

## 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.

### Once The Words Are Out! – Psalm 19:14

#### Materials:

- A tube of toothpaste.
- Some old toothbrushes.
- A box of toothpicks.

You may also want a table covering since this will get messy!

Lesson:

Careful words:

Open a tube of toothpaste and carefully squeeze a little onto a toothbrush. Tell the children that the toothpaste is like the words that come out of your mouth. Question: Why should you "spread your words" carefully?

Let a few of the children do the same thing, one at a time, with the other toothbrushes. Let's see who can "spread their words" carefully. Congratulate them for doing a good job.

Read Psalm 19:14. Questions: What does the passage mean? How does it connect with the lesson?



Be sure to taste your words  
before you spit them out!

Careless words:

Now take the toothpaste and spread it wildly all over your toothbrush and everything else nearby. Question: Who knows what this stands for?

Read Proverbs 29:20. Questions: What does the passage mean? How does it connect with the lesson?

Finally, give each of the children a toothpick and ask them to help you put *all* the extra toothpaste back in the tube! Of course it is impossible, but try anyway. Questions: Can we do it? What does this have to do with the words that come out of our mouths? Can we get them all back? What's the lesson?

Several good Bible passages reinforce the lesson. Read them together and let the children explain what the passages mean: Proverbs 10:19; Colossians 4:6; James 1:26.

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