

SNAPPY SERMONS

For
KIDS



**One-Page Sermons
Designed to Engage & Inspire**

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Introduction

Snappy Sermons for Kids is a must-have resource for pastors leading children's church, youth ministry workers, or anyone who wants children to love God more and more! This package contains 30 sermons — enough for a school year of Sundays, minus holidays! Our object talks are not only easy to deliver, but they will keep kids involved and adult onlookers entranced.

The Objects are Very Common

Nearly every sermon uses a Bible passage plus a household object to help children see God in a new and exciting way. The objects can be found in just about any garage, kitchen drawer, or Sunday school supply closet. They include things like batteries, blankets, tennis balls, and bowls. The messages are fresh and original, yet laid out for easy reading and understanding. You will get excited to teach the idea as quickly as you read it.

What this Package Contains

A new and original addition is **key words** for easy lookups and finding the perfect lesson to go with a theme.

We have put all **pastors' words in bold** so that the lessons are easy to follow.

Each lesson follows this format:

1. title;
2. key words that can be used to search the entire book;
3. any small prep that is needed; (4) an introduction to the object talk;
4. a demonstration using the object; (6) conclusion to the object talk; and
5. closing prayer.

Our Content is Original and Memorable

While striving to keep lessons easy for busy pastors, we want kids to remember the lessons and feel something new and exciting about God with each one! Kids will be asked to fall asleep on the altar with a blanket and pillow. They will be asked to flip quarters off their elbows in front of parishioners. They will watch with laughter and curiosity as their pastor munches a bowl of cereal at the altar with them.

Our lessons make kids comfortable, both with God and their leaders. They will look forward to children's church with new interest and joy when being led through our lessons!



Subject #1 God Wants to Fill You

Key Words:

Salvation, submission, light, yielding, growth, witness, flashlight, rags

Bible Verse:

Matthew 5:14-15

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house...

Materials:

Flashlight, batteries, some rags or paper towels

Prep:

Remove the batteries from the flashlight. Put them in your pocket. Put the paper towels in the flashlight.

Introduction

Jesus says some funny things in the Bible. In Matthew 5:14 he said that we Christians are “the light of the world.” Does he want us to be flashlights, in other words?

No. He wants us to share his love and his messages of peace with others. We’d like to, right? But we mess things up often and easily, don’t we?

We’re a little like this flashlight.

Demonstration

1. Turn it off and on and show the children it doesn’t work.
2. Open it to show them the dirty rags inside.
3. Replace the rags with the batteries and try it again.

Conclusion

This dirty rag is sort-of like our sins. When *they* fill us, we aren’t able to shed any light.

It’s easy, between schools and neighborhoods and friends and sisters and brothers, to do the wrong things. Before long, we can’t shine at all because we’re all filled up with wrong things. We only need to confess and feel sorry. When God takes our sins, then he can fill us with his spirit, which is like the batteries.



Prayer

Father, help us this week to confess any sins. Please take these “rags” of our behavior away. Make us clean. Then fill us with your light. Help us remember that others are counting on us to be a light so they can know you also. Amen.



Subject #2

Let's Stay Plugged In to God

Key Words:

Growth, hair dryer, cord, plug, follow, yield, walk

Bible Verse:

John 14:6:

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Materials:

Hair dryer, bottle of water, extension cord

Prep:

Wet your hair on top so that it is flat and wet (but not soaked). Place the extension cord and dryer beside you in a bag. Know where the nearest electrical outlet is.

Introduction

Today, I want to look really good. I have to preach a sermon in front of all these people. But look! I accidentally got water in my hair, and if I'm going to look good, I need to dry it.

Demonstration

1. Pretend to click on the dryer.
2. Look disappointed that it isn't working, and ask what's wrong.
3. Let an older child plug the extension cord into the nearest outlet.
4. Plug the dryer into the extension cord and run the dryer for a bit until your hair is drying.

Conclusion

Spiritually, we are a little like this hair dryer. We have important jobs to do. But like a hair dryer has to be plugged in to the wall in order to work, we need to be plugged in to God to get our spiritual work done.

To be "plugged in" to God, means to pray every day for him to show us his will and to give us the strength to do it. Let's stay plugged in to God this week!



Prayer

Father, you know that when we try to be good Christians on our own, we always come up short. Thank you for providing the Holy Spirit, that extension of you, that extension to you, so that we can be "plugged in" to your power. Help us to remember every morning to ask to be plugged in so that we can make you proud. Amen.



Subject #3 Caterpillars Think the World is All Caterpillars

Key Words:

Death, dying, heaven, caterpillar, butterfly, faith

Bible Verse:

1 Corinthians 13:12: *For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.*

Materials:

Sheet of printer paper, pencil, crayon or marker

Prep:

Draw a caterpillar and a butterfly on the printer paper (They can be crude; kids won't care.), or download an image of each (the images should be small). Cut or tear them into separate images.

Fold the butterfly image in your left hand secretly, and hold the caterpillar in your right.

Introduction

Sometimes God uses animals to give us clues about things we don't understand. For example, we don't really understand death. Some of us have had loved ones die. We're told that they're in a higher place now and they're better off, but it's kind of hard for us to believe. All we know is what we have here on earth. We're a little like caterpillars.

Demonstration

1. Show the picture of the caterpillar. Explain that caterpillars are slow and clunky and can't do much.
2. Fold the caterpillar in your right fist, where you already have hidden the image of the butterfly. Explain that your fist is like a cocoon where the caterpillar goes to sleep for the winter.
3. Take out your picture of the butterfly and say that when the caterpillar emerges, it is something much more beautiful, free, and powerful.

Conclusion

Caterpillars are like us down here, and butterflies are more like people up in heaven. People in heaven are able to do a lot more things — maybe even fly! Their bodies will be perfect, while ours are kind of sluggish and not nearly as pretty. We get sick down here; and let's face it: we're kind of clunky.

Caterpillars can't think very well. They probably think the entire world is made up of caterpillars, since they can't see well enough to process a human, or even a dog or cat.

