

# Construction Crew/ Kid Builders!

Where worship and fun collide!

525 Garden Dr., Marysville, Ohio, 43040

## I Said *Pray*, Not *Stray*!

**Memory Verse:** Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.  
Matthew 26:41

**Lesson Overview:** This lesson is developed to help children understand the importance of listening (and hearing) what the Holy Spirit has to say. It is vital to teach children not to understand things in their own natural understanding, but rather to listen to God's spirit in any situation. With our own insight, we make decisions that may work for now, but usually prove to be a bad for us as time passes. When we go God's way, we always make the right decision--all the time. Likewise, when we rely on our own understanding, we tend to make God's Word mean what we want it to mean. We don't see His truth in the Word unless we let the One who wrote the book show us. By the end of this lesson, students will understand the importance of seeking God in their decisions, as well as for wisdom and knowledge.

### Requirements for the lesson:

1. An overhead
2. A tape player
3. A pre-recorded tape with rapid, short clips of at least five different songs (about two or three words each clip). At least some of the songs should be very familiar.
4. Overheads of pages eight, nine, and ten of this lesson

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

**"Things just aren't as they seem!"** This object lesson has two illusions; one is visual, and the other is audible. You may start with either. The tape should be played with the students told to listen for the five songs. They are to each try to guess as many of the songs as they can. When they are through, tell them who got the most right. Point out the songs that were mentioned that *were not* in the recording.

Now **mention** that the experiment is like listening with our own ears, rather than listening with God's Spiritual ears. We hear things that are not there. We begin to think things; such as, "**He doesn't like me,**" or "**She thinks I'm the one that took the toy,**" when this is not what the other person is not thinking at all.

Next show the slides. First, show the two lines that are really the same length, but most students will say they are two different lengths. You will probably have to use a ruler to show them that the lines really are the same lengths!

Next, show the rectangle shape. Ask the students what they see. They should recognize the rectangle. Then ask them which end is closer to the front: the bottom or the top. Let them think and respond. You may get a 50-50 response, as both can be correct--it's a matter of perspective. Then show them the same shape with the shading on the next page. Tell them that the shape was really a picture of a gem. This is just a third way of looking at the shape.

From these visual objects, you can show the students that they did not know the true meaning of what they saw because they did not have *your* insight and guidance into the situation. **Tell them** God can give them insight into their lives, but they have to be willing to let God teach them by His Spirit, and they must listen to His voice—through the Word, people who are gifted by God, angels, or Him directly.

# The Lesson:

DO THE OBJECT LESSON: “***Things just aren’t as they seem!***”

1. What are we talking about?  
Why Change?

a. Question:

(1) Let the children respond, perhaps something puzzled them this week.

(2) Parents example:

(3) Our heavenly Father

Have you ever wondered why you thought something was one way, and it was really another?

Ask the children to give you an example of this. You may even want to share about a time in your life when you had a relationship go sour because of a total misunderstanding.

**Question:** Did anyone of you have a parent tell you not to do something, but you did it anyway and then got in trouble with another person or even hurt?

The parent told them “no” because they were saving them from some kind of hurt or danger, rather than keeping them from something that looks fun.

**Question:** Why did they tell you not to do that?

God wants to be your Heavenly DAD; He wants to keep you out of situations *before* you get into them. If we listen, we can save ourselves a lot of grief.

**Question:** We talk a lot about God being our Heavenly Father. What do you think God the Father of all creation is like?

God is a perfect father—one who doesn’t make mistakes. Every father on the earth is not perfect. Some of the children may even get a rotten picture of God as a father, because they’re own fathers may be of fairly bad character. The dad might even have left the family. This alone could send a child the picture of a God that leaves them in a time of trouble, or a father with unrealistic expectations of the child. This would tell the child that he or she can never live up to God’s expectations of us. So, this is a good opportunity to explain that all Fathers are patterned after God, and not vise versa.

**Explain** what a true father should be like.

b. God's wisdom & knowledge

(1) When we reject Him

(2) Talk about these two stories:

2. How do we listen to God?

a. By His Spirit

**Question:** What do you think God thinks when we don't use His wisdom and knowledge?

Now is a good time to explain the difference between wisdom and knowledge:

**Wisdom:** Knowing how to take His wisdom and put it to good use.

**Knowledge:** The way God sees a situation, and how to handle it.

Knowledge is the tool, and wisdom is knowing how to properly use the tool

He is hurt when we don't come to Him. God loves you enough that He wants you to come to him for every play in the game. God wants you to always be happy, peaceful, and full of His joy. The only way we can have these things is if we go directly to Him and get them.

The Axhead Floats--**2 Kings 6**; and Elisha and the Blinded Amareans.

