

**Kids
of All Ages**

BIG BOOK

of

Object Talks



**Kids learn Bible truths
through everyday objects!**

Reproducible

Kids
of All Ages

BIG BOOK

of

Object Talks



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BIG BOOK OF OBJECT TALKS FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES

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Contents

Tips	6
Leading a Good Discussion	7
Leading a Child to Christ	8

Encouragement

Lighting the Way	9
Mirror Talk	11
Mission Impossible?	13
Paper Challenge	15

Faithfulness

A Faithful Watchman	17
Escape from Germany	19
Faith of a Mother	21
Faithful Friendship	23
Helicopter Project	25
Job Training	27
Praise the Lord	29
Who's First?	31

Forgiveness

"Awe"some Forgiveness	33
A Sweet New Year	35
Debt Free	37
Fast and Slow	39
Have a Seat!	41
Laundry Day	43
Road Signs	45
Shofar Sounds	47

God's Word

Action Words	49
Bibles and Books	51
Follow the Light	53
God's Word in English	55
The Shelter	57
Weeks of Celebration	59
You've Got Mail!	61

Guidance from God

Bible Translators	63
Birthday Candles	65
Gifts to Honor	67
It Is Well	69
Quick Change	71
What's Dependable?	73
Wise Ways.....	75

Help from God

Anger Control	77
Choosing Self-Control	79
Delicious Decorations	81
Games to Go.....	83
House Afire.....	85
Joy in the Pit	87
Passover Power	89
Sending Portions	91
Thundering Sounds.....	93

Jesus

Balloon Pop	95
Believe It or Not	97
Dead or Alive?	99
Here's Jesus!	101
Hidden Picture	103
Music Man	105
Ready Wreaths.....	107
Washed Clean	109
Worldwide Praise	111
Worldwide Singing	113

Love for Others

A Ship in Danger	115
Balloon Drop	117
Birthdays around the World	119
Circle Attraction	121
Double Trouble	123
Love Songs	125
Music of Courage.....	127
Prison Reform.....	129
Salt Surprise	131

Love from God

Circle Talk	133
Gifts of Love	135
Honorable Mention	137
Memory Lane.....	139
Missionaries of Charity	141
Never-Ending Love	143
Overflowing Love	145
Ties of Love	147
What Do You Need?	149

Obeying God

A Chance to Learn	151
Direction Signals	153
Emergency Kit	155
Eyes of Faith	157
Growing in Obedience	159
Making Friends.....	161
Rainbow Fun.....	163
Running the Race.....	165
Talk Radio	167
Worldwide Travel.....	169

Peace

A Dangerous Journey.....	171
Fair Pay for All.....	173
Home Security	175
Our Daily Bread.....	177
Peace in the Congo	179
Prison Peace.....	181

Praise and Worship

Branches of Praise	183
Cheerful Praise	185
Foreign Phrases	187
Magnificent Music	189
Praise Parade	191
Sing a Song	193
Thumb Wrap!.....	195
Wave Bottles	197
Welcoming Ways	199

Prayer

Ask God!.....	201
Light Lesson	203
The Bells Are Ringing	205
Watch and Wait.....	207
Worldwide Prayer	209

Salvation

Bigger Than All.....	211
Breaking Bread Together.....	213
Great Greetings	215
Joy in Salvation.....	217
Paid in Full	219
Signs of Change.....	221

Service to Others

Care for Foster Children.....	223
Gifts to Grow By	225
Good Soup.....	227
Homes for the Homeless	229
School Uniforms	231
Service with a Smile.....	233
Talented People	235
Traveling School	237
Will Work for Free.....	239

Thankfulness

An Itchy Situation.....	241
Cornucopia of Thanks	243
Making Music	245
Offering It All	247
Songs of Joy.....	249
Index	251

Tips

Object talks can draw children in and help them apply the Bible truths to their lives. These object talks can be used as family devotions, children's sermons, or supplements to any Sunday school curriculum. They can also augment any children's ministry program, day school, or homeschool curriculum.