Did you ever hear people say that there is no God, no angels, no nothing except what you can see, hear, touch, smell, and taste? Do you think they're being a little like stupid caterpillars?



Prayer

Thank you for giving us clues to your nature and your plan for us by showing us nature. Help us to always look for insights about you in your creation. Amen



Subject #4

Preserving the Fizz In Our Faith

Key Words:

Growth, faith

Bible Verse:

2 Corinthians 5:17:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Materials:

Bottle of sparkling juice; bottle of water, small paper cups

Prep:

Give each child a cup

Introduction

The apostle Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:17, “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature. The old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.” It’s sort of like these two bottles here.

Demonstration

1. Pour out a swallow of water for each student. As they drink it, point out that it’s good, but kind of plain.
2. Pour out a swallow of sparkling juice for each student. Point out that it’s tastier and zippier and it has fizz.

Conclusion

Before we give our lives to Jesus, we’re a little like this plain water. We look okay, but we’re kind of bland. We’re kind of boring.

After we give our lives to Jesus, we’re more like this soda pop. We sparkle. We come alive.

Now let’s notice something about the two glasses. If we don’t touch either for a minute or so, don’t they look sort of the same?

Often Christians look very much the same as other people. But when it comes time to show the love of Jesus in our lives, we can sparkle if we have the love of Jesus firmly in our hearts.



Prayer

Father, we want to sparkle for you. We want others to know us by our love — by how we bubble over when we see someone in need or sense a chance to share Jesus with others. Help us to keep our sparkle, now that we are new in Christ. Amen.



Subject #5 When Jesus Returns

Key Words:

Second Coming, return, Revelation, End Times, light, candle, lightbulb

Bible Verse:

Revelation 22:20:

He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Materials:

Candle, matches, lamp without shade, lightbulb, extension cord

Prep:

Plug in the lamp with the lightbulb in it but keep it turned off. Light the candle and tell children *not* to touch it!

Introduction

Most people say that throughout Jesus' three-year ministry, he never traveled more than 30 miles from his hometown. It's amazing that Jesus is the most well-known figure in human history, and he was also so humble. He was born in a manger on a cold and windy night. He spent his life blending in, until his final three years, when he devoted his life to serving mankind. He was homeless.

He was a little like this candle. He had a small light, but one that would be known by all of mankind.

Then, having done nothing wrong, he was brutally murdered by an angry mob.

Demonstration

1. Blow out the candle. Have a moment of silence.
2. Tell everyone that Jesus ascended into heaven, where he waits for us, watches us, helps us, fills us.

Conclusion

Jesus Christ is alive. He's in heaven. And someday - he's coming back. Only this time, in a bigger form.

Pick up the light, hit the switch, and hold it up.

Just because we can't see him, doesn't mean Jesus isn't real. He is very real. His life was precious. His death was even more so. His resurrection means that we will see him again someday and we can join him in the light, love, and eternity of heaven. Let's keep watching for the Great Light to come.



Prayer

Father, your Son Jesus is the light of the world. Bring him into our hearts today. We want to live in the light. We want to see a dark world clearly. And we want to be a light for others until Jesus comes back. Amen.



Subject #6

Why God Doesn't Give Us a Ton of Stuff

Key Words:

Materialism, materialistic, blessings, spoon, cereal

Bible Verse:

Proverbs 30:8-9

Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread.

Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the Lord?'

Materials:

Bowl, box of cereal, milk in a glass, enough spoons for your children

Prep:

Put the spoons in your pocket.

Introduction

I love cereal! And I didn't have time to eat breakfast this morning. And I don't like eating in front of other people. Let's all dig in and enjoy my bowl of cereal, shall we? A child or two should point out that there aren't any spoons.

You're right! If we tried to eat this cereal without spoons, we'd make a huge mess, wouldn't we? But wait just a minute. I have spoons.

Demonstration

1. Get the spoons from your pocket and let each child have a spoonful of cereal.
2. Ask what would happen if they'd tried to eat without spoons.
3. Discuss what sort of a mess would have been made.

Conclusion

These spoons are a great reminder of how God treats our requests for blessings. We often ask for more than he gives us. Have you ever looked through a toy website and thought you wanted everything on the page? If we're given too much, and we don't rely on God to "spoon out" for us the things we need when we need them, we can end up with a huge mess. We can become spoiled and think we're entitled to a lot of stuff.

When we get one or two toys for Christmas instead of the 40 we could have picked out online — let's learn to be thankful. God is spooning out what we need, so that we don't make a huge mess.



Prayer

Father, thank you for supplying all our needs. Thank you also for not giving us so much that we get "spiritual indigestion" and forget about you. Thanks for spooning out to us what we can deal with, without making a huge mess. Amen.



Subject #7

The Holy Spirit Gives Us a Point

Key Words:

Holy Spirit, power, witnessing, evangelizing, airplane, paper

Bible Verse:

Mark 13:11

Even if you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

Materials:

Piece of printer paper

Prep:

You have to know how to fold a piece of paper into a paper airplane!

Introduction

Sharing the gospel is not easy. Even though we have great news – eternal life, a loving heavenly father, adoption by him as sons and daughters – it can be hard to share.

We don't know who wants or needs to hear that message, or whether we're saying the right thing. We don't know whether they will be grateful or annoyed, or whether they will say something mean in return.

Demonstration

1. Pick a volunteer and give him the piece of paper. Without balling it up, have him try to throw it at you.
2. Have a couple others try to get it to you by throwing it. Explain that this is like trying to preach the gospel without the help of the Holy Spirit.
3. Create a paper airplane and have additional students try to send it to you. Note: *Stand away from the group so that they can't hit someone in the eye while throwing.*

Conclusion

All these folds are like the Holy Spirit, which will give our messages strength to move far and wide. If we're going to share the gospel, we need the "direction" of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit knows everyone's heart.



Prayer

Lord, we thank you for the Holy Spirit. We don't always understand him. But we know that you sent him to give us strength and direction. Help us to use him to speak to the world. Amen.



