

The Balancing Burden of Sin - Object Lesson, "Have You Ever" game, plus Plan of Salvation.

For this object lesson, you will need several heavy books... (I always borrow hymnals from the music director when doing this object lesson.)

Before you begin the object lesson, teach the children what "Sin" is by playing the "Have you ever" game.

HAVE YOU EVER? - GAME

You will begin the game by asking everyone to take a seat.

To play, you will ask a question, and if the child has ever done what the question asks, they are to stand (and remain standing)

(All questions are sins...but do not call them sins until you have finished playing the game.)

Ask some ridiculous questions as well as realistic ones.

For instance:

"Have you ever stolen a car?"

"Have you ever robbed a bank?"

"Have you ever told a lie?"

"Have you ever disobeyed your parents?"

"Have you ever taken anything that doesn't belong to you? etc.

Note: Some kids WILL stand when you list the ridiculous questions.

Put those questions first to break the ice and get the children participating. You will quickly find out who your jokesters are!

If a jokester stands up, simply shake your head and tell them you know better, and have them sit down. Remember, this is supposed to be fun, so play it off once or twice before getting serious.

Ask them enough questions (6-8) so that most are standing, then have everyone else sit back down.

Don't address those who did not stand. Some children WILL not admit to wrongdoing. (There are even adults who won't admit it!)

Explain to the children that each thing mentioned in the game you played is SIN!

The Bible says we are ALL sinners and fall short of the glory of God...We are separated from God!

How do we know if what we are doing is a sin?

Sin is choosing to do things our way instead of God's way.

How do we know if it's God's way? By simply asking ourselves one simple question. "Would my action make God happy or sad?"

Optional: Make two cardboard circles...draw a smiley face on one circle and a sad face on the other. Glue a tongue depressor to each smiley face as a handle.

Go through the questions you asked during the "Have you ever" game above as well as some questions that would make God happy. Ask the children if that would make God happy (hold up the happy face) or sad (hold up the sad face).
Once they answer, hold up the correct face.

Object Lesson:

Select two children (the stronger the better for this object lesson)

One person (the strongest) will hold their arms out straight to their sides with palms up.

As you list each item from the game above, have the second child place a book in the palm of the child with outstretched arms. (keeping the books balanced). 3-4 books in each arm should be plenty.

As the book is being placed in the palm...remind the children that _____ is a sin.

Once the child has 3-4 books in each palm, have them stand that way as long as they can.

Tell the children that while on the cross, Jesus bore the weight of our sins. He endured the punishment we deserved.

While sin separates us from God, Jesus provided the way for our sins to be forgiven.

In Isaiah 53:4-6 the Bible tells us this:

"Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed." While we all carry the burden of our sins, Jesus took upon Himself the ultimate burden—the sins of the entire world.