Getting the Most Out of an Object Talk

Preparation is the key to using *Big Book of Object Talks for Kids of All Ages*. Read a talk at least several days ahead to give ample time to gather the needed materials. You may find it helpful to practice some talks before presenting them.

Whenever possible, invite children to participate. Each time you present an object talk, ask a different child to read the Bible verse aloud.

Occasionally describe situations in which knowing God's Word has helped you. Tell children how the Bible verse presented in the object talk has been important to you.

Encouragement

Lighting the Way
God gives us courage in all situations.

Be strong and courageous... Do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.
Joshua 1:9

Materials

- Bible with bookmarks at Joshua 1:9 and Psalm 138:16-17
- Objects used in dark areas (night-light, flashlight, candle, lantern, etc.)
- Paper, pencils (optional)

Introduction

In all situations, we can count on God to give us the courage we need. Let's look at some things people might use at times when they are scared.

Presentation

1. Choose the objects you brought. What is this? When do people use it? How does it help them? Volunteers can respond. Sometimes people use these kinds of things when it's dark. They might need to see where they are going, or maybe they just want to see the light because it makes them feel safe. What are some things younger kids might use to help them feel safe when it's dark?
2. When David, the man in Bible times who eventually became king of Israel, wanted to feel safe, he depended on God to give him courage. David wrote several psalms about times he needed courage. Psalm 138 is a psalm David wrote when God wanted to kill him. Read or ask an older child to read Psalm 138:16-17 aloud. Writing and singing this psalm must have helped David remember and embrace God's help and care for him, because David wrote other psalms at other scary times in his life.

Conclusion

Just as David trusted God to give him courage, we can also count on God to give us courage in all the situations we face. Read Joshua 1:9 aloud. Start knowing God to walk on whenever we go gives us all the courage we need! Praise, thanking God for His gift of courage and that He is with us whenever we go.

Suggestions for Using the Object Talks

- **Adult Worship Service**—If the children in your church are in some or all of the adult service, consider using the object talk as the basis for a weekly children's sermon.
- **Newsletter**—Encourage parents to use the object talk with their children. To support your church's parents in their significant job of teaching Bible truths to their children, insert the object talk into a family newsletter you send every month.

- **Website**—Instead of or in addition to a newsletter, post on your church's website an object talk every week or month for families to access and use for family devotions.
- **Parenting Classes**—Distribute copies of selected object talks as part of classes on parenting and invite parents to use the object talks at home. Each object talk discusses a topic important to families, such as service to others ("School Uniforms"), obeying God ("Rainbow Fun"), and forgiving others ("Awe'some Forgiveness").
- **Holidays**—Combine Christmas and Easter object talks into a separate pamphlet and distribute to families to help them keep children focused on the biblical truths of these holidays.
- **Program Resources**—Provide copies of object talks to leaders and teachers to use in supplementing their curriculums.
- **School Resources**—Provide copies of object talks to teachers in weekday school or to parents who homeschool their children.



Leading a Good Discussion

A good discussion requires leaders to listen as much as—or more than—they speak. However, encouraging others to speak up can be difficult. The following questions are commonly asked about making a discussion truly productive, and not an unfocused, rambling monologue.

How do I keep the discussion on track?

Use the discussion questions provided with each object talk to focus on children's personal experiences. When Bible truths relate to daily life, interest in the discussion will grow.

How do I get the discussion back on track if a digression occurs?

If significant interest is shown in the new topic and it has real value—and if you feel able to guide this new topic for discussion—then you may decide to stay with the new issue. Otherwise, use questions to bring attention back to the original topic. Move on to a new question, restate your question, or rephrase your question if the group did not understand what you asked.

If an outside interruption catches the group's attention, acknowledge it as matter-of-factly as possible, and then restate the question being discussed. You may also want to summarize some of the key points already made in the discussion.

What do I do when no one says anything or when kids are giving pat answers?

