

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.

Make All Things According to the Pattern! – John 13:14-15

Materials:

One of the following: (1) blackboard and chalk; (2) overhead projector with a write-on transparency and marker, or (3) large chart paper and marker.

Lesson:

Jesus commands us to do as he does. He sets the example for us to follow. While this is often difficult, we can become more like him with practice.

Have a student write his or her name on the board (transparency, chart paper) for everyone to see. With this as a model, let the other children come up and try to imitate the signature directly below it. Finally, have the original student write their name again: practice makes perfect!

Several Bible verses support the lesson. Hebrews 8:5b establishes the principle.

Select some of these passages for the children read: John 13:14-15; Romans 8:29; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Ephesians 5:1-2; Philippians 3:14 and 17; 1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 6:11-12; 1 John 3:2-3.

Questions: (1) What's the lesson? (2) How does each Bible passage relate to the lesson?

As the Apostle Paul exhorts in 2 Timothy 2:15, we must apply ourselves if we are to conform to the pattern that Christ has set for us. He is God's signature for us to copy. Practice leads to perfection.

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