REFERENCE: “..... blessed are those who have not seen but yet have believed.”

NEEDED: Homemade flip charts like the one shown below. One page one put the word eye chart. Page two makes an eye chart on it. Page three put the words, “I CAN’T SEE ANYTHING,” on it. And on the last page put the verse John 20:29 on it. Two or three pair of funny glasses such as large glasses or ones with



a fake nose and moustache on it.

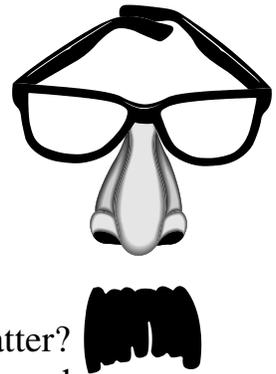
NOTE: Make the chart as big as you need it. Hold the pages tightly together so they appear as only one page. The black tape around the edges will help to hide the ends of the pages. DO NOT use electrical tape as it will shrink, move, smear and be very sticky. Use a black duct type tape.

LESSON

Today we are going to take a little test. You all don't sound very happy about that. Trust me, it will be an easy test and it will be fun. First, I will need two volunteers. They will take the test for all of you. (Pick a boy and a girl. I will use the name's Tom and Sue for these lessons. It is always good to use the children's

names as it makes them feel special.) The one and only one requirement for the test is that you must be a Christian to participate. I will choose a boy to represent all the boys and a girl to represent all the girls here. (Place one child on each side of you. When you show the eye chart to the girl, let everyone see it but when you show the eye chart to the boy, only let him see it.)

Sue, we will let ladies go first, I want you to read the first line of this Christian eye chart I am holding. (Let her read the first line.) Wow Sue that was good. OK Tom it is now your turn and you have got to keep up with her. (Show Tom the page that reads "I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING" on it.) Tom you can't see anything? Tom, you got to keep up with Sue. Sue, are you ready to read the next line? (Let her read it.) Tom, she is doing very well, you just have to get it this time. You can't let her beat you. Us guys have got to stick together and I think I know of a way to help you. I have some special glasses here to make reading the chart easier. (Give him the glasses, and then read the chart again.) Tom, what is going on? Sue is way ahead of you. Well maybe she will mess up on the next one. They are getting harder and longer you know. OK Sue, are you ready? Read the next line. Wow. She is good. Tom, you are falling far behind, how about another special pair of glasses. These are super, super special. I know they will help. Tom! What is the matter? You still can't see anything? (Go through a couple pairs of glasses and have fun with it. Just don't overdo it as the children will get believe.) Tom, you kept reading, "You can't see anything." Did you know that is good? Did you know that because you can't see anything, you are blessed? Here, I will prove it to you. I want you to read the chart one last time. (He will read, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe. Do you know who said that? It was Jesus. At the beginning of this test I asked for a believer. Both of you said you where believers-you believed in Jesus because you are Christians. You can't see Jesus now and you still believe in Him and as Jesus said, "YOU ARE BLESSED."



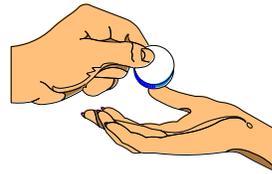
USE IT - YOU CAN'T USE IT UP

LUKE 19:12-27 or MATTHEW 25:14-30

REFERENCE: “...I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away....”

NEEDED: 19 one-inch sponge balls. (Magic by Gosh is a source of sponge balls)

NOTE: You will be holding and hiding several sponge balls in your hands and putting them in others hands in this lesson. With practice you will find this easier than you think.



LESSON

(Either read or tell the lesson of the “Parable of the Talents” in own words as you demonstrate what happened. You will need three volunteers. Instruct each of them, they must keep their hands closed while they are holding the balls and they cannot peek.)

A man going on a trip called in his servants and entrusted them with some of his property. To the first he gave five talents. (Count out five balls and put them into the first volunteer’s hands. They think they have five balls, but in reality you have put ten balls into their hands. As you push them into their hand, everyone will be focused on them. At this time reach into your pocket away from the class and hide two more balls in your hand so you are ready for the next person.)

To the second servant he gave two talents. (Again this child will receive four balls when they believe you are only putting two in their hand.) And the third servant

received one talent. (Give the last child only one ball.)

Upon his return he asked each of his servants what they did with the talents he gave them. The first received five but he returned ten. (The first child opens their hand and counts back ten balls to you.) The second servant received two but they returned four. (Have the second child count back four balls to you.) The last servant returned the same one they were given.

The man called the last servant “wicked and lazy” and took his talent and gave it to the servant that returned ten. As the servant complained, the man said, “.to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away.”

God has given each one of us talents and abilities. When he returns, will we be like the first servant and show God how we used our gifts for Him. Or will we be like the last servant and only show God how we wasted the talents and abilities He has entrusted to us. You have all heard the phrase, “Use it or lose it.” With God, if you use your talents for Him, He will not only let you keep it but he will multiply that talent and ability beyond your wildest dreams just like he did for the first and second servants.

GOD PROTECTS

PSALM 91:1-16, GENESIS 18:1-19:26

GOD’S PROTECTION

REFERENCE: “I (GOD) will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.” Sodom is destroyed and Lot is saved.

NEEDED: Trick called, “Visible Candle to Salt.”

SETUP: Use trick as per instructions.