Subject #8

We Don't Have a Bouquet 'Til We Give It Away

Key Words:

Giving, sharing, charity, sacrifice, save, flowers

Bible Verse:

Matthew 5:40

If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well.

Materials:

Bouquet of supermarket flowers, clear glass vase filled with water

Prep:

Hold the flowers and keep the vase beside you, away from the children so that no one can spill it.

Introduction

I love flowers so much, that look what I went out and bought before church this morning. Would you each like to have one? Give them out. Everyone take turns and tell me about the thing you have in your hand. Is it soft or bushy or fuzzy? Is it colorful? Did God make it strong, or did God make it beautiful? Or did God make part of it beautiful and part of it strong?

Demonstration

1. Ask them to describe their flower.
2. Tell them that the sad thing about cut flowers is that they can die quickly. Tell them they will die without water.
3. Ask what they can do to solve this. One should say everyone should put theirs in the vase. Have them do it to save the flowers, even though it means giving something back.

Conclusion

If we're going to put them all together to save them, it means you have to give yours back. You have to give away something that belongs to you. Oftentimes, to really enjoy something, we have to give it away. Giving is a very important concept in Christianity. In Matthew 5:40, Jesus said that if anyone wants your shirt, give to him your coat also. If we were all more concerned with giving than with getting, how much nicer a world would it be? Show the pretty bouquet.



Prayer

Father, we realize that giving does not come easily to us. We know that giving not only makes you happy, but it makes the world a stronger and prettier place. Create in us giving hearts, Father, so that we can give to a world in need. Amen.



Subject #9

Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep

Key Words:

Comfort, protection, warmth, cold, sleep, blanket, pillow

Bible Verse:

Matthew 11:28:

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Materials:

Big comforter, pillows (several) and a flat bedsheet

Prep:

Keep all the bedding rolled up and out of sight.

Introduction

If I told you to fall asleep right now on this hard, cold floor, how many of you would be able to?

Why not? Lie down with them and let them lie down and complain about the hard, cold floor.

The floor is a lot like this world. It can be hard and cold at times. Not only can the temperature be cold, but people can be cold, too! Sometimes they're not friendly when we're lonely, and they can't understand where we're coming from!

And this world can be hard — like this floor. Just when we're looking for life to get "soft," it gets really hard. A loved one gets sick or dies. A parent loses a job. Friends who were always our friends move away or simply get new friends, and they're not around anymore. We lose a pet.

We know that to live in this world, things can go wrong at any time. But as Christians, we have good news. We know that God provides ways for us to be warm and comfy and happy.

Demonstration

1. Give out the bedsheet and tell kids to share and get under it. Compare it to salvation, being a foundation for God's warmth.
2. Give out the pillows and get kids to share some. Compare the pillows to God's protection and security.
3. Give out the comforter and get kids to snuggle under it. Compare the comforter to the Holy Spirit, which Jesus calls the Great Comforter in the Bible.

Conclusion

Now, the world is still a hard, cold place sometimes. But as Christians we have the foundation of salvation through Jesus. We have the comfort of the Holy Spirit, and we have the protection of our father. We could actually fall asleep on this rug if we had to, couldn't we?



Prayer

Father, thanks for being a warm foundation, a kind comforter, and a soft protector for us during our lives on earth. Amen.



Subject #10

God is like a Paper Clip

Key Words:

Stronghold, faith, prayer, hope, paper, storm, trial, wind, paper clip

Bible Verse:

Psalm 9:9

The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

Materials:

Five sheets of paper, marker, large paper clip

Prep:

On each of the five sheets of paper, write one of the following things: (1) Give more \$ to charity; (2) Say nicer things to people; (3) Be a great parent; (4) Be a great spouse; (5) Pray every morning

Introduction

Some very successful people say that if you write down the things you want to do or the things you want to be, it helps you achieve those dreams. So this morning, I wrote down things I want to be better at as a Christian. Here's what I wrote that I want to improve at for Jesus: Show what you wrote. But hard days come along, and they can discourage me. Hard days are like "spiritual storms" and a lot of "windy circumstances" are blowing through our lives. Let's see what happens to my plans when life gets stormy: I always want to behave like a good Christian. But hard days come along, and they can

Demonstration

1. Balance the five sheets on the palm of your hand.
2. Blow at them and watch them flutter and fall.
3. Gather them up and hold them, looking confused.

Conclusion

God knows that we're not strong enough in our own right to stand up to storms. He knows all our best-laid plans can get turned into shambles if we have a hard day. Psalm 9:9 says, "The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a 'stronghold' in times of trouble." Hold up your large paper clip.

A stronghold is something big enough and strong enough to hold things together. God wants to hold our lives together and give it strength. But we have to invite him in. When we...

Put the paper clip on the papers.

God is a lot like this paper clip. He holds things together, so that even though life gets stormy... blow on the papers again. They flutter but do not scatter. ...things don't fall apart.



Prayer

Father, thank you for being a stronghold. You keep our lives together and running more smoothly while we're here on earth. Help us to become the things you desire as you hold us together daily. Amen.



Subject #11

Deep-Sea Fish on Earth Become Gulls in Heaven

Key Words:

Death, heaven, light, dark, fish, deep, gull

Bible Verse:

1 Corinthians 13:12

For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

Materials:

Several downloaded photos of a deep-sea fish and a seagull flying above the ocean

Introduction

Did you know that sunlight actually penetrates only the first 100 meters of the ocean? And the ocean goes down for miles in places! That means that most of the ocean is utterly, utterly black. Have you ever seen pictures of the deep-sea fish? Some look very scary. Some are covered in little lights, like these...

Demonstration

Show your photos of the deep-sea fish. Let the children hold them and pass them.

These fish are a little like us, living here on planet earth while waiting for the glory of heaven. Let's pretend that these fish can think just like we can. They know what "light" is because they see it on themselves and other fish. They may have heard rumors that there is a huge light at the top of the water. But they would have a hard time understanding it.

