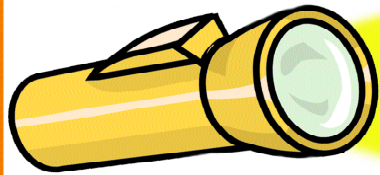


# REALLY BIG BOOK



OF

# KIDS'

# SERMONS

and



# OBJECT TALKS

CD-ROM included!



- Life-application discussion questions
- Teaches Bible principles through everyday objects
- Enriches any curriculum

**REPRODUCIBLE!**



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Originally Published as *The Big Book of Kid Sermons and Object Talks* (Ventura, CA: Gospel Light, 1999), *Celebrate and Worship* (Ventura, CA: Gospel Light, 2000) and *Fruitful Lives Kids' Sermons and Object Talks* (Ventura, CA: Gospel Light, 2001).

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The CD-ROM included with this book will make your life easier! You can use the search engine included on the CD-ROM to locate the object talk file you want. What could be easier?

# Kid Sermon and Object Talk 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.

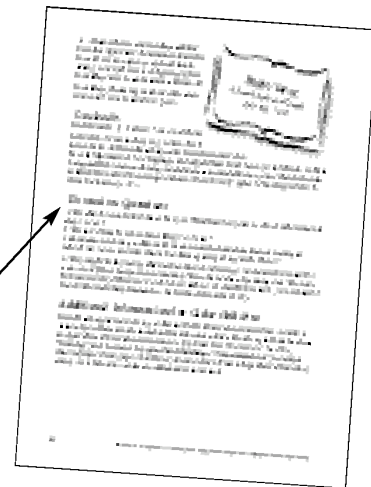
## Getting the Most Out of an Object Talk

Preparation is the key to using *The Really Big Book of Kid Sermons and Object Talks!* 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.

After giving the object talk, ask one or more of the Discussion Questions found in bold print at the end of each talk.



## 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 or e-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 caring for others ("School Uniforms"), obeying God ("Stronger Than Sin") and forgiving others ("Awe'some Forgiveness").
- **Holidays** Combine Christmas- and Easter-related 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 it 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 that kids need at least a few moments to think. Be silent for a bit (no more than 20-30 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? 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 w/ students are giving only “pat” answers. The root problem is often the same 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 programs is to help children become members of God's family. Some children, especially those from Christian homes, may be ready to believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior earlier than others. Ask God to prepare the children to receive the good news about Jesus and prepare you to communicate effectively with them.

Talk individually with children. Something as important as a child's personal relationship with Jesus Christ can be handled more effectively one-on-one than in a group. A child needs to respond individually to the call of God's love. This response needs to be a genuine response to God—not because the child wants to please peers, parents or you, the leader.

Follow these basic steps in talking with children about becoming members of God's family. The evangelism booklet *God Loves You* is an effective guide to follow. Show the child what God says in His Word. Ask the questions suggested to encourage thinking and comprehending.

a. **God wants you to become His child** (see John 1:12). **Do you know why God wants you in His family?** (See 1 John 4:8.)

b. **You and all the people in the world have done wrong things** (see Romans 3:23). **The Bible word for doing wrong is "sin." What do you think should happen to us when we sin?** (See Romans 6:23.)

c. **God loves you so much He sent His Son to die on the cross for your sins. Because Jesus never sinned, He is the only One who can take the punishment for your sins** (see 1 Corinthians 15:3; 1 John 4:14). **The Bible tells us that God raised Jesus from the dead and that He is alive forever.**

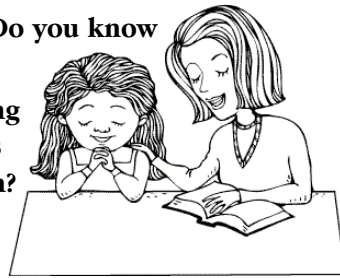
d. **Are you sorry for your sins? Do you believe Jesus died to be your Savior? If you do believe and you are sorry for your sins, God forgives all your sins** (see 1 John 1:9).

**When you talk to God, tell Him that you believe He gave His Son, Jesus Christ, to take your punishment. Also tell God you are sorry for your sins. Tell Him that He is a great and wonderful God. It is easy to talk to God. He is ready to listen. What you are going to tell Him is something He has been waiting to hear.**

e. **The Bible says that when you believe in Jesus, God's Son, you receive God's gift of eternal life. This gift makes you a child of God. This means God is with you now and forever** (see John 3:16).

Give your pastor the names of those who make decisions to become members of God's family. Encourage the child to tell his or her family about the decision. Children who make decisions need follow-up to help them grow in Christ.