LESSON

The Lord and two angels made a visit Abraham. It was during this visit Abraham was told of the future birth of his son Isaac. He was also told about the soon to be destruction of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Not only would the cities be destroyed but Abraham's relatives would be killed too. Abraham had to plead for their lives. He had to intervene, so he asked the Lord if he would spare the city if fifty righteous people were found in it. God said, yes He would indeed spare the city for fifty righteous people. Abraham continued, how about forty-five, how about forty. Then he got to thirty, then twenty and finally ten. Abraham must have been figuring out the entire math in his head as he talked with the Lord. He was counting Lot and his wife, Lot's two married daughters and their husbands and Lot's two unmarried daughters and the men they were to marry. That all added to ten. Each time Abraham lowered the number, the Lord agreed to spare the city and when He reached ten, Abraham felt he had saved his relatives.

The existence of these ten people stopped the destruction of Sodom until they were removed. Sodom and Gomorrah were cities filled with many sins and Lot was a light in the city. He was a light of goodness for the Lord. (Light the candle.) To spare the city God sent two angels to find and remove Lot and his family. They warned Lot and took Lot, his wife and his two unmarried daughters out of the city. All the rest we lost. They led the light of the Lord out of the city. (Blow out the candle.) A rain of sulphur destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. After being instructed not to turn back and look or they will be punished, Lot's wife turned, looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt. (Pour salt out of the candle.)

God had protected Lot because he loved the Lord. God has promised, His protection for those that love him in Psalm 91. In the Psalm the Lord said, "He will protect those that acknowledges his name." Stand firm for God and He will stand firm for you.

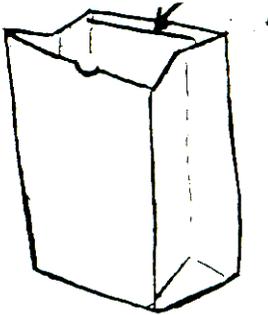


I LOST MY HEAD

LUKE 15:7 and LUKE 15:11-32

REFERENCE: Luke 15:11-32 Story of the Prodigal Son
Luke 15:7 “I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 who do not need to repent.”

Hide head in here



NEEDED: Trick called, “Forgetful Freddie,” balloon and a double walled paper bag.

SET UP: Use Forgetful Freddie per instructions. Use double-wall bag to vanish the extra head. To make a double-wall bag, use two bags, cut one in half and glue it inside the full bag just like the one at the right.

LESSON

There was a young man; we will call him Fred, who lived with his father and an older brother. One day, Fred lost his head. (Pull his head off.) I mean he REALLY lost his head. (Throw head into head.) He just wasn’t thinking and he said to his dad, “Give me my inheritance now. I don’t want to wait for it.” His father gathered together his share of the inheritance and gave it to him.

It is about time we give this guy a head. Maybe it will help him to make good decisions about all the money he just got. (Blow up the balloon, put a goofy face

on it and attach it to the body.) You can see just what kind of a brain this guy had. This guy was a real airhead. This airhead took all his money and left for a far away country and spent all his money on wild living and parties.

Soon all of his inheritance was gone. His timing was just great for just as his Money ran out, a famine hit the land. He was in need of food and shelter and times were tough. Poor old Fred could only get a job babysitting pigs. Fred who was a Jew found pigs to be filthy and untouchable. He had to feed and take care of the pigs. He had plenty of time to think about the good old days when he was still home under his father's protection. Time to think about when he was under his father's love. He began to realize that even his father's servant ate better and were treated better than he was. Soon he gave up his job and headed back home.



As he approached home, his father saw him coming from a distance. He looked up and saw his father running to meet him. Surely he felt his dad was going to yell at him, but to his surprise his father threw his arms around him, hugged and kissed him and ordered a party to be thrown in his honor. It was party time (Spring head back and pop the balloon.) for the son who came home.

His father welcomed Fred just like you and I are welcome by our Father in heaven when we repent and return to Him. God says in Luke 15:7, "I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 who do not need to repent." Heavenly rejoicing for us. That has got to be some kind of party. God will never withhold His forgiveness from us. Both salvation and forgiveness are never withheld when we come to Him in the right manner. They are given freely with a party for you in heaven attended by the angels and all the saints in heaven with our Lord presiding.

REWARD, NO REWARD

JOHN 14:2 & MATTHEW 6:1-21

REFERENCE: “In my Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.” All of Matthew 6:1-21, especially the verses covering, “You have received your reward.”

NEEDED: Paper fold trick titled, “Magic Manor” by Sid Lorraine. This is a drawing of a mansion that is folded twice. Each time it is folded, it is a smaller mansion and finally turns into an outhouse.

SETUP: Have the picture enlarged so the entire class can see it.

LESSON

As you can see, I have a picture in my hand. Can anyone tell me what this is a picture of? Right, it is a picture of a mansion, a big house. Jesus said in John 14:2 there were many mansions in heaven and this is a picture of my mansion. Well, at least I hope it is. We will all get our rewards in heaven, but some people are going to be surprised by what they get. In fact their reward will be quite a bit smaller than they expect and I will tell you why.

There is no reason why we all can’t have mansions and great rewards in heaven but many of us will be quite surprised at our reward because we already have it here on earth. As Jesus was teaching, he said if we do all our good works for everyone to see, for our pride, we already have our reward. If we get our reward here, what happens to our reward in heaven? (Fold paper in half and show the house shrinking.) That’s right our reward will be less. It is not a mansion any more is it? It still looks OK but it is not as nice as it was.

Jesus also said if you give to the poor, do it unto the Lord, not for everyone to

see. And the same goes for fasting, don't tell people and make them feel sorry for you or feel you are special because again, you have received your reward. You know if we keep doing these things for ourselves and not in humility for the Lord, our reward in heaven will shrink even more and be even smaller. (Fold paper and show the final drawing of the outhouse.) Do you want to walk into heaven and see this for your reward? I don't think so.