*Discuss which characters saw the situation through their own eyes.*

Jesus told the disciples that He would have the Father send us a counselor when he got to heaven. This counselor would be with us and help us in every situation. The great news is that he did exactly what he said that he would do. The bad news is that sometimes we don't always listen—or want to listen!

This always gets us in trouble. In the end, we all *have* to listen to God's Holy Spirit. We have two choices: First, we can listen to him when he speaks, being able to walk around the bad stuff that's coming at us; or, we can not listen the first time, then get in trouble, and then have him help us out of our trouble.

Which sounds better to you?

b. By His Word (Bible)

Remember: Everything others tell us must be tested. How do we do that? With our tester, of course! This tester is the Bible, or Word of God.

What if someone says, “Let’s do it anyway! Your parents just don’t want you to have fun.” You know this is the wrong thing to do because the Bible says to obey your parents, for this is right (Ephesians 6:1).

c. Through God’s prophets

Many times God tells others something that he wants them to tell us. This is because we don’t always listen to God. If someone says to you, “The Lord says He wants you to be a leader”, then the Bible says we should test that. How do we do that? Well, we know from God’s Word that He always appoints leaders. So, act like a leader! Do what leaders do. If you see good things come from it, then it’s a good Word from God. However, not everyone is cut out to be a leader, so if it does not go well, then possibly that’s not what God wants you to do after all. Find out exactly what it is then that He does want to do with you. There is something that he wants to do with each and every one of *you!*

What if someone said to you, “The Lord says that you should quit school.” How do you know if the Lord said it or if someone is just telling you that? Yes! The Bible!

The Bible teaches us that parents are to see that we get taught and the law of our country says that we must go to school. The Bible says to obey the authorities appointed over us; therefore, we go to school (Deuteronomy 4:10; Hebrews 13:17).

d. Through those who speak or preach God’s word

Our teachers and pastors teach and preach God’s Word to us. This is because our church needs to always hear the part of God’s Word that is most important to us at that time.

e. The most important part: Prayer

God wants to speak strait to you! Yes, you! You may be small, but God says you are the same to him as an adult. When we pray, we should get quite and let God talk to us. He only wants to tell you how much He loves you and how much he wants to be with you. He wants to see you be a winner!

3. When should we listen to God?	All the time! But especially...
a. When we have to make a decision *	<p><b>Question:</b> Ask the children if they have had to make a hard decision lately? Did they make the right decision? Did they ask God first?</p> <p>This could be a decision to buy the latest, greatest toy. Use the Barbie commercials, for instance. The computer enhanced Barbie, runs, jumps, plays a great round of tennis. However, the real doll doesn't do any of that stuff. Then the lady comes on at the end of the commercial talking ninety miles an hour saying, "Barbie doesn't walk, jump, run, or play tennis, but you can make her do it."</p> <p>Imagine the disappointment to a child who fell for the trick.!</p>
b. When we are in trouble	God really wants to help us here. We can pray in bad situations and get results. God says so!
c. When we need to know which way to go	When we have to make big decisions in our lives. God has a path that He wants you to follow, and He will tell you how to stay on it.
d. When we are not doing God's will	Thinking wrongly about people without a good reason, making conclusions * without the facts is wrong and not God's way. If we pray, God will always show us the right way to think about others.
e. Temptation	When we feel like doing something we know the Bible says is wrong. God will always reward you for doing what is right. You can pray about these kinds of things, and He will make you strong so you can do what is right.
4. Seeing through God's eyes	What's going to change when you see things through God's eyes?
a. Life goes your way	This is because we are now doing things God's way. Things may not always be fun, but at least things will happen for us instead of against us.
b. You live a happier life	If we see, do, and talk exactly the way God wants us to, then we will be happy. God helps you to be happy, even when you should be sad. When we see things through God's eyes, we see the good in every situation.

c. God's plan for you happens

OH YES! God has a perfect plan for your life, and he wants to start NOW. He has your life all mapped out for you. All you have to do is read it. If you get lost, all you have to do is ask Him for directions. He's more than willing to explain the map to you.

d. You feel really useful--like you have a purpose!

Did you ever feel like you just didn't count? Perhaps you feel like you are not important. God and His way will make you feel like the most important person in the world. To God (your heavenly Father) you are the most important person in the world!

