

## 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.

### Tried Faith – 1 Peter 1:7

#### Materials:

A raw egg, a hardboiled egg, a glass bowl, and a wire whisk. Also a damp cloth and paper towel for cleanup.

#### Lesson:

"We are like an egg. The shell is our faith in God.

"If our faith is growing weak, the world can pressure us and we can crack and crumble. (Lift the raw egg and drop it into the bowl. Watch it crack!) The world can then get mixed up with us and it is very difficult to get back our faith. (Use the wire whisk and beat the egg and shell in the bowl.)



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"When we get mixed up in the world it is difficult to put the egg and shell – life and faith – back together.

"On the other hand, we could be like a hardboiled egg that has been tested and tried by God and made stronger. When God puts us through trials and tests us, we become stronger. When we heat up and cook an egg, the insides become stronger and more solid. If the world tries to crack our faith (crack the shell of the hardboiled egg and peel off some of the shell), we are strong enough to endure the pressure and not get mixed up by the world."

Emily Hernandez



Emily presented this object lesson to her Sunday school in Baltimore, MD, when she was ten years old.

Questions: (1) What are some of the ways that God tests our faith? Make a list. (2) Why does God test our faith? (3) How does God want us to respond when He tests our faith?

Have the children read the following passages: Job 23:10-11; Psalm 66:10-12; Hebrews 11:24-26; James 1:2-4 and 12; 1 Peter 1:7 and 4:12-13. Notice the outcome of tried faith in these passages.

Let the children summarize the lesson.