

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.

The Bible is Our Guide – Psalm 119:105

This object lesson is a whole group activity. It requires about a half-hour to do.

Materials:

- Three different jigsaw puzzles with the same number of pieces (e.g., 300 pieces). Puzzle #1 in a box with the correct picture; Puzzle #2 in a box with the incorrect picture, and Puzzle #3 in a box with no picture.
- Different versions of the Bible: KJV, ESV, NIV.

Lesson:

Divide the children into three groups. Give each group one of the puzzles and tell them to assemble as much of their puzzle as they can in 20 minutes. Ignore any complaints; just insist that they get on with the job.

When the time is up, get back together and discuss these questions: (1) Which group had the easiest time putting their puzzle together? Why? (2) What is the point of this activity? (3) How is the Bible like the correct picture on a puzzle box? (4) What do the other two boxes represent?

Read Psalm 119:9 and 105 together. Read Proverbs 29:18 in the different versions. Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17. Question: How do these readings apply to the lesson?

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