If you've asked a thought-provoking question, assume kids need at least a few moments to think. Be silent for a bit (no more than 20 to 30 seconds), and repeat or rephrase the question. If you still get

no response, give your own answer to the question and move on.

If silence is a recurring problem, evaluate the questions you ask. Are they too vague? Are they too threatening? Do they require knowledge the kids do not have? Are the answers too obvious?

If the questions are fine, evaluate your response to what the group says. Are you unwilling to accept answers if they differ from what you consider to be the correct responses? Do you tend to always improve the students' answers? Work to create a climate of openness and trust.

Finally, add some variety to your approach in asking questions:

- Have students write their answers on paper. This allows them time to organize their thoughts. Then invite them to read what they wrote.
- Divide the class into smaller groups. You may ask all groups the same questions or assign different questions to each group. Invite volunteers to share the answers for their groups.

The same suggestions apply when students are giving only pat answers. The root problem is often the same in either case: the discussion participants do not feel secure sharing what they really think.



Leading a Child to Christ

One of the greatest privileges of serving in children's ministry is to help guide children to become members of God's family. Pray and ask God to prepare the kids you know to understand and receive the good news about Jesus. Ask God to give you the sensitivity and wisdom to communicate effectively and to be aware as opportunities occur.

When talking with children about salvation, use words and phrases they understand; never assume kids understand a concept just because they can repeat certain words. Avoid symbolic terms that will confuse literal-minded thinkers. As you watch and pray, you will see kids developing relationships with God.

Here are some questions you can ask and things you can discuss with a child who is interested in accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Encourage the child to look up and read the Bible verses along with you.

Read John 3:16. **Why did God send Jesus to earth?** (God loved us so much that He wants us to have eternal life with Him.)

First John 3:1 says that God wants us to be His children. But sin, doing wrong, separates us from God. Read Romans 6:23. **What do you think should happen to us when we sin?** (die) **But what is God's gift to us?** (eternal life in Jesus)

Jesus willingly died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins. Read 1 Corinthians 15:3. **But Jesus didn't stay in the tomb. After three days, He came back to life! Jesus died so that we can live forever in heaven with Him.**

Are you sorry for the wrong things that you've done? If you are, what should you do? Read 1 John 1:9. **Our sins are wiped away when we're truly sorry for what we've done and when we turn to God.**

Read Ephesians 2:8. **How are we saved?** (by God's grace, through faith) **Christian faith is a life-long adventure here on earth. With Jesus as Lord of our lives, we build a life of submitting to God, following Jesus, and keeping in step with the Spirit.**

At this point, continue to talk with the child about accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior. Include what your church teaches about how this happens. If you have any questions about salvation, talk with your pastor or children's ministry leader.

God wants every person to accept the free gift of eternal life that He's offering. What do you need to do about this?

Encouragement

Lighting the Way

God gives us courage in all situations.

Materials

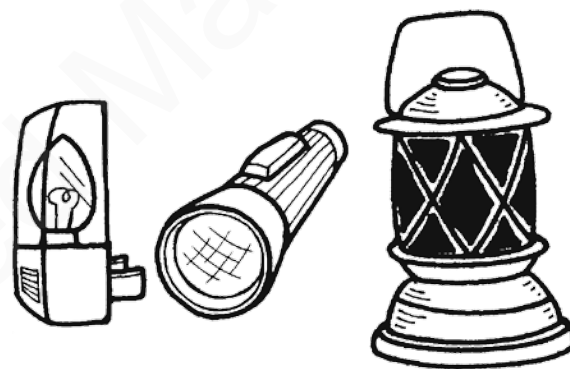
- Bible with bookmarks at Joshua 1:9 and Psalm 59:16–17
- object(s) used in dark areas (night-light, flashlight, candle, lantern, etc.)
- paper, pencils (*optional*)

Introduction

In all situations, we can count on God to give us the courage we need. Let's look at some things people might use at times when they are scared.