We hear that people with near death experiences have "seen the brightest light they could ever imagine." We have heard that in heaven we will be more powerful and intelligent and maybe even be able to fly like the angels. We hear what death is like, but here is a very real comparison:

Show your picture of the seagull.

Conclusion

Let's say a deep-sea fish dies and becomes a seagull. That is very much like us getting into heaven. We live in darkness now. We will live in great light then. We live our lives on the ground now. We will fly and read minds and have great fun then.

It is hard for us to understand how great heaven will be. But to help, let's think of a deep-sea fish who gets to become a seagull.



Prayer

Father, help us always to believe in heaven, and when things seem dark and dim, to remember the fish and the seagulls and look forward to flying with you someday. Amen.



Subject #12

God Wants to Recharge Us When We're Out of Juice

Key Words:

Prayer, study, worship, plugged in, cell phone

Bible Verse:

Isaiah 40:31

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles...

Materials:

Cell phone and charger (and an extension cord if you don't have an outlet on your altar)

Prep:

Plug in an extension cord if needed, and plug the charger into it.

Introduction

Uh oh! My cell phone is dead. What does that mean? *You can't make any calls or receive texts.* My cell phone went dead because I was helping a friend try to solve a problem, and she had me on my cell for a couple of hours. I overused my cell, and now, it needs to be recharged.

Our souls are a little like this cell phone. Sometimes life brings trials and tribulations. They can get us "run down." We can get to feeling so tired or so dejected or so depressed that we feel like we just want to curl up in a ball and fall asleep for a year.

What we need is a recharge.

Demonstration

Take the charger and plug it in to the cell phone. Show the "recharging" icon to the kids.

Conclusion

You and I are a little like cell phones. When we're starting to feel worn down by life's struggles, that's when we really need to plug into God the most. By plugging in to God, we mean praying lots more; reading our Bibles more often, and going to church services in the middle of the week. God will be able to recharge you.

Recharging our cell phone takes a while. But if I'm patient, I'll have the charge back on my cell in just a little while. If I'm faithful to the Lord — if I pray hard and go to his word in prayer and fellowship with other Christians, I will find that my life has been recharged as well.



Prayer

Father, help us to stay "plugged in" to you. Help us to know that when we pray and study your word, we are getting a recharge. And if we are patient, we will see your strength shining anew in us. Amen.



Subject #13 God Likes His Eggs Hard-Boiled

Key Words:

Spiritual growth, Jesus, prayer, eggs

Bible Verse:

Philippians 1:6

He who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Materials:

Hard-boiled egg

Introduction

Hold up your egg. What is this?

This is just a plain old raw egg. It reminds me of me before I met Jesus. I was pretty smooth. I looked good. I looked solid. But sometimes the storms of life would come along. I might have looked good on the outside, but it was all an act. On the inside I was mushy. My strong looks were not what they appeared.

Shake the egg just a little.

If I got bullied, or if kids ignored me, or if someone disappointed me, or I got some really bad news from my family... Shake it again. I would crack. I would dissolve in a heap. What would happen if I dropped this egg? *It would break.*

Once we become Christians, God gives us special strength. But the Christian walk isn't always easy. To make us stronger and more usable to him, God sometimes "puts a little heat" in our lives.

We have to give our lives to Christ in order to become strong Christians. There's no other way. Then, he starts to work with us and mold us and put some heat on us until we are new creations. We're no longer what we started out as.

Demonstration

1. Drop the egg onto the floor as the students gasp.
2. Let the students see that it didn't break
3. Pick up the egg and show the students that it is hard-boiled.

Conclusion

If we talk to Jesus all the time and listen for what he has to say and follow his will, we will be so strong that we will not break under the pressure of a tough day. We'll be hard-boiled and ready to be strong for Christ.



Prayer

Father, thank you for sending Jesus. Thank you for completing what you start in us. Thank you for making us strong. Amen.



Subject #14

Understanding the Trinity: Three Leaves, One Clover

Key Words:

Trinity, Holy Spirit, nature of God, Jesus, peace, clover

Bible Verse:

2 Corinthians 13:14:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Materials:

Picture or drawing of a three-leaf clover

Prep:

Cut out the three-leaf clover

Introduction

The Trinity is a very important concept in our Christian faith. Trinity starts with “tri,” which means “three.” There are three members of the Trinity. Who are they?

A lot of people are confused by this. Christians believe in only one God. And yet, there are three beings: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. It sounds contradictory. How does this work?

Demonstration

1. Point to the first leaf and say it is like God the Father, the creator who watches over us.
2. Point to the second leaf and say it is like the Son, Jesus, the high priest who defends us
3. Point to the third leaf and say it is like the Holy Spirit, the comforter and teacher who lives inside us.

Conclusion

We have three leaves. We have *one clover. Three in one.* The leaves of a clover never argue with each other about who should be bigger. They seem to understand that the best clover is where all the leaves are equal.

It’s the same with the Trinity. Some important people say that the Trinity exists because the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are so much alike and in so much agreement that they never argue.

Do you want to have peace on earth? Don’t try to be better than others. Help the weak, applaud the strong, and as far as is possible, like the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, treat everyone like you are their humble servant.



Prayer

Father, we hope we understand the Trinity better. Help us to treat each other on earth the way you treat everyone in heaven. Amen.

Subject #15

What God Does With Our Sins

Key Words:

Sin, confession, forgiveness of God, shredder, paper

Bible Verse:

1 John 2:1

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father — Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

Materials:

Paper shredder, sheets of paper, marker pens, extension cord

Prep:

Plug in the paper shredder. On each of three sheets of paper write one word per the following: complaining, selfishness, laziness.

Introduction

We have this paper shredder in our house so that we can feel safe. If we throw old bills in the trash, someone could come along and steal our account numbers and use them. We could have problems with identity theft. Someone could pretend to be us and use our credit cards by stealing the numbers off our bills.

This paper shredder means that we're throwing out pieces of our bills that are so tiny, nobody could ever put them back together and read them. It works like this.

