



# Construction Crew/ Kid Builders!

Where worship and fun collide!

525 Garden Drive, Marysville, Ohio 43040

## What Goes Around...

**Memory Verse:** ...for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. **Galatians 6:7**

**Lesson Overview:** This lesson is designed to show children that they reap what they sow, and that the words they say are very powerful. They will learn about blessings, curses, and judgment. By the end of the lesson, children should understand that they must be selective about that they choose to say, and that it will always return to them--good or bad--double.

### Requirements for the lesson:

1. A bouncy ball
2. A sheet of news paper for every child

### Object Lessons and Lead-in to the Lesson:

**“Watch Out!”** Bounce the ball against the wall, and begin to explain to them that just as the ball returns to you off the wall, so does everything you say. Mention that it could be blessings, curses, or judgment. If the ball comes close to some of the children, they may duck or flinch. Explain how sometimes these things affect more than just ourselves and the one we bless or curse.

**“The Blessing Wad!”** Next, give each child a piece of newspaper. You take one piece and make a paper wad out of it. Next, hand it to one of the children in the circle that has been extra good. Say, “I want to give you this blessing.” Then have that child pass it to the child beside him or her. That child can wrap a piece of the newspaper around the paper wad, the pass it to the next, who will do the same, etc. By the time it comes back to the original child, you’ll have quite a “blessing” wad! Toward the end, the children should have trouble keeping it together (pressed down, shaken, and pouring over--right). This makes an amusing, but accurate impression of how the art of blessing--or cursing--works. If you have a small class, then you may want to give each child several sheets of newspaper, and have them keep passing it around.

## The Lesson:

### 1. Judgement:

Judgement is something that Christians have to be very careful about doing—especially judging people who don't know Jesus. It can really mess up our salvation (that's having Jesus in our heart). Jesus doesn't like us to judge other people because we usually get it wrong. When we judge others, we are making up our mind about what that person is like. If he or she dresses poorly, then we could think they are bad people because they have no money. That may not be true at all, so we "judged" wrongly. If someone has a bad day, and snaps at us harshly, then we may think that person is a bad person with no manners. We may even think that they are mean! But that person may not be that way at all. Perhaps they just got some bad news, or had a bad day at work or school. We would have judged wrongly again.

Jesus also said that we all do enough wrong things that we don't need to point our fingers at anyone else. Many times we have things in our lives we do that Jesus doesn't like. Jesus said that we have enough "junk" in our own lives to take care of that we don't need to worry about anyone else's faults.

DO THE OBJECT LESSON: *"Watch Out!"*

READ: Read Galations 6:7,8 from the Bible. Perhaps a few children in the class would like to read this passage. It is good if there are some different Bible versions that can be read. Next, read it to the class this way:

Do not be [tricked or fooled], God is not [made fun of]; whatever a man sows is [what he gets back]. For he who sows to [himself] will [become rotten], but he who sows to [the Spirit of God] will get everlasting life.

**QUESTION:** Ask the class, "What do you think this means?"

a. Making Fun Of God

Explain to the class that the scripture means a couple of important things. Did you know that saying that we are Christians, but **being selfish, is actually making fun of God?** It's true! Jesus said that if we didn't love our enemies and everyone else that we can't love Him too. Some people actually try to do this. They say, "I love you God" and then be stingy with other people, or even make fun of them. God says that if you love him, then you will do what his Word says—LOVE OTHERS.

b. What You Give; You Get

Next, it means that **if we say and do things to people that are not too nice, then we can expect to get back the same kind of bad from them.** If we planted a field of weeds, then we shouldn't be surprised that we don't get a good crop of corn. We're going to get weeds! When we are rude to others, then they will be even ruder to us. If we are stingy and don't share, then we can expect others to be even stingier with us. But, if we share, use good manners, and are polite to others, then we can expect to get the same thing back from them.

c. Being Rotten

Nobody likes an apple that's rotten inside! It stinks and tastes pretty bad too. We are like a rotten apple when we just do things for ourselves. Sometimes people even call others "bad apples." That's because they look OK on the outside, but inside they're rotten. When you get to know them—or get a taste of them—then you find out how rotten they really are. This kind of person can get you into trouble just so they won't get into trouble!

**QUESTION:** Can you think of someone that you know that's like that?

The good thing is that you can do things for God instead of for yourself. You do this by doing nice things for others instead of yourself.

**QUESTION:** Have you ever wanted to do something really special, but somebody wanted you to help them or do something for them instead?

What did you do?

-or- What would have been a better thing to do?

Take some time to discuss this if you get some children to share.

d. Reaping!

