



Construction Crew/ Kid Builders!

Where worship and fun collide!

525 Garden Dr., Marysville, OH, 43040

Choosing the Right Path

--or--

Don't be a Spiritual Wimp

Memory Verse: Teach me your way, O LORD; lead me in a straight path. . . . **Psalms 27:11**

Lesson Objective: In this lesson, students will learn the benefits of walking God's way. Even though the Christian lifestyle does not always appeal to children on the surface, they will learn that living for Jesus and walking in his ways are the only real road to achieving satisfaction and peace. They will also learn that God's ways—in the end—are truly appealing after all.

Requirements for the lesson:

1. Butcher paper, or press roll paper (press roll paper remnants can be obtained from most printers).
2. A closed door (can simply be simulated on butcher or press paper, or pull a real one as instructed in the "I'm So Confused" object lesson).
3. An exit (open doorway).

Object Lessons and Lead-in to the Lesson:

"I'm So Confused!" Run the butcher paper up an aisle-way or hall like a path. It can even run down a hall to the classroom. Make it to look like a path with paints, etc., or leave it plain, and have your children decorate it after class. You may want to use masking tape to hold down the edges, so no one will slip or trip. As the path approaches the front of the room or audience, make a fork where another path shoots off of it. Run one path up to the door that is closed. (If necessary, remove a door from anywhere in the building by simply pulling out the door pins--takes less than a minute) If you choose this method, place the door against the wall so that it appears impassable. Then, run the other path of butcher paper up to and out of the open doorway so it has an appearance of going forever.

The children will naturally be very curious as to what all the paths are about. Before you tell them, see if anyone in the class can figure it out. It will seem like quite a mystery to them. If they do not guess, or are not sure if they are right, then ask them which way they think they think that they would like to go. Once you get a vote as to which way the children want to go, then explain to them what the paths are all about.

This is symbolic of the paths we choose to walk. Explain how God made a path for them before He even made the whole world. Nonetheless, He loves us so much that He lets us choose which way we want to go. He wants us to choose His path, rather than make us take it. We get to use our will to go our own way, or His way. Of course, if we choose our own way (or the world's way) we will die. If we choose God's way, we live with Him forever.

Optional Skit: “Peer Pressure!” Create a puppet skit about one of the following topics:

1. the results sin on our lives
2. living for God
3. standing up for a way of life in Him.

After the lead-in, ask the students to comment on the skit. See what insight they have.

The Lesson:

OPTIONAL SKIT: Perform the skit

DO THE OBJECT LESSON: *"I'm So Confused!"*

1. Two Ways You Can Go:

God's way or Satan's way.

A. The World Is Full Of Temptation

QUESTION: What does it mean to be "tempted"?

Allow the children to respond, then begin tempting them with a big candy bar. Begin to talk about how delicious it smells (sniff, sniff!). Perhaps you could say that you just had one earlier, and it was so good! Once they've had enough, go ahead and share it with the class. Most of them will go for it easily.

You can use this as an example. They were easily tempted! Illustrate to them just how readily and freely they took the candy bar after they were tempted—it was easy. Explain how we can just give in or say "no" for God.

QUESTION: What are you easily tempted by?

(1) Peer Pressure:

QUESTION: What is peer pressure?

We as Christians can use peer pressure on other people too. We can stand up for what we believe and not give in to the devil's ways. God's Holy Spirit will make others feel uneasy because of what you stand for.

The Bible says, "Resist the Devil and he must flee from you" (James 4:7). He will only flee if we give all of ourselves to God. Just imagine the devil himself running from children just like you! How about him running from just little old *you*! God says he has to, so that is that!

QUESTION: How does that make you feel?

(2) Remember The 2 Doors:

QUESTION: What were the two doors all about?

One of the doors gives you life, and a big reward in the end. This is God's door. The other door just gave us junk—we get nothing. This is the door of the enemy (the Devil), and he just wants to ruin your life.

<p>B. Living A Counterfeit Life</p>	<p>Use the example of counterfeit money. Some people can make it, but it's not real. It looks like the real thing, but it's worthless. Some people try to live a life that looks "Christian", but because their heart isn't for Jesus, they're fakes too—worthless to Jesus!</p>
<p>(1) Being Saved And Living Like The Devil.</p>	<p>QUESTION: Can you think of some things that make people fakes? (Saying you're a Christian: but, not doing what the Bible says, not sharing, saying bad words, being mean, etc.)</p>
<p>(2) God Knows A Fake</p>	<p>God knows you're a phony when you live life your way instead of His way (so does everyone else). You only fool yourself.</p>
<p>(3) Jesus Wants Strong Warriors</p>	<p>He wants to make you a strong warrior. He wants to make you so powerful that you can knock the devil down just by saying the name of JESUS! The Bible says that having Jesus and His Word in your heart is like having the sharpest sword in the territory! You don't have to be big, or be an adult; you just have to be for Jesus—and believe.</p>
<p>2. Two Paths:</p>	<p>Your life is like a journey.</p> <p>QUESTION: Will you pick the right path when you get to the place where it goes two ways? How will you know what the right path looks like?</p> <p>God is good to show it to you. Just ask yourself, "What would Jesus do?" That's the way that you go!</p>
<p>A. God Has Made A Good Path For You</p>	<p>We do choose it on our own--you choose it or not. If you listen closely, you can hear Jesus calling from down the path. Just follow His voice. The Bible says that we will know His voice when He calls us (John 10:4).</p>
<p>B. The Turning Point.</p>	<p>QUESTION: There are two things you must do to go down Jesus' path. What do you think they are?</p>
<p>(1) Salvation</p>	<p>Yes, we have to ask Jesus into our heart. Then we can live for him.</p>
<p>(2) Choosing Your Walk</p>	<p>Make the choice to go down the right one.</p>

C. Where The Paths Lead	Remember where the two paths lead.
(1) One's A Dead End	It seems easy, but your life ends right along with the path's end!
(2) One Goes On And On	The other leads through the door and goes on for ever. It takes us strait to Jesus.
D. Staying On The Path	QUESTION: How do we stay on the path the path? By walking with Jesus all the way!
(1) By Loving God	By loving God more than anything! You can't make God number two on your list. Love him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
(2) Helping Our Neighbor	Jesus said that if you're going to walk His path, then you have to love your neighbor even more than you love your self. This means thinking to do things for others <i>before</i> you think to do for yourself.
(3) Keeping God's Commands	God says that if you say that you love Him, but you don't keep His commands, then you are a liar. It's easy to love God, and not that hard to love our neighbor, but sometimes it is almost impossible to keep some of His commands.
QUESTION: What are some of His commands?	
3. Making A Choice.	
A. Serve Jesus, Not The World	It's something that you work at all the time. The more that you do it, then the better that you get at it.
B. Practice The Things Jesus Expects You To Do	Practice makes perfect. QUESTION: What are some things that you can practice for Jesus this week?
C. Easy To Get Back To The Good Path	If you ever get lost or go up the wrong path, the good news is that you can always back up and take the right one. You're always just a step away.
4. Call To A Clean Walk	Give you class an opportunity to rededicate, or even become saved for the first time. Pray with them. Next, see how many would like to pray to the Lord to keep them on the right path. Have the children who are strong in the Lord pray along with you for the others.

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