Demonstration

Say that last week you got mad at a friend and told another friend all about it. Hold up the sheet that says **COMPLAINING**, then shred it.

Say last week a parishioner called and confessed to not helping a sick relative who needed help — when the ball game was on! Hold up the sheet that says **SELFISHNESS**, then shred it.

Say last week another parishioner called who made up an excuse so he wouldn't have to volunteer for a charity. He was tired. Hold up the sheet that says **LAZINESS**. Shred it.

Open the top of the shredder and remove a handful of shredded paper.

Conclusion

Everyone was sorry afterward for their breeches of faith. When we ask God's forgiveness, Psalm 103:12 says, "He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west." 1 John 2:1 reads, "...if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense — Jesus Christ, the Righteous One."

God takes our sin away and more or less shreds it. Hold out the shredded paper. Can anybody read what our sin was after it's passed through the shredder? One of the greatest things about our faith is that we have forgiveness of sins. God is happy to shred them for us if we are truly sorry and confess.



Prayer

Father, there is no limit to your mercy or forgiveness. Help us to know we should come to you each time we do something wrong, so that you can shred it and it won't have to bother our consciences anymore. Amen.



Subject #16 God is Our “Sole” Provider

Key Words:

God’s protection, help from God, hardship, Christian maturity, Christian growth, shoe, slipper, rocks

Bible Verse:

Psalm 91:5-6:

*You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in the
darkness, nor the plague that de-
stroys at midday.*

Materials:

Pair of bedroom slippers, four bricks or large rocks (size of your fist)

Introduction

I love being at home, especially after a long day of work. **One of the reasons is that I love to take off my work shoes and go about in my slippers.** Take off your shoes and put on your slippers. **How many of you take off your shoes as soon as you can after walking in the door from school?**

The problem is, life brings things our way that are painful or even dangerous.

Demonstration

1. Put the rocks on the floor. Try to walk on the rocks or not trip over them.
2. Say “ouch” as you step on them or try to kick them aside.
3. Announce that the stones are a lot like various trials in life: Disappointment, anxiety, fear, and temptation.
4. Put your shoes back on and try again. Note that you can do better in shoes.

Conclusion

Being a Christian is a little like wearing work shoes. Sometimes we are not as comfortable as others are, because God is making us into soldiers or warriors for his cause. Sometimes we can feel fear, though we have more protection and grace. Being a Christian is not easy. But if we “gear up” with prayer and faith and the reading of God’s word, we will someday become warriors for Christ.



Prayer

Father, thank you for always being like a sturdy pair of shoes, for protecting us from evil. Sometimes we think it’s uncomfortable to be Christian. But you show us the way to go, and you protect our feet as we strive to walk in Jesus’ footsteps. Amen.



Subject #17

Your Friends are Only as Strong as the Weakest Link

Key Words:

Friendships, paper clip, chain

Bible Verse:

Luke 12:24

Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no store-room or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds!

Materials:

A dozen paper clips, one bent so that it will not be a strong link

Prep:

Link the paper clips together

Introduction

When I was a kid, we used to make friendship necklaces at church camp. They looked like this. Show your paper-clip necklace. We made paper-clip necklaces to symbolically link ourselves together with friends.

Demonstration

1. Point to each link, and state the name of a friend from childhood camp who was important to you.
2. State that most of these friends were good Christians, but there was always that one or two who were just plain funny or just plain able to start a ruckus.
3. Point to your weak link, identify it with an old friend's name, and pull the chain. Watch it come apart at this link.

Conclusion

You've all heard the expression, "A chain is only as strong as its weakest link." Our friendship necklace is like our circle of friends. If there's a weak link, the necklace becomes useless until we either straighten out the weak link or we discard it.

It is one of the saddest things in life when a friend starts going astray and doing wrong things, refusing to straighten out. But we want to trust in God to replace that person with a stronger person, or to not replace the person and move on with who we have.

We want our whole circle strong, so we have to keep our strong friends... put the broken link aside ... and keep praying for those who need strength in order to be linked up again.



Prayer

Father, help us to pick our friends wisely. Give us the courage and the determination to let any weak links go. If they listen to us, help us to take them back without holding any grudges or any bad memories. Help us to always give others a fresh chance. And if they won't listen, we thank you for a chance to make a new friend instead. Amen.



Subject #18

God Keeps Us Fresh and Good

Key Words:

God's protection, God's help, fresh, stale, bread

Bible Verse:

Matthew 6:25-26:

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"

Materials:

Slice of stiff, hard bread from being left out (Toast a piece of fresh bread for a couple moments to produce the stale bread speedily.); a slice of fresh bread in a Tupperware container.

Prep:

Toast the bread until it is hard but not toasted.

Introduction

Last night, I accidentally left this slice of bread out when I was making a sandwich. How do you think it feels? *Pass the slice around so kids can feel.* Do I want to use this to make my sandwich?

This bread went bad because the air got to it. Things got at it that weren't supposed to. As Christians, we are a little like this. We have to be careful of what we get exposed to, or we can also become hardened and spoiled.

Wanting too much, sympathizing too little, thinking of ourselves too much, thinking of others too little - these behaviors will eventually harden our hearts. God wants our hearts to be soft:

Demonstration

1. Open the Tupperware container. Remove the piece of fresh bread.
2. Pass it around.
3. Ask kids if they would make a sandwich with this piece.

Conclusion

The Tupperware container is a lot like God's protection for us. If we stay close to him and talk to him lots, we will stay soft-hearted. We will be able to provide spiritual nutrition to others. Let's don't go off on our own and forget about God. It will only harden us and make us un-useful.



Prayer

Father, help us to remember that you are willing and able, and even joyful, about protecting us. You don't want to take us out of the world, but to make us helpful to others. To do that, we need to stay soft and good in your loving protection. Amen.



Subject #19

How to Stay on the Straight and Narrow

Key Words:

Straight and narrow, narrow path, narrow gate, perfection, rope

Bible Verse:

Matthew 7:13:

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

Materials:

Piece of clothesline about six feet long.

