

## 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.

### **Whose Voice Will You Follow? – Ephesians 5:6**

Repeat the object lesson, entitled "Follow The Master's Voice! – John 10:3-5", only this time let two of the children give directions. Have one child give correct directions that lead to the reward. Have the other one give wrong directions that keep the blindfolded child from finding the reward. Go back and forth between the conflicting directions until the blindfolded child realizes what is happening or until you think it is time to stop and focus on the lesson.

Questions to ask the blindfolded child: (1) Do you know what is happening? (2) Do you know which voice you can trust? Why?

Read the following Bible passages together: Ephesians 4:14-15; Ephesians 5:6-8, Colossians 2:4-8. Questions: (1) What is the lesson for us? (2) Why didn't the blindfolded child find the reward?

Read 1 Kings 18:21. Question: How did the lesson apply in the days of Elijah?

Read Proverbs 3:5-6. Questions: (1) How does this passage relate to the lesson? (2) How does God direct our steps? (3) Why can we trust Him? Have the children give several reasons to trust God.