Presentation

1. Display the object(s) you brought. **What is this? When do people use it? How does it help them?** Volunteers can respond. **Sometimes people use these kinds of lights when it's dark. They might need to see where they are going, or maybe they just want to see the light because it makes them feel safe. What are some things younger kids might use to help them feel safe when it's dark?**



2. **When David, the man in Bible times who eventually became king of Israel, wanted to feel safe, he depended on God to give him courage. David wrote several psalms about times he needed courage. Psalm 59 is a psalm David wrote when Saul wanted to kill him. Read or ask an older child to read Psalm 59:16–17 aloud. Writing and singing this psalm must have helped David remember and celebrate God's help and care for him, because David wrote other psalms at other scary times in his life.**

Conclusion

Just as David trusted God to give him courage, we can also count on God to give us courage in all the situations we face. Read Joshua 1:9 aloud. **Just knowing God is with us wherever we go gives us all the courage we need!** Pray, thanking God for His gift of courage and that He is with us wherever we go.

**Be strong and courageous....
Do not be discouraged, for
the LORD your God will be
with you wherever you go.**

Joshua 1:9

Discussion Questions

1. **What does it mean to have courage?** (to do what is right even when it is hard or we feel afraid)
2. **When are times kids your age need courage?** (taking a test at school, performing in a music recital or acting in a play, being around older kids who are mean)
3. **What can we do to get courage in hard situations?** (pray to God, remember God's promise to be with us everywhere we go)
4. **Why can we always depend on receiving courage from God when we ask for it?** (God always keeps His promises.)

Additional Information for Older Children

In many Bibles, the word *miktam* is written under the title of Psalm 59. No one knows exactly what this word means. Some people think it was a word that described the kind of words David was writing or the melody to which the words were sung. *Miktam* is written under the titles of all the psalms David wrote when he was in great danger. (Optional: Children can look at Psalms 56–60.) Since *miktam* is only written under the psalms David wrote when he was in danger, what do you think the word might have meant?

Mirror Talk

No matter how bad it looks, God is with us.

Materials

- Bible with a bookmark at Psalm 118:6–7
- hand mirrors
- paper on which you have printed the sentence “The Lord is with me” backwards (see sketch)
- paper
- pencils

Introduction

Because He promises to be with us, God can help us even when we’re worried or afraid. Look at these words and see if you can figure out what they say and how God helps us in difficult times.

Presentation

1. In class, show the words you printed to one or more volunteers and ask them to try to read the words. **How hard is it to read these words? Why don’t they make sense when you first look at them?**
2. Hold the words up to a mirror and invite several volunteers to read the words. Volunteers can write the sentence backwards and use mirrors to read the words.

The Lord is with me.

Conclusion

Sometimes we might feel like all the wrong things are happening to us. We might feel like we can’t understand why sad things happen to us or to others. But if we remember that God is with us, we can ask Him to help us know what to do. Read Psalm 118:6–7 aloud. Thank God for promising to be with us even in difficult times.

**The LORD is with me;
I will not be afraid.
What can mere mortals
do to me? The LORD is
with me; he is my helper.**

Psalm 118:6–7

Discussion Questions

1. **When is a time kids your age might feel afraid or worried?**
2. **What are some of the ways God helps us?** (He gives us parents and friends and promises to hear and answer our prayers.)
3. **What other promises does God give us?** (to forgive us when we do wrong, to give us courage)

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Mission Impossible?

God encourages us when we're afraid.

Materials

- Bible with a bookmark at Joshua 1:9
- 8½" x 11" paper
- scissors

Preparation

Practice cutting paper, following the directions below.

Introduction

God gives us courage, even when we have something really hard to do.

Look at this impossible task with me!

