



Construction Crew/ Kid Builders!

Where worship and fun collide!

525 Garden Dr., Marysville, OH, 43040

Choosing the Narrow Gate

-- or --

Are you a Spiritual Fatso

Memory Verse: Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees....
Psalms 119:33

Lesson Objective: In this lesson, students will learn the importance of following God with a willing heart. Children need to understand that God only wants them to follow Him if they are willing. No one can force them to follow--not their parents, their pastor, nor anyone else. It takes "heart" and the Spirit of God to walk with Him. At the end of this lesson, students should feel closer to God's heart.

Requirements for the lesson:

1. A narrow doorway (Use the 12 inch by 6 foot doorway you made for last week's lesson)
2. Over-sized sweatshirt
3. Pillows marked, "Sin"
4. Some videos
5. A paper marked "horoscope"

Object Lessons and Lead-in to the Lesson:

"Do You Fit!" The doorway is narrow enough that only a very skinny child can get through. Begin by selecting a helper that you know will not be able to get through the doorway. Next, pick a smaller child that you know will fit through. Let them each try to go through the doorway. Only the skinniest child should make it without having to work at it.

This is symbolic of the narrow door. God desires for all of us to come into His presence, but some people cannot because they are not "spiritually fit". Many take the wide gate because it seems easy, but only a few can make it through the narrow one.

“The Lazy Glutton” Requires three people:

Person #1 is a good, Bible reading person who likes to do what's right.

Person #2 takes in things that he shouldn't--scary movies, horoscopes, smoking, bad magazines, etc.

Person #3 isn't really a person, but rather a seemingly invisible figure that stuffs a small pillow underneath person #2's loosely fitting sweatshirt--probably one of "dad's" shirts borrowed from home--each time he takes in something that he shouldn't. You may pin a paper note to each pillow marked, "sin". The idea is to make him too fat to get through the narrow gate.

Person #1: Hey! How ya goin'!

Person #2: Oh, I'm just having a little snack.

Person #1: A little snack! I've never seen sooooo much food. What is that stuff you're eating anyway? It doesn't look too good to me.

(Someone can stuff a small pillow under Person #2's loosely fitting sweat shirt)

Person #2: It's a movie--Freddie Pukes on Boston Part 83. Wanna share?

Person #1: No way! I only put spiritual food into this body. And you should too. Don't you ever read your Bible?

Person #2: Na! It's too much work--reading, you know. Especially the BIBLE.

Person #1: That's because you're out of shape.

Person #2: But I do read some. See, here's by horoscope. I read it every day—just to be sure.

(Stuff a few more pillows under his shirt)

Person #1: To be sure of what? Which side to part your hair on? And besides, I mean SPIRITUALLY FIT. All that stuff you're putting into your mind just makes you a fat, lazy, spirit-less slob.

(Stuff a few more pillows under his shirt)

Person #2: Well you don't have to use names. I'm OK. You see, I can handle it. It doesn't have any effect on me whatsoever. NOOOO way.

Person #1: OK, prove it pretzel boy! Jesus says that if any man is a true follower of His way, then he can pass through the narrow door. Well, let's see ya! Go on!

(Of course he tries and can't do it)

Person #2: Wow! I guess I'm a little out of shape.

Person #1: I'll say. You'd better get your Bible and start chewing on that for awhile.

(The End)

The Lesson:

DO THE OBJECT LESSON: *“The Lazy Glutton”*

1. Can you fit through the narrow gate?

a. Don't Stray!

(1) Peer pressure:

Have the children repeat this scripture: Mt 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."

Maybe you are eating things that are not too good for you, like cartoons that are about other gods or powers that are not pleasing to God. Maybe it's certain video games that you shouldn't play, or maybe you just listen to the wrong people. Sometimes others can take us through the wide gate or get us to do things that make us a Spiritual Fatso. Remember, you are what you eat!

Question: Does God care if you stray a bit?

Yes, He does. The Bible tells us that God is a jealous God.

Question: What is being "jealous?"

God's jealousy is a good kind of jealousy! He doesn't want to lose anyone to the Devil and his ways. When we start acting like the Devil, then we become just like the Devil himself. That's why we have to know exactly what God's way is.

Question: What do we call being pushed by others to do something that we should not do? (Peer pressure)

The Bible says that we are to resist the Devil and he must flee from us.

Question: What does resist mean?

We resist the devil when we don't do the things others try to get us to do that are bad. People like that know it's bad. Instead of doing it themselves, they instead try to get you to do their dirty work for them. Sometimes they just want to ease their guilt by getting somebody else to do it with them—like drugs. If we resist, then we are walking in God's ways and he will reward us.

