

## 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.

### Let the Glory of Christ Shine Through – Romans 8:29

#### Materials:

- Large cut-out figure labeled **CHRIST** (see picture).
- Three additional figures, same size and shape, cut from the following materials:
  - (1) a piece of gold or aluminum foil (shiny and opaque);
  - (2) a piece of thin cardboard (ordinary and opaque), and
  - (3) a piece of transparency film or clear plastic (transparent).
- Felt marker.



Lesson:

Fasten the figure of Christ on a wall or bulletin board where everyone can see it. Give the shiny foil figure to one child, the cardboard figure to another, and the clear plastic figure to a third. Have the children go up, one at a time, hold their figure on top of the figure of Christ, and try to trace the exact shape of Christ's name (**CHRIST**) onto their figure with the marker. No peeking! When they are done, fasten their figures next to the figure of Christ for comparison.

Questions: (1) What kind of person does the shiny foil figure represent? Do we get a good picture of **CHRIST** in this kind of person? Why not?

Questions: (2) What kind of person does the cardboard figure represent? Is it easy to see **CHRIST** in this kind of person? Why not?

Questions: (3) What kind of person does the clear figure represent? Why is it easy to see **CHRIST** in this kind of person?

Look up the following passages and read them together: John 12:43; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 4:17-20; 2 Timothy 2:19; 1 John 3:2-3. Questions to answer for each passage: (1) What kind of person is this passage talking about? (2) What does the passage tell us about the kind of person they are?

Read Romans 8:29. Question: How can we show others what Christ is like?

Suggestion: Leave the figures up for a few weeks. Encourage the children to show their parents and explain the lesson to them. Before taking the figures down, see if the children still remember the lesson.