Prep:

Lay the clothesline out on the floor in front of you.

Introduction

Jesus said things in his famous Sermon on the Mount that are hard to understand. Some people heard the things he said and thought, “Gee. How can I get into the kingdom of heaven if I have to do all the stuff he said?” In Matthew 5:48, Jesus even said, “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

In Matthew 7:13, he said to “enter [heaven] through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”

It makes pleasing God sound a little like walking on a tightrope. Let’s try.

Demonstration

1. Walk with the rope square under the middle of each of your feet — or try to.
2. Tell students that the heel and toe of each foot need to stay on that narrow line.
3. Praise kids who *almost* stayed on the tightrope the whole time, but remark about how impossible it was.

Conclusion

The tightrope is like perfect behavior in life. Stepping off the tightrope, even slightly, is like sin. We are unable to live perfect lives. Let’s pretend for a moment that I’m Jesus...

Pick up the smallest child, while you yourself walk across the rope.

It’s not hard to stay on the straight-and-narrow path when Jesus is carrying us.

Jesus was the only perfect human being. He died for our sins, so that while we would step off the straight and narrow, he will not. But we can’t do it ourselves. *We have to let him carry us.* Who wants to be carried by Jesus through life?



Prayer

Father, keep us on the straight and narrow by keeping us in Jesus’ arms. We might be imperfect. We might miss the line, but he never does. Amen.



Subject #20

Jesus Looked Like Everyone Else... So, What's the Difference?

Key Words:

Appearances, judgment, shallowness, eggs

Bible Verse:

John 11:25:

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die."

Materials:

One hard-boiled egg, one raw egg, one clear bowl

Prep:

Hard-boil the egg and mark it with a pencil line, so that you don't confuse the two eggs while talking.

Introduction

Long before he was crucified, Jesus told his followers he would rise from the grave. They didn't see how that could be possible. They were sort of thinking of him and themselves like eggs; someday they would crack and splatter in death. He would say things to people, like "I am from above, and you are from beneath." But they really didn't get that he was different. They were looking at Jesus from the outside.

Demonstration

1. Hold up both eggs, and note that they both look alike.
2. Shake both eggs and note that neither makes noise.
3. Ask which egg represents Jesus and which represents us. Note that maybe it doesn't matter. Maybe Jesus was just like us, maybe he was just a man after all.
4. Count to three, then crack the eggs together over the bowl. Show that one cracked and broke and the other stayed together. Hold out the hard-boiled egg and hand the cracked egg in the bowl to a teacher.

Conclusion

We don't need this broken egg anymore. We're done with it. This other? We can eat it. It will nourish our bodies. In Jesus' death and resurrection, he showed how he was different from others. If we want to be the best Christians possible, we need to look below the surface. We need to see the good in others that no one else is seeing. We need to judge with our hearts and not with our eyes. Let's look for the good in others, seeing them from the inside out, like God sees.



Prayer

Father, help us to give up any shallow judgments and shallow ways. Help us to not focus on surface issues and passing judgment on others. Help us see how you are hard-boiling many of us and giving us inner strength. And help us to share your strength with others. Amen.



Subject #21 Do Miracles Really Happen?

Key Words:

Miracles, Red Sea, Moses, straw, water

Bible Verse:

Exodus 14:21

And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

Materials:

Drinking straw, glass full of water.

Prep:

Let the children see the glass and water, but put the straw in your pocket to start.

Introduction

In Exodus 14:21, God parted the Red Sea so that the Hebrew people could run on through to escape the Egyptian army. Then, he let the water fall on the army after the Hebrew people had reached the other side. That is one of the most well-known miracles of our Bible.

Today, I'm going to make the water in this glass stand up. Who believes I can do it?

Demonstration

1. Take out your straw. Dip it in the water.
2. Put your finger on top. Pull the straw out and show that there is water in it.

Conclusion

Just like most of you didn't believe I could make water stand up in this straw, most people didn't believe God could part an ocean and let the good guys pass through. Experiments like this should remind us that all things are possible, and with every scientific rule we think we know, there is one lurking that can make that first rule null and void.

This can help us understand how God parted the Red Sea. Some folks say it was done by strong winds; others say it was done by strong tides; some say it didn't happen at all and is just a big myth. When we hear someone doubt God's miracles, we should remember the water standing up in the straw. God can do anything he feels like - including parting the Red Sea, turning water into wine, and having Jesus walk on its surface!



Prayer

Father, whether it is creating the universe or helping a small puppy find a good rescue home, help us always remember that all things are possible with you. We don't always understand when and why you reach out and why you sometimes allow for disaster. But help us to see that your capabilities are endless; you are on our side; and you have happy endings in store for all who believe in you. Amen.



Subject #22

Things are not Always as They Appear

Key Words:

Eyes, heart, judgment, fairness, pennies, water

Bible Verse:

1 Samuel 16:7:

The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.

Materials:

Clear glass filled with water, two pennies

Introduction

One day, Jesus' disciples got in an argument with each other about who was most important. It's an understandable dispute among those 12 guys who were working so hard for Jesus. We all want to be important, don't we? We'd all like to be closest to Jesus.

Instead of Jesus telling them who was most important, he said a funny thing. It was a little like these pennies and this glass of water.

Demonstration

1. Put the pennies on the floor. Put the glass on top of one of them.
2. Ask the children to explain to all of them how the two pennies look different, now that one is covered.
3. The answer should be that the penny under the glass, to some people, looks like it's been raised maybe an inch off the floor somehow. To others, it merely looks slightly bigger.

Conclusion

Things are not always as they appear, are they? Jesus' answer to the disciples were that if they wanted to be first in the kingdom of heaven, be last on earth. Treat others like you are their servant. Don't be vain and prideful. Serve others whenever you can. He said that in heaven, "The first will be last, and the last, first." Do you want to be first down here? Or first in the kingdom of heaven?



