

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.

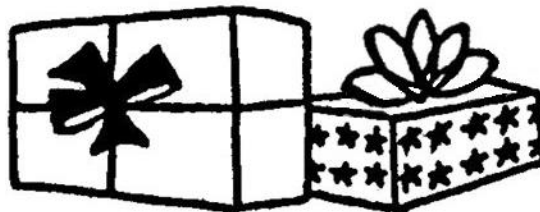
As a rule, object lessons should be short. In a Sunday school setting they are often used as start-up or wrap-up activities. In either case, ten to fifteen minutes is a good time frame to shoot for. The impact of a lesson can be lost if it drags on too long.

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.

Will A Man Rob God? – Malachi 3:8

Materials:

Gift wrap two boxes: (1) a box of broken useless things, and (2) an empty box.



Lesson:

Have the children unwrap the box of broken things.

Questions: (1) How do you feel about getting a box of junk from somebody? Is this what you expect to find in a nicely wrapped box? (2) What do you think about the person who gives it to you? (3) What can we learn from this? Think about possible lessons before moving on.

More questions: (4) What do we give God? Do we give Him the best we have or just a lot of junk? (5) What are some good things that we can give to God, and what is junk?

Now have the children unwrap the empty box. Next questions: (6) Is this what we give God? What does the empty box stand for? (7) How do we give this to God?

Of course it is not the size of the gift that matters but the quality of our giving. Several Bible passages support this lesson. Have the children read some of these: Leviticus 22:20-24; Proverbs 11:25; Malachi 1:8, 1:13, 2:2, and 3:8; Mark 12:41-44; Luke 6:38 and 21:1-4; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Galatians 6:7; Colossians 3:23.

Let the children summarize the meaning of the lesson.

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