NOTE: The Bible uses many terms and images to express the concept of salvation. Children often do not understand or may develop misconceptions about these terms, especially terms that are highly symbolic. (Remember the trouble Nicodemus, a respected teacher, had in trying to understand the meaning of being "born again?") Many people talk with children about "asking Jesus into your heart." The literal-minded child is likely to develop strange ideas from the imagery of those words. The idea of being a child of God (see John 1:12) is perhaps the simplest portrayal the New Testament provides.





# Group Music

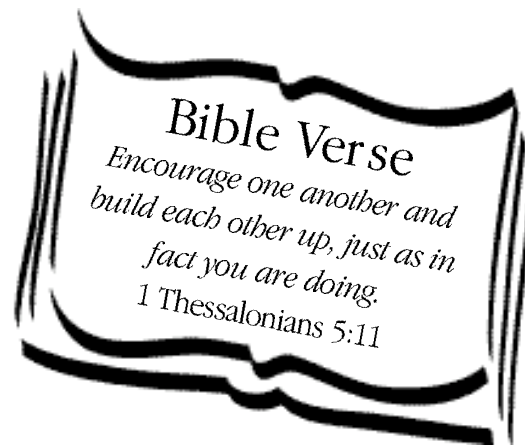
*Encourage one another to love and obey God and to do His work.*

## Teacher Materials

Bible with bookmarks at Psalm 147 and 1 Thessalonians 5:11, paper, photocopier, several CDs/cassettes of different vocal or instrumental groups (duets, trios, choirs, orchestras) and player.

## Prepare the Activity

Make five photocopies of Psalm 147:1-5.



## Introduce the Object Talk

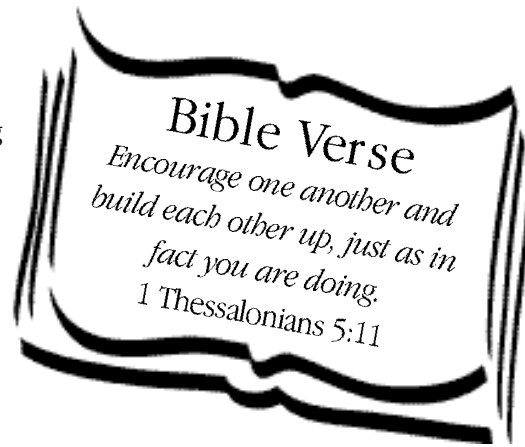
**We can encourage each other to love and obey God and do His work. Let's look at some ways in which people work together to create something wonderful.**

## Present the Object Talk

1. Briefly play several examples of different types of musical groups. **What is the same about these different types of musical groups? What's different? What do the players or singers need to do in order to make their music sound good?** (Work together to follow the music. Play at the same tempo, or speed. Practice with each other.) **Making music is only one way people work together. What are some other ways?** (Soccer players passing the ball to score a goal. Carpenters building a house.)
2. **When there's a big job to be done, it's important to encourage each other to do the job. In Bible times, many people had to work together to rebuild the wall that had fallen down around Jerusalem. People who study the Bible think that Psalm 147 was written for a choir to sing when the wall was built.**



3. Distribute copies of Psalm 147:1-5 to five volunteers. Volunteers read verses in the following manner: One child begins by reading verse one. Another child joins him or her on the second verse. Continue adding voices one at a time until all five volunteers read verse five together. Repeat with new volunteers as time allows.



## Conclude

**God gives us other people to help us and encourage us to do His work.** Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11 aloud. **When we encourage others, we help them love and obey God.** Pray, thanking God that He gives us people to encourage us, and asking His help to encourage others to love and obey Him and to do His work.

## Discussion Questions

1. **Why is it important to encourage other people?** (It is a way to follow God's command to love one another.)
2. **What does it mean to love and obey God and do His work?** (Do the things the Bible commands us to do such as love each other; give clothes, money and food to needy people; say kind words to one another instead of arguing; pray for others; etc.)
3. **What are some things you could do or say to encourage others to do God's work?**

## Additional Information for Older Children

Psalm 147 was probably performed by two choirs made up of people called Levites. Levites (people from the tribe of Levi) helped the priests in the Tabernacle and, later, in the Temple. The first choir walked in one direction along the wall while the other choir walked along the wall in the opposite direction! Read about these choirs in Nehemiah 12:27-31,38.