When we serve God, we should do it with the right motives. We should do whatever we are doing only for God and not to promote ourselves. God has so much for us and it is all free. More important than rewards, the mansions or anything else is that we are to spend eternity with God and THAT is the greatest reward of all.

HANG ON TO THE LORD

PSALM 27:1 & JOHN 18:15-21:19

REFERENCE: "The Lord is the stronghold of my life."
Peter denies Jesus.

NEEDED: "Enchanted Silks on Hanger" trick, 3 each 18" silks, (one red, one blue, one yellow) and a 18" silk with a picture of Jesus on it.

SETUP: Tie the silks on the hanger per the instructions except for the Jesus silk. That silk will be actually tied to the hanger so it will not fall off. As each of the three colored silks is called they will fall off.

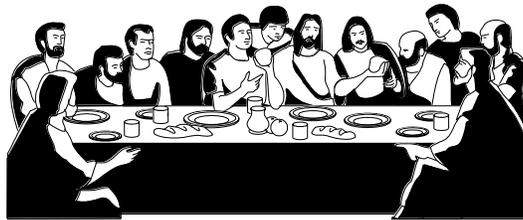
LESSON

Many of us have had trouble making the lord the center of our lives, our stronghold, and our rock. We have all slipped and missed the mark but we have to hang onto Jesus in all



situations. He has promised never to let us be tempted above what we can resist and we must turn to Him because we cannot make it on our own. We are not alone in this problem; even Peter the apostle had trouble with this. Peter who walked with Jesus, lived with Jesus and learned at the Master's feet had trouble holding onto Jesus and taking a stand for Him. Let me explain.

Before Jesus died on the cross, He spent his last supper with the apostles. This last supper was a time of prayer, fellowship and betrayal (Judas).



(Show hanger with silks on it.

At the appropriate times in the lesson have someone call out a color and it will fall off. As it falls to the ground give the appropriate response. The only silk they will not be allowed to call out is the white silk with Jesus on it. As the silk hangs there they do not know what the picture on the silk is.)

Peter said he would go with the Lord wherever he was going and he would even lay down his life for Him. Jesus said, "Peter before a rooster crows you will have denied me three times." For three years Peter was "hanging" around Jesus and learning from Him. For all they went through during that time he should have been tightly tied to Jesus. He had just said he would die for Jesus, how could He say this to him?

NOTE: Below are the responses you will use when a silk color is called by someone to fall off the hanger.

1. Blue: Peter was blue wasn't he? It is never easy to let a friend down. To deny knowing Jesus had to make Peter very sad (blue).
2. Red: He had to be red-faced and embarrassed telling such a lie. The Lord was his friend and soon to be Savior. Never be embarrassed to admit you know and love the Lord.
3. Yellow: Yellow? Yes he was a chicken to deny knowing Jesus. Have you ever taken the easy way out when someone asked you if you were a Christian and you denied it or were afraid to admit it?

Later that night they came and arrested the Lord. Peter followed at a distance with others. As he waited and warmed himself at a fire, a girl asked him if he knew Jesus. Peter answered, “I don’t know Him.” (Ask a child to pick one of the three colors and give the appropriate response as that color silk falls off.)

Again someone asked Peter if he knew Jesus and again he said no. (Let a child pick one of the two remaining color silks and give the appropriate response when it falls off.)

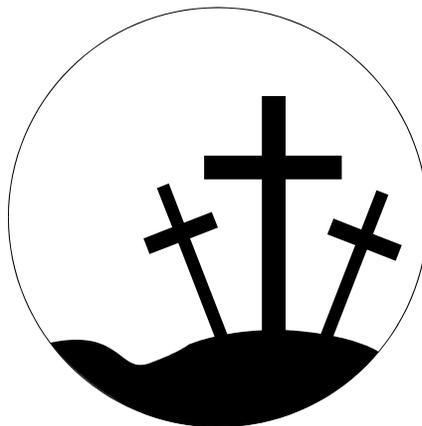
A third time he was asked if he knew Jesus and he responded, “I DON’T KNOW HIM!” In the book of Luke we read that Jesus looked right at him. That had to make Peter very sad. (Let the last colored silk fall off the hanger and give the last response. All that should be left on the hanger is the Jesus silk.) Then Peter heard a rooster crow and he went outside and wept.

The Peter, who knew Jesus, laughed with Jesus, ate and cried with Jesus, let Him go when Jesus needed him most. Peter who saw people healed, the dead raised and the real power of God on earth was having trouble holding onto Jesus.

Jesus was crucified and was buried. Three days later His grave was found empty. Peter when told of this ran to the grave, entered and found empty grave clothes, then we are told, he believed. He had found his stronghold, his Messiah, and he hung onto Him. (Show the Jesus silk tied tightly to the hanger.)

**HE LEADS, HE IS THE
HANG ONTO HIM**

STRONGHOLD,



FORGIVEN & FORGOTTEN

HEBREWS 8:12

REFERENCE: For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness and their iniquities will I remember no more.'

NEEDED: "Buddha Money Mystery" trick and a coin.

SETUP: Use trick as described. This item is very inexpensive. It has a hidden compartment to hold and hide the coin. The coin will be used to represent sin in our lives. In this case it will be used to represent a lie.

LESSON

We all have sin in our lives and even though we can't see it and no one else can see it, God can see it. This coin will represent our sin and this pack of papers will be our attempt to hide our sin. You'll find the maintenance on the lie very high. (At this time begin to open the papers in preparation to hide the coin.)