Farmers sow seeds in their fields in the spring, and then in the fall they harvest a crop. They call this reaping the harvest. Jesus said that in the same way, we harvest—or reap—what we sow. We have a choice of what kind of crops that we want to sow. We can sow good things like kindness, forgiveness, and caring. We can as well sow meanness, stubbornness, or hate. Whatever we give out, we get back double.

**QUESTION:** What are some things that you can say or do that will come back to you?

- Blessings \* ----- Curses \*
- Forgiveness ----- Judgment \*
- Truth ----- Lies
- Kindness ----- Meanness
- Acceptance ----- Prejudice
- Holiness \* ----- Sin
- Respecting others ----- Name Calling
- Giving ----- Taking
- Sharing ----- Stinginess
- Politeness ----- Rudeness

\* Explain what these words mean.

2. Blessings and Curses

Paul said in the Bible, “Bless and do not curse.” In fact, Jesus said, “Bless those that curse you.” What! Bless people that hate me? Isn’t that going a little too far? Not according to Jesus. He says that’s how you get them to love you—or at least get them to not be so mean.

**QUESTION:** Have you ever had an enemy that became your best friend because you were kind to them?

Sometimes this happens. Most people do mean things to others, and they don’t even know why they do it. Maybe that’s how their parents treat others. We usually do what our parents do, because we learn from their example of how they live. Since parents are not perfect, we pick up things that are not good along with things that are good. Sometimes when others treat us bad, they do it because they expect to get treated bad back. When we treat them with kindness, they get something they didn’t expect to get—nice. Then they want to treat us a bit better.

**QUESTION:** Can you think of a time when someone was mean to you, but you were nice? When you did this, did they change and treat you better?

Not everyone will react this way, but quite a lot of people will.

a. Blessings

Jesus said that our words and actions are very powerful. We can do either a lot of good or bad with our words and actions. The important thing is choosing to say good words and do good deeds.

DO THE OBJECT LESSON: ***“The Blessing Wad!”***

(1) Speaking Blessings

We can speak blessings over someone. We call these kinds of words “blessings”. When someone is sick, we tell them, “We hope you get better”, or “Be healed in the Name of Jesus”. These are blessings. A blessing is also saying something nice about a person to make them feel better; like, “Great grades”, or “Nice job”.

**QUESTION:** What are some things that you can say to others to bless them?

- You look nice
- Can I pray for you
- You can do it
- I appreciate your help
- Good job
- I love you
- You’re a good helper
- You’re a hard worker

(2) Giving Blessings

We can also give others blessings. When someone doesn’t have a coat in the winter, and we give them one, then that’s a blessing. We can give things that we have to others that are extra or outgrown. These are blessings too. Sometimes we have an extra toy—a doll or a car. Another boy or girl may not have one at all. If we give them our extra one, then we have blessed them. It’s a wonderful feeling knowing you have blessed a person.

**QUESTION:** Can you think of a time when you blessed someone with something or they blessed you?

**QUESTION:** What are some ways that you could bless someone with something?

**QUESTION:** What are some ways that you children are blessing other children through church? (Missions, projects for children’s homes, other classes, the adults, etc.)

### (3) Praying Blessings

A great way to bless others is by praying for them. Jesus hears us when we pray, and he will answer our prayers. Sometimes we can see others getting into trouble. We can pray for them, and Jesus will help them. We can pray for anything that someone may need, want, or even what we want to see them have. We can even pray bad things out of their lives that they need help getting rid of (like smoking, etc.).

**QUESTION:** What are some things that you could pray for others?

If there is sufficient time, take a short time to help the children pray for these things.

### b. Curses

Curses are the opposite of blessings. This is something that we never, ever want to do. There is so much power in our words that we can curse someone. A curse is to say, think, or do something evil to or about a person. Jesus will not have anything to do with Christians that curse others. Many times we are taught that cursing is just a list of bad words, but cursing is more than just a list.

We can talk a lot about cursing, but it is more important to know how to bless others than how we curse them. Cursing others is so easy because we do it all of the time. People are very good at it. The trick is figuring out how to forget about cursing others. We do this by learning and practicing how to bless. Still, we can **learn** all about blessing others, but we are not if we don't **do** it! Blessing takes our actions and not just our thinking.

When God shows us someone that we need to bless, and we don't do it, then we actually curse that person. If God tells us to give someone food, but we don't do it, then that person doesn't get their blessing. That's a curse. We must always bless, and not curse.

### 3. Kids With A Mission

**QUESTION:** What is a blessing that you can say to mom or dad, or a brother or sister today?

Help the children with this. Help them think of one thing they can do for or say to someone in their family. When they do come up with something, encourage them to do it. Instruct them to tell the person which they are blessing, "This is a blessing from me to you".

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