# Lighting the Way

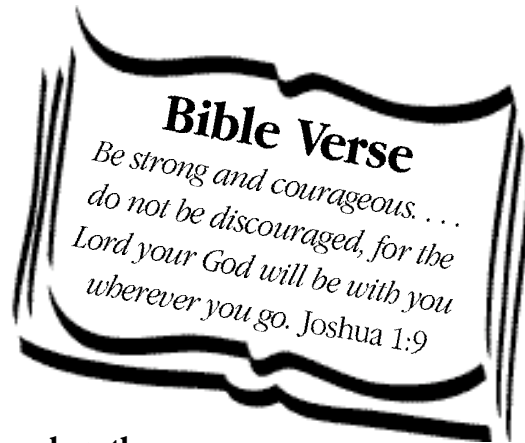
*God gives us courage in all situations.*

## Teacher 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.); optional—paper, pencils.

## Introduce the Object Talk

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



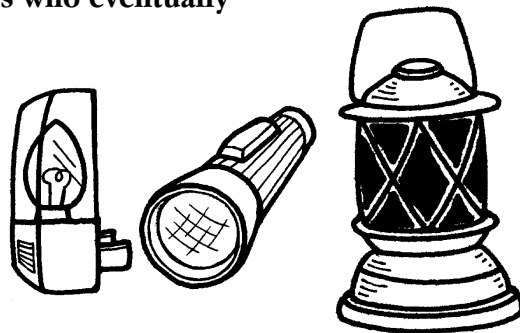
## Present the Object Talk

**1.** Display object(s) you brought. **What is this? When do people use it? How does it help them?** Volunteers 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**

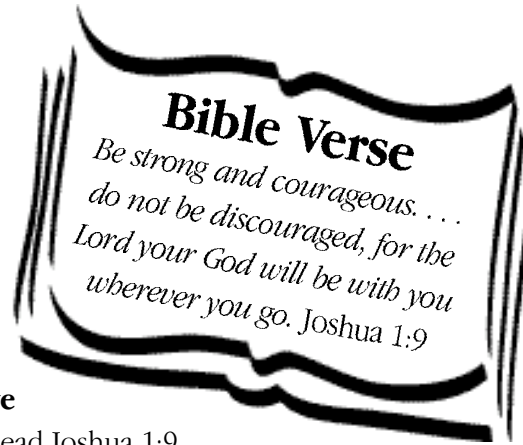


**in his life.** (Optional: Children discuss times when they might need God's courage. Lead children to write a group psalm about one of the times mentioned. Read completed psalm aloud with children.)

## Conclude

**Just as David trusted in 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.



## 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 some 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 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

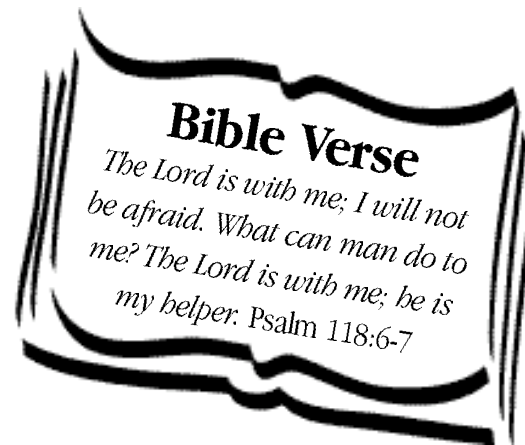
*No matter how bad it looks, God is with us.*

## Teacher Materials

Bible with bookmark at Psalm 118:6-7, one or more hand mirrors, paper on which you have printed the sentence “The Lord is with me” backwards (see sketch).

## Materials for Children

Paper, pencils.



## Introduce the Object Talk

**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.**

## Present the Object Talk

1. In class, show 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 words up to a mirror and invite several volunteers to read the words. Volunteers write sentence backwards and use mirrors to read words.

The Lord is with me.

## Conclude

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.



## 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?** (Gives us parents and friends. 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.)

# Mission Impossible?

*God encourages us when we're afraid.*

## Teacher Materials

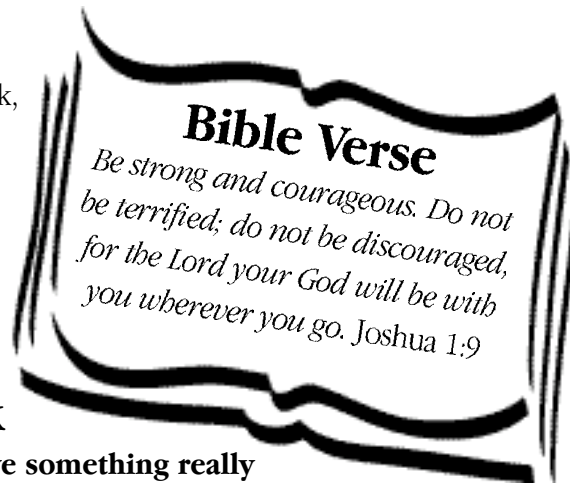
Bible with Joshua 1:9 marked with a bookmark, 8½x11-inch (21.5x27.5-cm) paper, scissors.

## Prepare the Object Talk

Practice cutting paper, following directions below.