If we tell a lie we must continue to cover the lie by remembering what we told in the first place and then by continuing to lie to cover up what really happened. (By this time the papers should be completely opened. Place the coin in the center and begin to cover the coin as you talk about the maintenance of the lie.) If we make one mistake, (Open the papers back up and expose the coin.) our lie, our sin will be exposed to the world and that lie, no matter how small it may be, will not only bring us the deserved consequences, but it will reflect on our character and how people continue to believe us in the future.

(Begin to cover the coin again and make the move to make the coin disappear

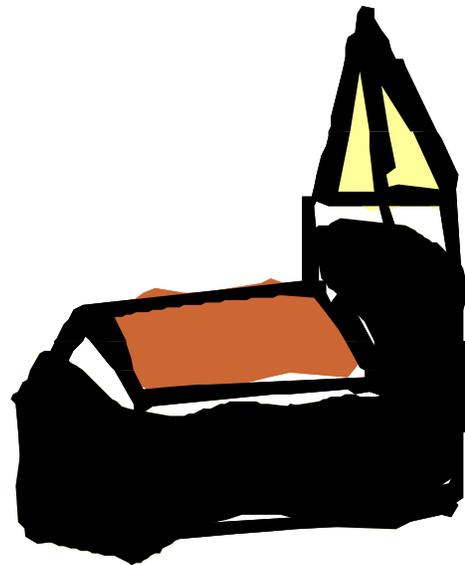
when it is opened again.) But we don't have to go through all this misery of hiding our sins because we have a God that loves us and doesn't want us to be miserable and separated from Him. He has provided a way for us to have our sins forgiven because He has sent His son Jesus. (Begin to unfold the papers to show the coin, but it will not be there now, it will be empty.) Not only will God forgive our sins if we approach him with the right attitude, but He will as stated in Hebrew 8:12, "be merciful to us and remember them no more." God said he will forgive our sins and God is not a liar. He is God-He cannot lie. He has forgotten them and forgiven us so our sins are gone, gone, gone. (Finish opening the papers and show the sin gone.)

YOU TURNED ME AWAY MATTHEW 25:31-40

REFERENCE: "... Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

NEEDED: Church silk cabinet, three silks.
(A change bag may also be used.)

SET-UP: Use the church silk cabinet to make the three silks disappear at the appropriate time.



LESSON

One day the pastor of a church received a telephone call that had a strange effect on him and the members of his church. He answered the telephone and

Jesus was on the line. Jesus said, I am coming to your church to visit your congregation at 5PM on Sunday. The pastor called together to people of the church and told them of the call and they made plans to thoroughly clean the church and make it sparkle for the Lord's visit.

One evening while they were cleaning a family appeared at the door and asked for some food from the church's supply they kept on hand to feed those in need. The pastor sent them away saying they had eating the food while cleaning the church. (Put a silk into the cabinet's hidden compartment.)

The next day a family came and asked for clothes as their house had burned down and they had nothing to wear. Again the pastor had nothing to offer them as they tore all the old clothes they had on hand to make rags which they used for cleaning. He said, come back next week and we should have something by then. (Put another silk into the cabinet's hidden compartment.)



One of the older gentlemen in the congregation had worked so hard he had gotten sick and had to go to the hospital. The pastor was too tired to visit him he told him he would visit him next week after Jesus paid his visit to the church. (Put the last silk into the hidden compartment of the church cabinet.)

Finally Sunday came; the church was clean as a whistle-absolutely spotless. They read the bible, prayed, sang and waited. 5 o'clock came and Jesus didn't show. 7 came, no Jesus, and some people left. 8 o'clock and more people left as Jesus still didn't come. At 9, the pastor sat alone, wondering what went wrong. They had cleaned and worked and yet Jesus failed to show up. As he sat there, they telephone rang and it was Jesus again. The pastor said we worked so hard, cleaned everything, prayed and yet you didn't show up. Why? Jesus said I came here three times and three times, you turned me away. If you had helped the people who needed help, you would have helped me because whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me.



When the people of the church took their eyes off serving Jesus and began to clean their church so *they* could look good, they lost the focus of what is really important. They missed the opportunities to really serve Jesus. Don't let the things of the world or your pride blind your eyes to the real work of Christianity and the ministry of what Jesus has for you to do. Serve Him-serve Him with the right motive and do your best for the Lord at all times.

CHOICES IN LIFE

JOSHUA 24:15

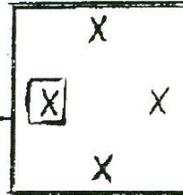
REFERENCE: “But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

NEEDED: Nine picture cards (approximately 5" x 7"). Copying and blowing up the pictures at the end of this lesson can make these. You could also make a copy of the enclosed picture sheet and give one to each child so they can all follow the trick.

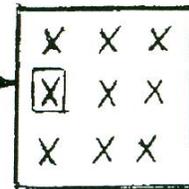
INSTRUCTIONS: This is a mathematical elimination trick and if the instructions and movements are followed, everyone will perform the trick with you and end up on the same card. Put the four cards in the correct spot per the diagram. After everyone picks one of these, set the rest of the cards up. Put the rest of the cards in their proper places according to the diagram. There are several steps to this trick. At each step a card or some cards will be eliminated. On the back of the “rock” card print “Jesus” on the back of it.

DIRECTIONS AND MOVES FOR "CHOICES IN LIFE":

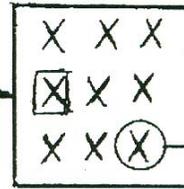
1. Start with the four cards in this position. Allow people to select one card. The card everyone will end up with has a box around it.