Prayer

Father, help us to remember the pennies this week — how one looked bigger but actually, they were always the same size. Some of us might want to look bigger than we now feel. But let's remember that in the kingdom of heaven, bigger is smaller, and smaller is bigger. Help us strive to be humble servants, like your disciples eventually became. Amen



Subject #23

Yea, Though I Walk through the Shadows of Death

Key Words:

Shadows, light, unchanging God, flashlight

Bible Verse:

Psalm 23:4

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the Shadow of Death, I will fear no evil.

Materials:

Flashlight, black shirt, sheet or tablecloth

Prep:

If possible, drape the black fabric over the altar table or pulpit. If not, simply have a child hold it up.

Introduction

When Jesus came to earth, he brought great light into a shadowy world. Today, we're going to play a game with lights and shadows. You may be surprised at a few things that happen,

Demonstration

1. Shine the flashlight on the black fabric.
2. Have a student put his finger in the beam between the flashlight and the wall.
3. He should move his finger forward and back.
4. All should observe that the shadow of the finger gets bigger as it moves farther away from the light.

Conclusion

Shadows can be fun to play with, but they represent an absence of light. This world can be a shadow place sometimes and seem scary. Bullies lurk, illnesses threaten, family members argue, and fear of things that could happen keep us awake at night. We need to remember that God is like that flashlight; he never ceases to shine, no matter how many shadows pass between us and him. If we pass through a shadowy time in life — like our own “valley of the shadow of death” mentioned in Psalm 23, we need to remember that God’s love and light will never cease to shine upon us.



Prayer

Father, help us not to be afraid in shadowy times. Help us to remember that your light shines brightly, no matter how dark the circumstances look. Help us to look for the light and wait patiently for you. Amen.



Subject #24

Following God's Will is like Following the Wind

Key Words:

God's will, following God, hearing God, understanding God, water, glass

Bible Verse:

John 3:8:

"The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Materials:

Glass filled with water, blindfold

Prep:

Ask for a volunteer and blindfold that student. Have the other students stand on both sides of him or her.

Introduction

In John 3:8, Jesus compared the presence of God in a believer's life to hearing the wind: "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

As Christians, we have the great and wonderful gift of being able to sense, feel, and even spiritually "hear" God in our lives. That doesn't mean we understand him all the time. Just like we can't see the wind, we can't always see where God is taking us. It's a little like feeling the wind.

Demonstration

1. Stick the finger of the blindfolded student into the glass of water.
2. Tell her that you are going to tap other children on the head. They in turn will blow very gently on her finger. She should tell you whether that person is standing on her left or right.
3. Have students take turns blowing *very gently*. Have the student guess.

Conclusion

Take off the student's blindfold and ask: It wasn't always easy, being able to tell where the breath was coming from, was it?

We can get the direction of the wind by sticking a wet finger into the air and feeling deep down where the cold is. We can get understanding from God by feeling deep down in prayer and seeking his direction. It's all a bit mysterious, but God is always available and clear to those who seek him with their whole heart.



Prayer

Father, your son Jesus said that his sheep hear his voice. And they follow him. Some days we might feel "in the dark," and like it might be impossible to hear what Jesus wants us to do. But help us to persist and listen with our whole hearts. Like wind on a wet finger, we will know where you are coming from. Amen.



Subject #25

Coins in Motion Show God's Protection

Key Words:

God's protection, God's help, security, coins, motion, inertia

Bible Verse:

Psalm 37:24:

Though a man falls, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholds him with His hand.

Materials:

One quarter for each child and the pastor

Introduction

I'm going to show you a trick. Then, I'm going to let you try it. The trick has to do with balancing a quarter on the inside of your arm. When you drop your arm, after a few tries, the quarter will suddenly be very easy to catch with your hand.

Demonstration

1. Turn your arm up so your palm is facing upward.
2. Hold your arm out, face-up like that, so your forearm is parallel with the floor.
3. Place the quarter an inch or so in front of your elbow.
4. Drop your arm very quickly so that the quarter falls into your hand.
5. Let the children try it until they are catching the quarter.

Conclusion

The quarter is in a state of what we call "inertia" when you start out. The force of gravity will definitely pull it downward once you drop your elbow, but the fall is slow getting started due to inertia. Your arm, however, is already in motion, moving rapidly as you drop your elbow quickly. Hence it has time to catch the quarter before inertia gives way to the gravitational pull.

Have you ever been in such a big jam that you thought not even God could get you out of it? God often lets us suffer the consequences of our actions, and even the best of people will have their faith tested. You can feel a lot like that quarter — like you're going to hit the ground and die due to some scary circumstance in your life. But Psalm 37:24 says that though men frequently fall a ways, man will not be utterly cast down — will not hit the ground with a splatter! Why? Because for the Lord upholds us in his hand. No matter what our scary problem or how much like falling it feels, God is swift enough and strong enough to catch us!



Prayer

Father, thank you for protecting us in all circumstances. Thank you for letting us suffer the consequences of our actions, so that we can grow and be stronger. Thank you for ultimately keeping us safe in your strong hands. Amen.



Subject #26

God's A-MAZ-ing Pull on our lives

Key Words:

Trust, God's leading, God's guidance, magnet, paper clip

Bible Verse:

Proverbs 3:5-6:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Materials:

One-inch horseshoe magnet, sheet of cardboard at least 8.5x11, metal paper clip, marker pen

Prep:

Draw a maze on the sheet of cardboard.

Introduction

Sometimes life gets confusing. Sometimes problems look unending. It looks like a maze to us. It appears to us that we may never get out of certain problems! If we were like that paper clip without the magnet, we surely would be stuck. But watch:

Demonstration

1. Place the paper clip at the start of your maze.
2. Place the magnet just underneath the clip on the underside of the cardboard.
3. Pull the magnet and watch the paper clip proceed through the maze.
4. Let some children try it.

Conclusion

We are a little like paper clips, and God is a little like this magnet. We can't see him from our perspective. But he is very real. He is very strong and is able to pull us through any confusing passage in life. It's like Proverbs 3:5-6 says: Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.