5. Conclusion: Prayer time

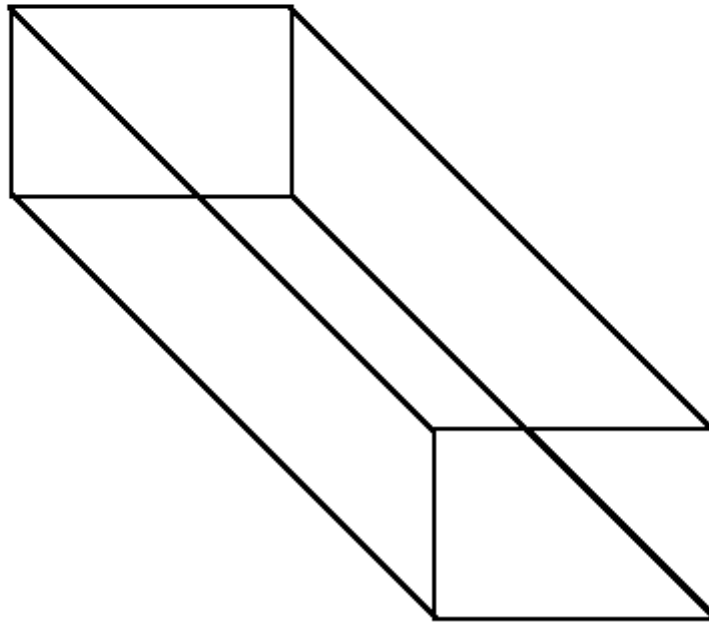
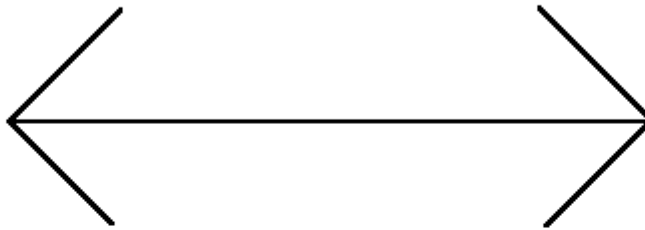
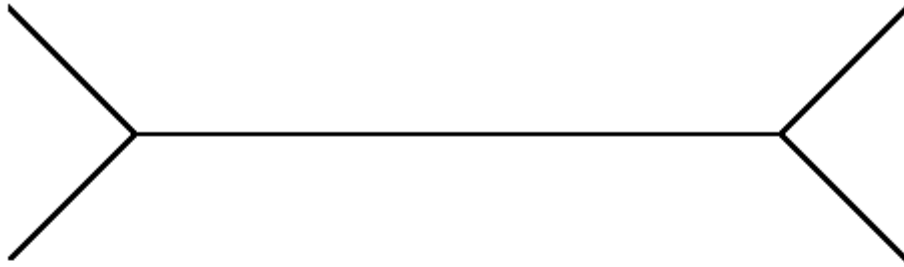
Today you will want to have the children enter into a good prayer time. This is a good opportunity to minister to low self-esteem and insignificance. Don't allow this to be a shallow prayer time. Expect God to show up in all His power and glory. Help the children to really press in.

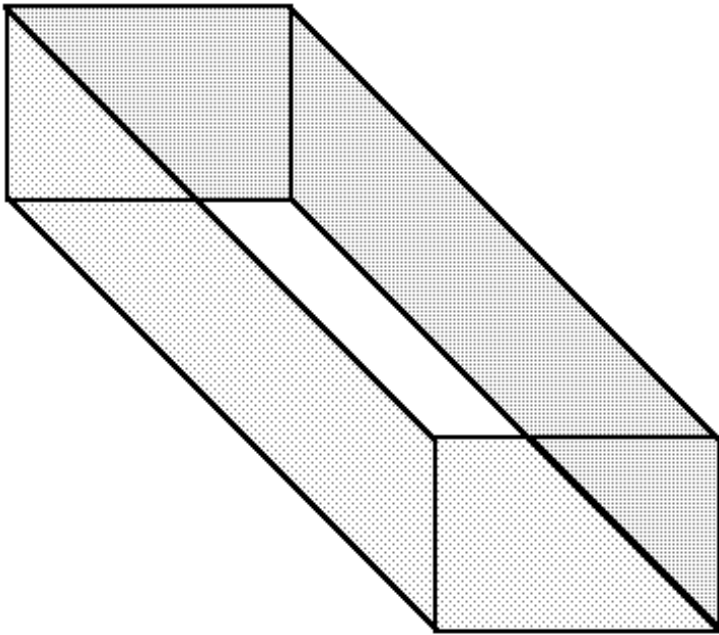
Some of the children may never have done anything like this before. They will need the teacher's guidance and care. It may be necessary to explain praying in this way.

Above all, listen to the Lord for words to the children. If you have some children that have specific prayer needs, do not be afraid to lay hands on them (as a class) and pray for them.

Themes to emphasize today:

1. God is real and present!
2. Each child in the classroom is special to God.
3. They are all important.
4. They can all do great things for God—right now!
5. Prayer works.





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