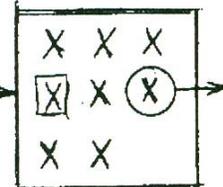
2. Add the remaining five cards. People are to move up/down or right/left. NEVER diagonally



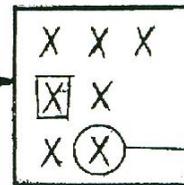
3. Move four times. Remove card that is circled.



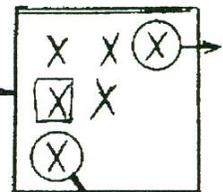
4. Move five times. Remove card that is circled.



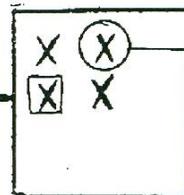
5. Move two times. Remove card that is circled.



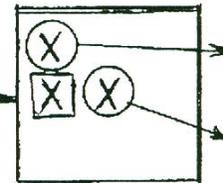
6. Move three times. Remove both cards that are circled.



7. Move three times. Remove card that is circled.



8. Move only once. Remove both circled cards. Only one remains.



LESSON

There came a point in Joshua's life when he proclaimed his household and he would only follow the Lord. What are you and who are you following in your life? On this board you will find four things of which you can choose. I want you to find that which you think will get you into heaven and put your finger on that picture and don't move it until more difficult for you to end on the proper card. I will be asking you to move from picture to picture. You may move anywhere you want but you can only move up or down or right or left or even a combination of the two but you can never, never move diagonally or jump over a card. At the end of each of you moves, I will be removing some cards from the board and when I do, you cannot go back to an empty stop. Are you ready? Let's begin, but remember you can *never* move diagonally. I tell you that you can move. I will now add five more cards to make it

Move four times. (Pull "education" card off.) I know you are not on this card..... Education. Can we educate ourselves into heaven? No, of course not. Timothy 3:7 states that in the last days, "they will always be learning but never acknowledging the truth..." Learning is useless unless you acknowledge the truth that Jesus is Lord.

Move five times. (Pull "law" card off.) Your finger is not on the law card. Can we by following the law or Ten Commandments get into heaven? No, because none of us are perfect enough to follow the whole law. We find in Romans 8:3, "For what the law could not do, weak as it was through our sinful nature. God did by sending his Son to be a sin offering." Jesus, only Jesus can do what the law can't do and that is to give us forgiveness for our sins, because we cannot enter heaven with sin.

Move two times. (Pull "yourself" card off.) I know you are not on this card. Yourself, what can you do by yourself? Answer, nothing, absolutely nothing. Jesus said, "I am the vine and you are the branches. If a man remains in me and

I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me, you (yourself) can do nothing.

Move three times. (Pull “money” and “car” card off.) No one should be on these two cards. Matthew 16:26 says, “What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, and yet forfeits his soul.” The answer to that is nothing; we can neither purchase or barter or drive our way to salvation. These are things of the world and have no value in our salvation or in heaven.

Move three times again. (Pull “friends” card off.) Your friends cannot pray or pull or push or drag you into heaven because they are all sinners, just like you. There is only one who was sin-free and who can open the door for you and that is Jesus. Jesus said in John 14:6, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through Me.” Only through Jesus, not through family, friends or ministers. We must all individually turn to and trust Jesus.

Move one time. (Pull “good deeds” and the “church” card off.) I know you are not on the good deeds card or church cards. Doing good deeds and going to church are works. Can we work our way into heaven? No we can’t. When all is said and done, our works are like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6) and worth nothing in our quest to heaven.

There is only one card left and that is the “ROCK”. Now how can a rock get you into heaven? Right! (Turn card over and show the name “Jesus” on the back of the card.) Jesus is the Rock. It is only through Him that we will get into heaven. David said in Psalm 18:2, “The Lord is my Rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my Rock, in whom I take refuge.” It is in Jesus that we must take refuge.

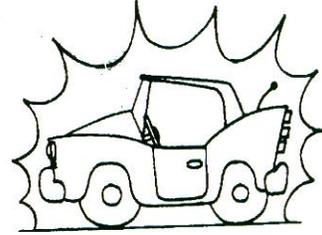
Joshua said he and his household would serve the Lord. Who will you serve? (Give salvation or other appropriate message.)



**GOOD
DEEDS**



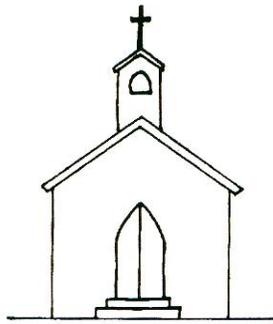
FRIENDS



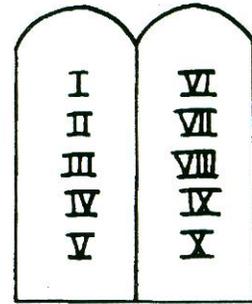
CAR



ROCK



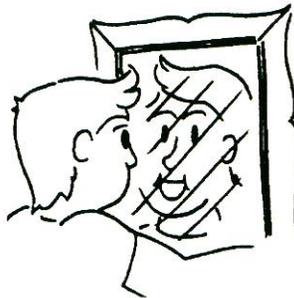
CHURCH



LAW



MONEY



YOURSELF EDUCATION



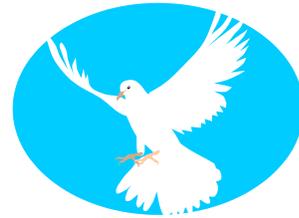
BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT I CORINTHIANS 12:8 & GALATIANS 5:22-23

REFERENCE: Gifts of the Spirit & Fruit of the Spirit

NEEDED: Trick called “Indian Pot”.

SETUP: Pot is filled with water during the lesson, turned over, even tossed into the air and the water does not come out until you want it to. It is a very inexpensive trick.