Prayer

Father, like the magnet, you cannot be seen from our playing board called life. But you are strong. If you move the oceans, guide the tides, turn the earth, and brighten the stars, you can certainly turn our lives down the roads we need to travel. Help us to trust you more. Amen.



Subject #27

Patience is a Straight Face

Key Words:

Patience, waiting on God, smile

Bible Verse:

Psalm 37:7

Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for him to act.

Materials:

None

Introduction

Sometimes we ask God for something, and it starts to feel like he's never going to answer that prayer. But Psalm 37:7 says, "Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for him to act."

Learning patience is part of being a Christian. While God loves to answer our prayers, he sometimes has reasons for making us wait. Practicing having patience can be very difficult. But we're going to make it fun. You have to outlast your partner in a game of "Who Cracked Up First."

Demonstration

1. Let the children pair off with you and each other.
2. They must look each other in the eye without smiling.
3. The person who smiles first loses.

Conclusion

Today we were trying not to smile. But let's put a smile on our faces the next time we ask God for something and remember the famous Psalm 37:4, where he says, "Delight yourself in me, and I will give you the desires of your heart!" Let's practice being close to God and smiling about the good things we wait for patiently.



Prayer

Father, we believe you hear our prayers and we believe you want to bless us. We also know that you don't want to spoil us, and that it sometimes takes time for our prayers to become reality. Help us to be patient while waiting for you to change our circumstances. Amen.



Subject #28

Keep Your Eyes on the Lord

Key Words:

Watching, waiting, God's will, catching, ball

Bible Verse:

Isaiah 26:3

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

Materials:

Tennis ball or several tennis balls

Introduction

Today, we're going to play a little ball. I need two volunteers. Pick a very young student to stand several rows back. Pick your oldest student to stand five or six rows behind him.

There is a trick to catching a ball. Who knows what that trick is? It's called 'keeping your eye on the ball.'

Demonstration

1. Bounce a couple of balls to the youngest student who ought to have trouble catching them. Get the older student to retrieve them and roll them back to you.
2. Encourage the very young student to keep his eye on the ball while you toss.
3. Allow an older student to take the place of the very young one. Watch how he catches the balls. Applaud everyone's efforts.

Conclusion

Keeping your eye on the ball is hard at first. But it gets easier as you get older. It's like your walk with God. You have to keep your eyes on him to see what he's doing. We can't see Jesus with our eyes. But we can feel him bouncing around us in our hearts. We can communicate with him, and, as we get older, it becomes easier to "catch" what he is saying to our hearts and what he wants us to do.

What feels very awkward at first becomes easier as we grow in Christ.



Prayer

Father, we know that you want us to listen for your will and watch for your will – with our whole hearts. Help us to believe that we can eventually catch your will as easily as we can catch balls in an outfield. Amen.



Subject #29

The Importance of Forgiveness

Key Words:

Forgive, weight, trapped

Bible Verse:

Luke 17:4:

"If someone sins against you seven times in the day, and seven times returns, saying, 'I'm sorry,' you shall forgive him."

Introduction

In Luke 17:4, Jesus says, "If someone sins against you seven times in the day, and seven times returns, saying, 'I'm sorry,' you shall forgive him." Wow! How hard is that?

One of the reasons Jesus says to forgive has to do with the harm in staying mad. It hurts *you* more than the person you are mad at. A wise man once said, "Being mad is a waste of time. The person you're mad at probably doesn't know - or he doesn't care!"

Look at it this way...

Demonstration

1. Have one child lie flat on the floor.
2. Have another child sit on his or her chest and while they stare into each other's faces.
3. Ask the child on the bottom if she is having trouble breathing. Ask if she would rather get this person off of her.

Conclusion

Let's say that the child on top did something very mean to the child on the bottom. Later, he said sorry and felt really bad. But the child on the bottom can't forgive or forget about it. It's like having the weight of him upon her. Unforgiveness can make it hard to breathe. It can make you feel trapped so that you can't run and play with better thoughts.

Tell the child on the top to say "sorry." Ask the child on the bottom if she forgives him. When she says yes, let her get up.

We would have a much more peaceful and happy world if everyone could forgive. Forgiveness sets you free. It means you can get out from under the weight of negative and angry thoughts and go do something fun!



Prayer

Father, teach us all to forgive, so that we are free to dance and jump and sing and bounce, without that huge weight of anger on our chests. Amen.



Subject #30 Which Will Hit the Ground First?

Key Words:

Forgiveness, repent, confess, pray, ball, Q-tip

Bible Verse:

Matthew 20:13-16:

“But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Materials:

Tennis ball and a Q-tip

Introduction

Hold up the ball and Q-tip. I’m about to drop both this ball and this Q-tip at the same time. Which do you think will hit the ground first?

In 1589, the Italian scientist Galileo dropped two balls of different masses from the Leaning Tower of Pisa to demonstrate that their time of descent was independent of their mass. Do you know what that means?

Demonstration

1. Drop the Q-tip and the tennis ball at the same time.
2. Both should hit the ground at the same time.

Conclusion

It means that no matter how light one object is and how heavy another one is, both will hit the ground at the same time, if dropped at the same time and from the same distance above the ground. We think the heavier one will hit first. But both objects are equal in the eyes of gravity.

It’s a lot like all of us being equal in the eyes of God. Some people never seem to sin, never seem to mess up or do anything to upset God. Sometimes we look at them and tend to think, “Wow. God would never want to talk to me as much as the really good kids. I mess too many things up.” The truth is, God’s love is so great that he loves us all the same. He loves us all to the max. If you mess something up and you come to him about it, you get just as much of his love as those who haven’t messed up as bad. When you “let go and let God,” you fall into his arms at the same rate as someone who seems to do everything better. The truth is, according to Romans 3:23, “ALL have sinned. ALL fall short of the glory of God.” We all need Jesus. He loves when EACH of us comes to him.



Prayer

Father, help us to come to you, remembering that it’s not our behavior that put us in good standing with you. It is your love and Jesus’ love. Help us never to be afraid to fall into your arms. Amen.