

Object Lessons

Object lessons are a lot like parables. Common everyday things are used to teach a lesson that has deeper spiritual meaning. Object lessons are fun to do, they are engaging, and they are easy to remember.

There are some things to keep in mind when you do an object lesson in Sunday school:

- Keep it simple.
- Have a clear biblical message.
- Involve the children in doing and interpreting the lesson.
- Always have a few Bible passages to look up and talk about. The passages should be carefully selected to drive the lesson home.

There are several ways to involve the children in doing object lessons. Here are some suggestions:

- Have the children prepare and present the lessons.
- Recruit volunteers to help you present the lesson. In fact, many object lessons can be designed around the children so that their active participation is necessary to make the lesson work. This can be a lot of fun for everyone if it is kept simple.
- Draw everyone into the discussion when the follow-up question is asked: "What do you think the lesson means?"
- Have everyone open their Bibles and find the relevant passages. Older children can help younger ones with this if necessary. Let volunteers read the passages aloud.

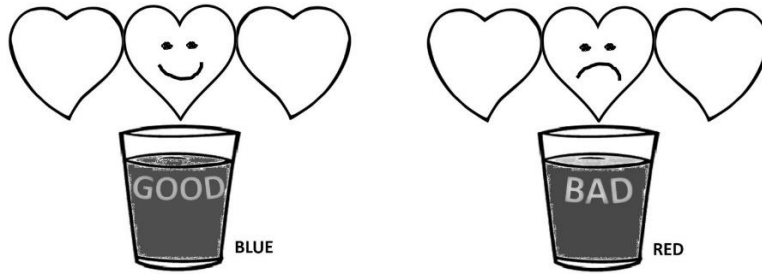
As a rule, object lessons should be short. In a Sunday school setting they are often used as start-up or wrap-up activities. In either case, ten to fifteen minutes is a good time frame to shoot for. The impact of a lesson can be lost if it drags on too long.

And one more thing. Always practice an object lesson before you do it with the children. Make sure it works the way you want it to.

Good Heart, Bad Heart – Luke 6:45

Materials:

- Two sets of cut-out hearts made from absorbent paper towels.
- Two clear 8-ounce glasses.
- Water.
- Red and blue food coloring.
- Crayon.
- Blackboard and chalk or flip chart and marker.



Lesson, Part 1 – What is the heart?

Show the children the labeled glasses of water and the paper hearts.

Add blue food coloring to the water in the GOOD glass and red food coloring to the water in the BAD glass. Questions: Why blue in the GOOD glass? Why red in the BAD glass?

Draw a happy face and sad face on the center hearts with the crayon. Questions: Who knows what the heart is? Where is the heart?

Read 1 Chronicles 28:9 together. Question: What does the heart stand for in the Bible?

Lesson, Part 2 – What are a GOOD HEART and a BAD HEART?

Have the children identify things that come from a GOOD HEART. List these on the blackboard or flip chart. Question: How is the GOOD HEART described in Psalm 73:1?

Have them identify things that come from a BAD HEART. Make a list of these. Question: How is the BAD HEART described in Psalm 101:4?

Read Luke 6:45. Question: How do we know what kind of heart a person has?

Lesson, Part 3 – How do our hearts affect each other?

Dip the happy face heart in the glass of blue water and watch what happens. The blue color is gradually absorbed and spreads to the hearts that are nearby.

Do the same with the sad face heart and the red water. Question: What is the lesson?



Have the children read Proverbs 13:20 and 1 Corinthians 15:33. (These are especially clear in a modern version.) Question: What are these verses telling us?

Grand finale:

Discard the red water. Drink the glass of blue water!

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