LESSON



Before Jesus left us to go back to the Father, he told his disciples he would send the Comforter. Who is the Comforter? Right, it is the Holy Spirit. Jesus sent Him to us so we can be filled with the Spirit and receive God’s gifts. (Pour water into the pot while saying..) Receive and be filled with the gifts of prophecy, distinguishing spirits, tongues and interpretations. (I Corinthians 12:8-11)

Be filled with and grow with (Make sure the water is sealed in the pot and throw it into the air and catch it.) and move in the Spirit.

If you yield to the Spirit of God, fruits will be produced in your life. (Pour water out of pot while saying..) Fruits such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control will flow out from you and be shared as a witness of your love of God. These gifts are free and the fruits are a dividend of a loving and generous God.

DESIRES AND DESIRES KNOT

MATTHEW 22:37

REFERENCE: Jesus said, “Thou shall love the Lord they God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy mind.”

NEEDED: You need to make some props with ropes either tied to or put through the props. These props become knots of different names that everyone will try to guess.

Piece of wood on a rope.....would knot
Wire shaped into a square and inserted into the rope so the rope takes on the square shape.....square knot
Can on a rope.....can knot
Sea shell on a rope.....shall knot
Question mark on a rope.....what knot
Banana on a rope..... slip knot

Also make a card that has the word “DESIRES” on it. Add a piece of rope at the end of the word. Make it so that it will flip behind the board (out of sight) to start. At the end of the lesson, you will flip it back over so it will make the sign be read as “DESIRES NOT.”

SETUP: Each of the knots will be shown one at a time allowing the children time to guess what kind of a knot it is.

LESSON

All of my life I have been tying knots. All kinds of knots and just recently a person came up to me and said I didn't make my square knot properly. Well I said I will show you my square knot and here it is. (Show square knot.) Thennnnn he showed me other knots. Do you want to see them? OK, but

remember you asked for it, so don't blame me.

(Go through each of the knots and have them guess what they are. Have fun with this and many of them are indeed "groaners." When they have identified all of the knots, pick up the "can knot" and "shell knot."

You know to people who don't know Jesus as their Savior, it may seem to them the bible is filled with a lot of shall nots and can nots. (Show shell knot and can knot. Then pick up the board with the word "desires" on it.) But when you know Jesus as your Savior, these can nots and shall nots become desires and desire nots. (Flip the knot from the back of board so it comes around to the front of the board and make the phrase "desires knot.")



You desire the fellowship and the love of your Lord, but you desire not to offend Him with sin. You desire as stated in Matthew 22:37 is to love your Lord God with all your heart, soul and mind and you desire not to ever turn away from Him.

CHOSEN BY GOD

EPHESIANS 1:4-5

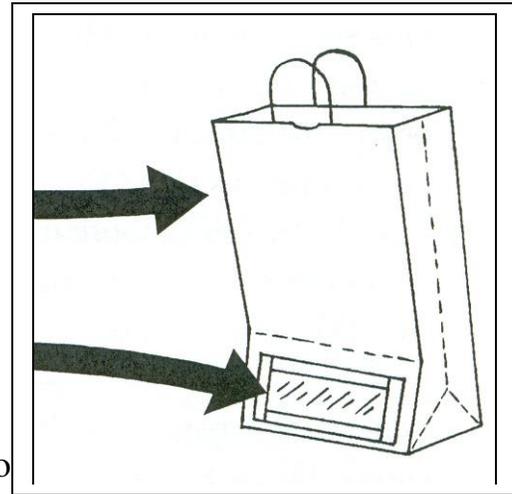
REFERENCE: "For He chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ."

NEEDED: Paper bag like the one shown here with a plastic window in it. Buy a pretty bag and cut a hole in it. Place plastic wrap or cellophane over the hole and tape into place. I purchased a bag from a gift shop for about \$2. You also need six sponge balls or golf balls or ping-pong balls painted in three different colors in pairs. For example you will need to end up with two blues, two red and two yellow or any other pairs of colors you chose.

BAG: Glossy paper looks best but a paper bag will work fine.

WINDOW: Cut out and put clear plastic over the hole and tape into place. A “zip lock” bag works fine.

SETUP: Start with the bag folded up and show it opened for us, hide the window area.



LESSON

I was walking through the store the other day and I saw this bag (show bag) and I said that is a nice bag. I like this bag. Isn't this a nice bag? I chose this bag and then I bought it.

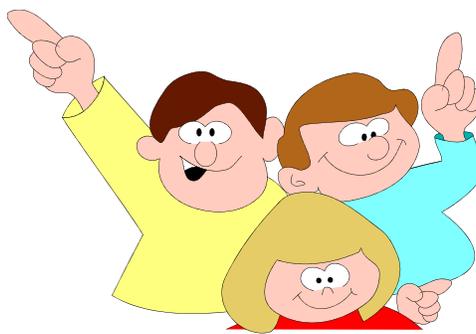
Now I need someone to help me. (Pick a volunteer.) I **CHOSE** you. How does it feel to be chosen? Good, huh? Do you like this bag? I like this bag. It's a nice bag. Over here I have six balls. Two are red, two are blue and two are yellow. We'll throw them into the bag and I want you to reach in and choose one ball. When you take the ball, close your hand around it and don't let anyone, especially me see it until I tell you. I will then choose one and hopefully they will match. (After your volunteer picks a ball, reach in, look through the window and pick the matching ball.)

OK on the count of three we will both open our hands together. Look at that,

they match. I'm pretty good. Actually I knew what ball you would choose before you did. Just to make sure it wasn't a coincidence, we will do it again. (Go through the same process.) See they match again.

