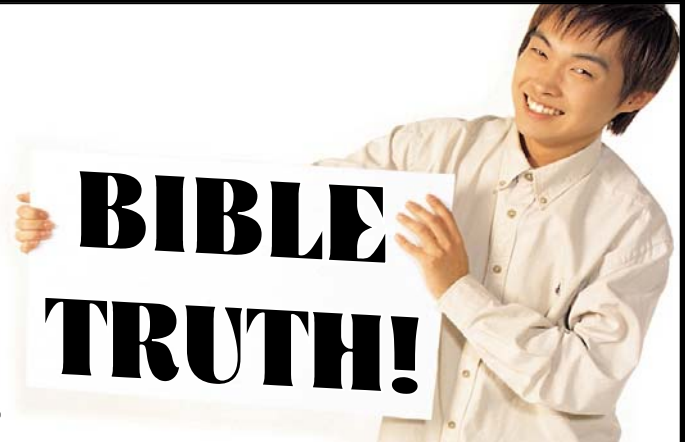


# Creative Presentations That Teach



## Ministry Direction

"A woman read somewhere that dogs were healthier if fed a tablespoon of cod liver oil each day. So each day she followed the same routine—she chased her dog until she caught it, wrestled it down, and managed to force the fishy remedy down the dog's throat.

Until one day when, in the middle of this grueling medical effort, the bottle was kicked over. With a sigh, she loosed her grip on the dog so she could wipe up the mess—only to watch the dog trot to the puddle and begin lapping it up. The dog loved cod liver oil. It was just the owner's method of application the dog objected to" (Preface, *Teaching the Bible Creatively*, by Bill McNabb and Steven Mabry).

I believe every child is hungry to learn more about the God who created him, who loves him, who is always present and willing to help him. But sometimes our methods of application are much like the woman's efforts to feed her dog cod liver oil. We make learning to know God uninviting and even boring with our lectures, pencil and paper activities, and coloring sheets.

Throughout the Bible God presented His Word creatively. His stories are spellbinding. His characters are unforgettable. The outcomes are miraculously unpredictable. And the applications to be learned and lived out are personally relevant.

I want to teach and preach God's Word just as creatively as it was first spoken from His mouth. But how?

**PRAY.** Ask God to show you what Bible truth needs to be presented to the children and for creative ways to present that Bible truth. Ask God to give the children understanding of the truth and a willingness to apply the truth to their lives.

**DETERMINE A TRUTH FOCUS.** Focus on a Bible truth that is relevant to the lives of children not adults.

- State the truth simply, in one sentence using personal pronouns.
- Write the truth on a sheet of poster board, transparency, chalkboard, etc. for the children to see and read.
- Repeat the truth through the Gospel presentation and encourage the children to repeat it as well.

**PLAN THE GOSPEL PRESENTATION.** The Gospel presentation should include more than a creative object lesson or paper tear. The Gospel presentation includes:

- Scripture verse that illustrates the Bible truth. Be sure to provide activities that provide understanding as well as memorization.
- Bible story that illustrates the Bible truth. Present the story creatively using a variety of methods such as monologue, interview, skit, illustrated story segments, etc.
- Illustrated sermon. This is the segment where you bring the Bible truth down to their lives. Make sure the illustration:
  - Is concrete rather than abstract
  - Illustrates the Bible truth clearly
  - Brings the child an understanding of how the Bible truth applies to his life

## Ideas You Can Use!

### ILLUSIONS

Tips:

- Do not let the illusion overshadow the message.
- Present the illusion skillfully.
- Guard the secrets of each illusion.
- **Let the children know that the illusions you do are merely puzzles for the eyes.**

### "God Knows Me"

*Scripture verse:* Psalm 139:1-4

*Illusion:* Clear Bags

**Effect:** Using a clear force bag—two clear bags inserted one into the other—place a name card for every child in the first section of the bag. In the next section place several name cards with the name of the same child on each card. Repeat this in the third section using the name of a different child.

**Message:** In this bag is the name of each child. I wrote your names on the hearts because it reminds me that God knows each of you and loves each of you. He tells us in the Bible that He knows each of us. He knows when we sit up and when we lie down. He knows every thought. He is with us no matter where we go. It's hard to believe that God knows you, isn't it? But he does. Select two children whose names are in the second and third sections to come up. Ask each to reach into the bag. If you do the illusion correctly, each child will pick his own name. Emphasize that this is a trick but it helps to remind us that God loves and knows each of us.

*Note:* A clear force bag can be purchased from a store that sells illusions. However, it can be made easily using two zip-lock, gallon-sized freezer bags that have no wording on them. Insert one bag inside the other and place colored masking tape across the top to hide the two zip-locks.

### "God Knows My Thoughts"

*Scripture verse:* Psalm 139:2, 28, 29

*Illusion:* Predict a Sum

**Effect:** A 3-digit number with three different digits in ascending or descending order. Reverse the number then subtract it from the first number. For example; 987—789=198. The answer will always be 198.