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| (2) The 2 doors | Remember: You either walk in God's way or the way of the Devil—there's no in between. One way gets you through the narrow door to Jesus, but the other just gets you lost. |
| (3) One's a dead end | God's way looks harder, but when we try it we find out that it is so easy. That's because Jesus helps us. Not only that, but there's always something new coming. Life with Jesus is never boring. |
| | The Devil's way looks easy, but it's really harder. That's because the Devil hurts us. Everything he shows you is tricked or has a big price tag on it. It always costs you more than you thought, is never as good as you thought, and gets boring really quick. The devil's way is just a big dead end. |
| b. The Narrow Gate | Jesus said "Enter through the narrow gate". Listen to what He wants us to do so we can enter through the narrow door. |
| (1) Follow Willingly | We have to follow Him willingly. |
| | Question: How do we follow Him willingly? |
| | You have to do it. Jesus is not going to make you, or even coax you to come. That's your job—you got to want to come. |
| (2) Giving Him Your Heart | We must give Him our heart. |
| | Question: What does this mean to you? |
| | You have to be willing to let Jesus take a hold of your heart. Jesus can fix anything. If you have trouble in your heart, He can fix it. If you feel sad or mean in your heart, Jesus can fix that too. Maybe you feel selfish. Jesus can fix it all. You just got to be willing to go through his narrow door. |

(3) Knowing Him Well

We must know Him well—even just by hearing His voice.

Question: How can we get to know Him?

(Prayer, spending time with Him, and reading and practicing His Word.)

We must let Him become real in our hearts. We can choose to do His ways. If we do, we will see what He is like.

DO THE OBJECT LESSON: *“Do You Fit!”*

2. Two different ways

There is an easy way and a hard way. The easy way is Jesus’ way and the hard way is the Devil’s way.

Question: Why do you think God would make two different ways?

Two good reasons: First, how would we know a right way if there was not a wrong way. This is the other reason: God loves you so much that He wants you to choose Him. He doesn’t want to *make* you love Him, because that is not love. We love by choice.

a. The World’s Way

The world’s way looks easy; but you pay the price

(1) It’s a fake!

Things not as they appear; toys aren’t what they’re supposed to be and things don’t do what they’re promised to do. None of the things that the world has to offer us can save us—only Jesus.

(2) Paying The Price

Things cost you a price: (IE: cheating in school). We not only get caught, but we don’t learn what we should and then get behind. The Devil’s way always brings us to a dead end.

b. God’s Way

Jesus’ way looks hard, but it’s really easy—you get bonus points! We have a reward in heaven for going God’s way. Also, if we study hard in school, then we are smart and can do whatever God wants us to do. Our teachers reward us because we worked hard.

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| (1) The Light Yoke | The Lord said His yoke is easy, and his burden is light. |
| | <p>Question: What is a yoke? What is a burden?</p> |
| (2) The world's yoke | This yoke is so heavy; some people never get out from under it. It just crushes them. They work at things without God's help, so what they do is impossible! |
| (3) God's yoke | God's yoke is kind of like exercise--you get better when you do it. He makes us so strong that the Devil can't stop us. God says that nothing is impossible if we follow Him. |
| 3. What do we do? | We want to enter through Jesus' narrow gate. How are we going to do that? |
| a. Just listen! | God wants to give you all of the instructions. He's our coach. He tells us the plays, so when we go onto the field, <u>we will win</u> . He knows the enemies' weaknesses. |
| b. Do what the Holy Spirit tells you to do | When you hear or feel the Holy Spirit telling you to something or not to do something, do what He says! There's no better feeling than knowing that you did exactly what God wanted you to do. |
| c. Obey without delay! | <p>Have the class say with you, "Obey without delay!"</p> <p>This is the best thing you can do. The next best thing is just like it. Sometimes God tells us to do things and we don't do them. The good news is that it's never too late to do it. You can <u>change your mind</u> and do what God wanted you to do.</p> |
| d. Pray! Listen! and Obey! | <p>Reinforce these points by having the children repeat them—maybe several times.</p> <p>Have them say, "I'M GOING TO PRAY, LISTEN, AND OBEY."</p> |

4. Ministry

Pray for the children. Have them close their eyes, and ask them, “Who feels like they need to go through Jesus’ narrow door today?” If you have hands, do a group prayer. Lead the children and have them repeat after you.

You may also want to ask, “Who feels like they have some kind of junk, such as bad video games, movies, etc. that they need to stop watching.” If you have children raise their hands, have them come to the front and pray for them. You can even have some of the other children come up and pray for them along with you.

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