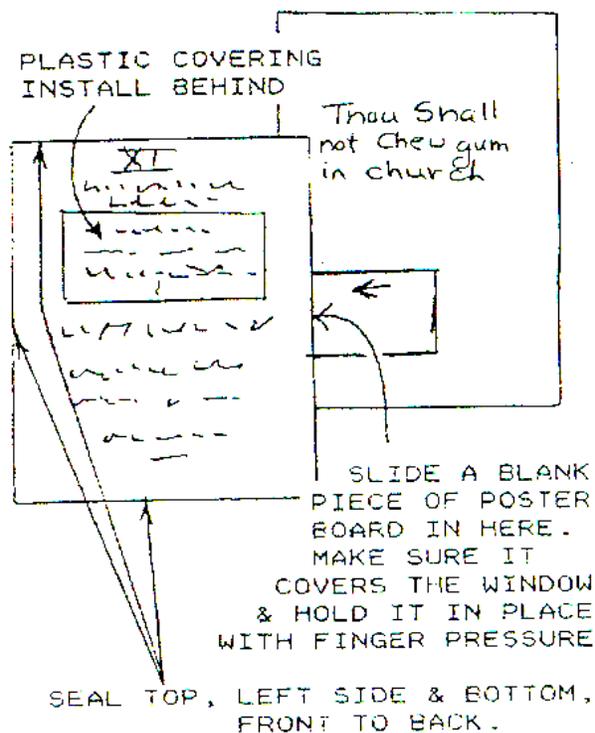
We have been talking about choosing people and things. I know someone who chooses something. He chooses something very important. It was God in heaven who chose us. In Ephesians 1:4-5 we read, "For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ." Isn't that incredible? God choose us before the creation of anything or anyone. He knew we would turn to Him and worship Him. Can you imagine that, God CHOOSE us. We sure are special.

I choose this bag. You (Point to your volunteer.) chose balls out of this bag and I choose the ones that matched, but most important of all, GOD CHOOSE US. What could be better than that?



LESSON ON DISCIPLINE (Chewing gum in class)

REFERENCE: One of the teachers I deal worked with asked me to make special announcement concerning chewing gum in class. This has never been a problem for me because I just want the children there, but to keep the peace I came up with this lesson. If done seriously, until you get to the point of the message, this can really hold the attention of the children. Although this lesson is about chewing gum, you can make it about anything you would like.

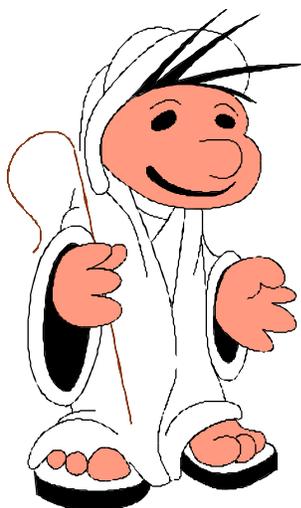


SETUP: You will have to make a poster like the one shown at the right. Use two pieces of poster board or paper and make it big enough for all to see. Cut a window in the front piece large enough for the message you want to teach. Cover that window with a plastic film. I use a sheet of plastic used to cover pictures in a photo album. Write the message you want to be taught on the back page and make sure it lines up with the window. Tape or glue the two pages together on the top, bottom and only one side, leaving the other side open to put the blank piece of poster board in. On the front page put “XI” at the top and scribble a message down the front that appears to be written in Hebrew. In the area where the plastic window is, use the message as a guide and trace only parts of it to again make it appear that it is written in Hebrew. Cut a blank piece of poster board just a little bit larger than the window and slip it between the two pages and hold it over the message you are going to teach. Hold it in place with finger pressure and at the appropriate time, release the pressure on this board and allow it to drop so your message can be read. (This is similar to how a “magic picture” is made.)

NOTE: You will have to tell an elaborate and convincing story about the eleventh commandment or the lesson you are teaching in order for this to be effective but the results are both funny and a lesson to be remembered. At the end of the message, remind the class this is just a story and there is no eleventh commandment and there is no Rahji.

LESSON

Children over here I have a special poster sent to me by my special friends in Israel. Before I show it to you it is best I tell you the events that led to how this was gotten.



I have a friend named Rahji. Rahji is twelve years old and lives in Israel with his father. They are very poor and to earn a living they pick up junk in the desert. You may call them the junkmen of the desert. One day Rahji and his father were walking in desert and they came upon a band of “desert pirates.” These people rob and sometimes kill the people they rob when they find them. Rahji and his dad turned back just before they were discovered and hid in the foothills. While they were hiding, Rahji slipped and fell. When he landed he broke through into a cave that had been hidden for many years. Rahji was not hurt but the cave was filled with scrolls and manuscripts all written in Hebrew dating back to the time of Moses. The

most important thing they found was a tablet and on this tablet was written the eleventh commandment. It turns out Moses carried down eleven, not ten commandment from the hilltop and this poster is a carefully traced copy of it and this is how it looks. Show poster.)

There is a most curious thing about this poster and it is the center part here that is covered with plastic to protect it. It seems that if you stare at it long enough you can read it. No matter if you read Hebrew, Japanese, English, Spanish or whatever language you can read, you can read it. Now I need some volunteers to help me. (Pick volunteers that can read and can read loudly enough for all to hear.)

I will hold this poster up for you to read. You are to concentrate on the center area and when you can finally read the message of the eleventh commandment, read it loud enough for all to hear. (Have them stare at the poster for ten to fifteen seconds, then drop the card by releasing pressure on the side of the poster

and the card will fall exposing the message to be read.