**Message:** God knows your thoughts. Ask

him to search your thoughts and help you to think thoughts that are pleasing to Him.

## OBJECT LESSONS

Tips:

- Focus on Scriptural content of the message before developing the visual presentation.
- Practice presenting the object lesson until you can comfortably share the Bible truth while manipulating the object(s).
- Involve children.
- Avoid using abstract symbols and objects to present Bible truth.

### “We All Make Mistakes!”

*Scripture verse:* Romans 3:23

*Objects:* A large assortment of pencils of various colors and sizes, but all with erasers.

**Message:** Just look at all these pencils! I have short pencils, long pencils, skinny pencils, and fat pencils. I also have yellow pencils, red pencils, black pencils and white pencils. There are many different shapes, sizes, and colors of pencils but there is one thing that all of these pencils have in common. Every one of them has an eraser. No matter what size or shape a pencil is, it needs an eraser to erase mistakes.

These pencils remind me of people. People come in all different sizes, shapes, and colors too. We all make mistakes don't we? That is why God sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross to erase our mistakes. When we do something wrong, we can ask God to forgive us and Jesus will erase those mistakes and make our lives clean and free from sin.

### “Everyone is Needed”

*Scripture:* I Corinthians 12:12, 18

*Object:* 16 to 24 piece puzzle

**Message:** Give each child one piece of the puzzle prior to the lesson. Then ask the children to bring their puzzle pieces to the table. Do not allow the children to talk during the exercise.

After the puzzle is complete you can finish by stating that it took everyone's piece to make the puzzle complete. None of us are anymore important than the other. It takes all of us working together.

## PAPER TALKS

Tips:

- Be visible!

- Be sure the finished product is big enough to be seen.
- Paper talks require practice.

### “Sin Is A Separator”

*Scripture verse:* Genesis 3, II Corinthians 5:18

*Bible truth:* Sin separates us from God.

*Materials needed:* Adding machine tape, clear tape, scissors

**Message:** (Using clear tape make a large loop of the adding machine tape.) Tell the story of Genesis 3 emphasizing that sin separated Adam and Eve from God. (As you are telling the story cut through the middle of the loop. Two loops will be formed when you have finished cutting.)

Sin separates us from God too. (Make another loop but before taping one end to the other twist a complete turn.) As you talk about our sinful ways and Jesus' death on the cross, continue cutting down the middle of the loop.

Two connected loops will be formed when you have finished cutting.) God has made a way for us to reconciled to Him through His son, Jesus.

### “How Do I Get To Heaven?”

*Scripture verse:* Acts 16:31; Titus 3:5

*Bible truth:* Jesus is the only way that I can be saved and go to heaven.

*Materials needed:* Yellow sheet of paper.

**Message:** Show the yellow sheet of paper and talk with them about the beauty of heaven: streets of gold, no darkness, no sickness, always in the presence of God, etc. Then begin folding the paper as you ask the question, “How can I be sure that I will go to heaven?”

- Step 1—fold into shape of a house. (Not by what I have such as a nice house, neat clothes, lots of toys, money to buy things I want)
- Step 2—fold into shape of a plane. (Not by what I can do such as travel around the world in a plane, being a great soccer player, singing in a band, etc.)
- Step 3—tear off wings of the plane to make a rocket. (Not by the things I know. I may even be smart enough to build a rocket or know several languages or understand algebra.)
- Step 4—unfold paper to reveal cross. (I can only be saved and know that I will be in Heaven someday by believing that Jesus died on the cross for my sins.

# Resource Review

### 12 Gospel Tricks You Can Make

by Del Wilson

Cost: \$6.00

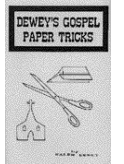


Every effect in this book is easy to make. Some of the ideas are original variations of standard effects that you may find in any book on the art of magic. If you will take the time to properly prepare and practice the effects, you will have some baffling, yet entertaining, routines with a strong Gospel message.

### Dewey's Gospel Paper Tricks

by Ralph Dewey

Cost: \$5.00



Twelve tricks for paper and scissors are explained and illustrated in this book. Tricks include: the fish, peace symbol, price of peace (cross), star, travel to heaven, no to drugs, sin in your heart, tic tac toe, airplane to church, mission money for people, hypodermic needle, and star of David.

Available through One Way Street, Inc. PO Box 5077, Englewood, CO 80155-5077 USA; 800-569-4534; www.onewaystreet.com



### Discover-n-Do Object Talks That Teach About God

### Discover-n-Do Object Talks That Teach About Jesus

### Discover-n-Do Object Talks That Teach About the Holy Spirit

by Susan Lingo cost: \$5.99 each

Capture kids' attention by using these exciting new object talks series to teach about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Each book contains 23 object talks beginning with an exciting illustration or demonstration that communicates the Bible truth and Scripture verse of each talk. Appropriate for ages 6-10.

Published by Standard Publishing Company, 8121 Hamilton Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45231; 800-543-1359; www.standardpub.com