Presentation

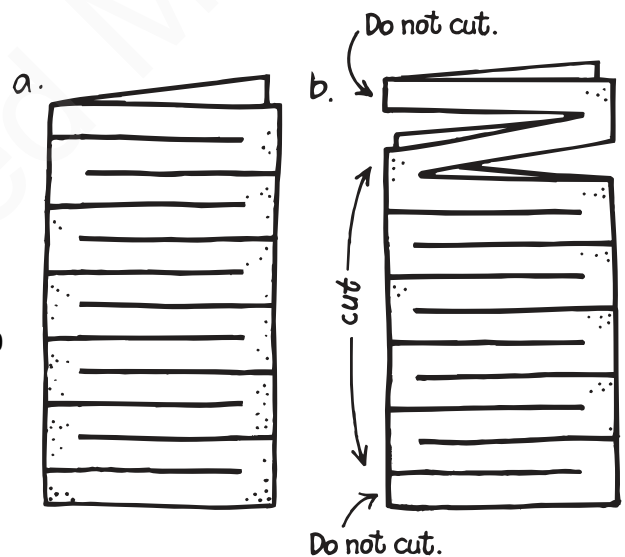
1. Show paper and ask, **How might I fit my whole body through this paper?**
2. After children Conclusion that the task is impossible, fold the paper lengthwise. Cut the paper as shown (sketch a), making an uneven number of cuts approximately ½" apart. Cut on the fold between the first and last sections as shown (sketch b). Then carefully open up the folds and step through the circle you have made.

Conclusion

When something seems too hard to do or we're discouraged, God can help us by giving us courage and helping us know what to do. **What does God promise to do?** Read Joshua 1:9 aloud. Thank God for encouraging us when we're afraid.

**Be strong and courageous....
Do not be discouraged, for
the LORD your God will be
with you wherever you go.**

Joshua 1:9



Discussion Questions

1. **What might make a kid your age feel discouraged or feel like giving up?**
2. **When is a time a kid your age might feel afraid and need to ask God for courage?**
3. **What are some ways in which God encourages us?** (He gives us friends and parents and promises of help in the Bible.)

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Index

Bible Verse

Exodus 15:2 • Cornucopia of Thanks.....	243	Psalm 118:6–7 • Mirror Talk.....	11
Exodus 15:26 • Quick Change	71	Psalm 119:11 • Growing in Obedience.....	159
Joshua 1:9 • Lighting the Way	9	Psalm 119:30 • Who’s First?.....	31
Joshua 1:9 • Mission Impossible?	13	Psalm 119:59 • Road Signs	45
1 Kings 8:61 • God’s Word in English	55	Psalm 119:66 • Emergency Kit.....	155
1 Chronicles 16:29 • Offering It All.....	247	Psalm 119:66 • Weeks of Celebration.....	59
Psalm 28:7 • Songs of Joy.....	249	Psalm 119:105 • Follow the Light	53
Psalm 29:11 • Home Security	175	Psalm 119:127 • Action Words	49
Psalm 32:8 • Bibles and Books.....	51	Psalm 119:133 • The Shelter	57
Psalm 33:11 • Sending Portions.....	91	Psalm 136:1 • Cheerful Praise.....	185
Psalm 33:20 • House Afire	85	Psalm 145:3 • Wave Bottles	197
Psalm 92:4 • Joy in the Pit	87	Psalm 145:8 • Fast and Slow.....	39
Psalm 95:1 • Music Man	105	Psalm 147:1 • Welcoming Ways.....	199
Psalm 95:6–7 • Thumb Wrap!	195	Psalm 149:1 • Praise Parade	191
Psalm 100:2 • Sing a Song.....	193	Proverbs 2:6 • Wise Ways.....	75
Psalm 100:3 • Birthdays around the World	119	Proverbs 3:3 • Faith of a Mother	21
Psalm 105:2 • Memory Lane.....	139	Proverbs 3:5 • It Is Well.....	69
Psalm 117 • A Faithful Watchman.....	17	Proverbs 3:5–6 • Gifts to Honor	67
Psalm 117:2 • Never-Ending Love	143	Proverbs 17:17 • Faithful Friendship	23
		Proverbs 19:20 • Bible Translators.....	63