We have asked you not to chew gum in church in the past because it ends up stuck to everything and we have to clean it off. That cleaning takes time and money. You don't stick the gum to the furniture you have at home, please do not do it here.

Understand there is NO eleventh commandment or Rahji or his father. Again I ask you not to chew gum in church.

TOGETHER WE CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST PHILIPPIANS 4:13

REFERENCE: "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."

NEEDED: Escape shackles or chain handcuffs.

SETUP: In this lesson your hands are chained and you escape by the instructions of the shackles you have.



LESSON

All throughout history the devil have tried to separate us from God, and God's people have overcome the attacks.

When all the male babies were to be killed, Moses rescued was rescued from the river by Pharaoh's daughter. When Moses and the Israelites faced the Rea Sea, God parted the waters. When Sharach, Meshack and Abednego were thrown into the fire, Jesus protected them from the fire and the smoke. And when

Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, sinned and were separated from God, God sent Jesus to give us a way back to Him. In each case the devil tried to win but God's people made it through with His help.

(Have children examine the device you are going to be tied to. Get locked into chains or tied into ropes and get out. Use a lighthearted patter to get out. For example, have the children hold a cloth in front of you. Reach up and turn their head away watching you, put your hands back into the shackles and drop the cloth. Everyone will see you are still shackled. Put the cloth back up and repeat for the comedy effect. Finally escape and finish the lesson.)

What I did was just a simple escape, but the greatest real escape in history was when Jesus, dead in the tomb, after three days, rose from the dead and the devil was defeated for all time. When the devil tries to put obstacles in our path, if we put out faith in God, He will get us through. Just remember, you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you and me.

NOTE: The next two lessons use a rabbit or other live animal. I put these in because they were effective teaching lessons. We were given a rabbit by someone who thought they wanted one but after six months tired of it. If you are going to use animals be prepared for the responsibility. We tried to use the rabbit but he constantly bit everyone. The former owner poorly treated him.



COUNTERFEIT SATAN

GENESIS I

REFERENCE: All through creation, God said, “It is good.”

NEEDED: Rabbit or animal. A rabbit production box or anything to make the animal appear. I use a homemade production box that looks like a circus wagon.

LESSON

We find when we read the story of creation in Genesis that after God created something, he always said, “It is good.” Everything comes from God but we find that Satan, the great counterfeiter, takes everything that is good and changes it into something that is not good and doesn’t honor God.

God gave us:

Great & Wonderful Praise Music

A Healthy & Abundant Life

A High on Jesus, He is the Real Thing

Satan turned it into:

Anti-God & Anti-Christian
heavy metal music

Empty Life full of sin, sickness
& diseases.

Satan, the phony baloney

The devil gives us a life empty. (Show empty cage.) It is just like this cage here. We can fill our lives with things but we will always be empty. This box may look pretty, but it is empty and not fulfilling.

But if you turn to Jesus, you can have the REAL THING. (Produce rabbit.) A life that is fulfilled, a life with a purpose, an eternal life that is never ending with God in heaven. Which do you want? The REAL THING or the PHONEY BALONEY? I’ll take Jesus, how about you?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAY, HE'LL GET YOU OUT

I CORINTHIANS 10:13

REFERENCE: “No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so you can stand up under it.”

NEEDED: Rabbit or other animal and a device to make the animal disappear. I use a box based on Jack Gwynne’s tip over design. I built and decorated it myself with a vine on the side that turns into a vine of thorns and finally becomes a rose on top of the box.



LESSON

We travel a narrow road in our walk with Jesus. (I show them the outside of my box with the vine and the thorns. You’re will not be decorated that way but you can talk about rough roads.) It is not as smooth as some people think because Satan puts temptations and other obstacles in our way. We must always be careful not to allow ourselves to be drawn into temptation because we could get so tangled in it that we give in to it and sin.

We will take this guy here (rabbit) and let him represent us being in temptation. As we travel the road with Jesus we must always be faithful to Him (At this time I show him the top of my box with the picture of the rose on it.) and keep our

eyes on Him. (Put the rabbit into the box.) No matter what temptations or circumstances may surround us we must always trust Him and His word because He has promised us never to put us into any temptation that is too great for us. In I Corinthians 10:13 it is promised, “...he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, (Make animal disappear and show empty box.) He will also provide a way out so you can stand up under it.” God can and will get you out. Put your trust in Him.

HUMPTY DUMPTY I JOHN 2:1-2

REFERENCE: “My dear children. I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense-Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”



NEEDED: Trick called “Humpty Dumpty.” This is an egg in a little house that is supposed to be Humpty. He is put on a wall, falls apart, put back into the house and reappears in one piece.

SETUP: Have house with Humpty in it set and ready to go.

LESSON

Does everyone remember the nursery rhyme “Humpty Dumpty?” Let’s all say it together. (Go through the nursery rhyme with the children.) Very good. Now I brought Humpty and he lives in this little house. (Open up and show Humpty

and put him on his wall.) Poor old Humpty has his problems. He fell down, became scrambled and no one could put him back together. (Break him apart per instructions.)



We as Christians also fall. Fall into sin and break our fellowship with God. No one could help ol' Humpty Dumpty here. (Pick up pieces and put them back into the house.) No one could help him. No one could put him back together he was a complete mess. We, on the other hand have someone who will go to the Father for us and plead for us and put mend our relationship with God. Jesus can put it all back together. He died for us. He died for our sins and because He died, our relationship with the Father is restored. We must go to Jesus, ask for forgiveness and really be sorry for what we had done and we are restored to fellowship with God. Restored just like poor ol' Humpty here. (Open house and show restored Humpty. You can also elaborate on the message of forgiveness here.)