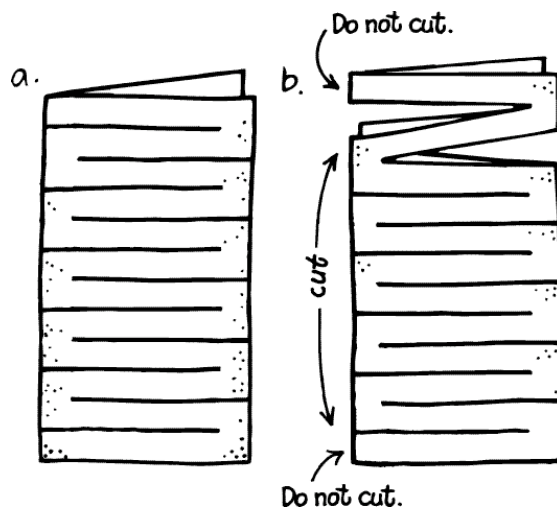
## Introduce the Object Talk

God gives us courage, even when we have something really hard to do. Look with me at this impossible task!



## Present the Object Talk

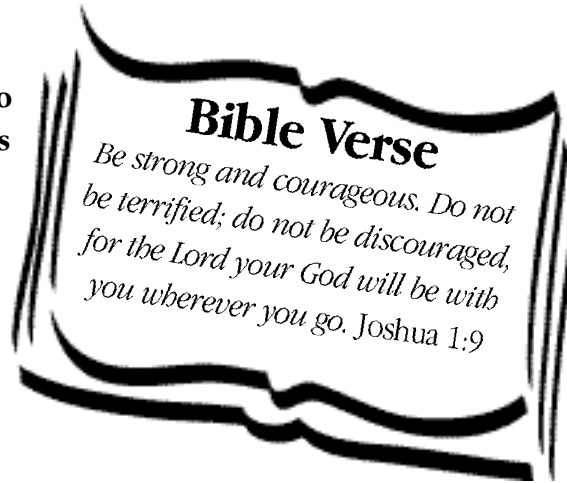
1. Show paper and ask, **How might I fit my whole body through this paper?**
2. After children conclude that the task is impossible, fold the paper lengthwise. Cut the paper as shown in Sketch a, making an uneven number of cuts approximately ½ inch (1.25 cm) apart. Cut on the fold between the first and last sections as shown in Sketch b.



Then carefully open up the folds and step through the circle you have made.

### Conclude

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.



### 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? (Gives us friends and parents. Gives us promises of help in the Bible.)

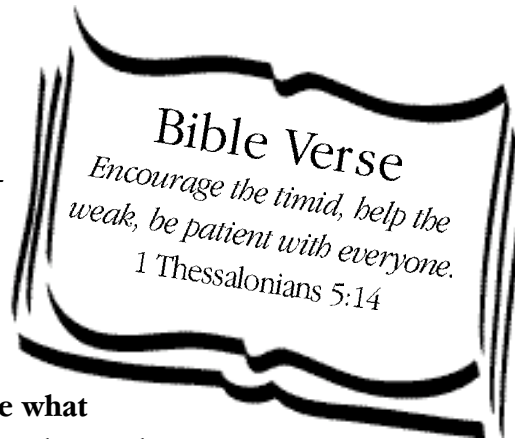


# Paper Challenge

*Encouraging others can help them trust in God, too.*

## Teacher Materials

Bible with 1 Thessalonians 5:14 marked with a bookmark, one or more of these materials: toilet paper, crepe-paper strip, yarn, curling ribbon, narrow fabric strip.



## Introduce the Object Talk

God tells us in His Word that He wants us to help people who are weak. Watch to see what is weak in this experiment and what makes the weak item become strong.

## Present the Object Talk

**1.** Invite a volunteer to come forward. Ask the volunteer to hold wrists together in front of him- or herself as you wrap one strand of toilet paper around the wrists. Challenge the volunteer to break free.



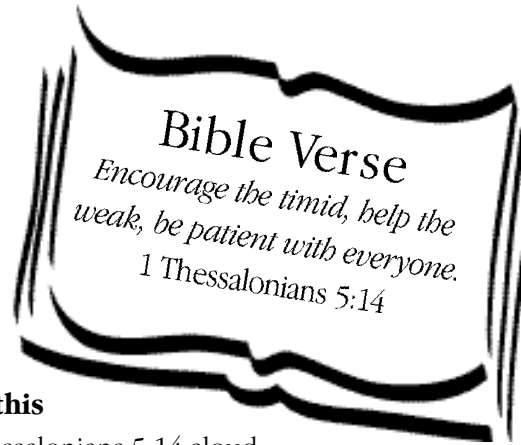
**2.** Repeat several times, each time adding one or two strands of paper before the volunteer tries to break free. Comment, **One or two strands of paper are weak and we can break them easily. The more strands of paper we add, the stronger the paper becomes.** Repeat with other volunteers and/or materials.

### Conclude

When we try to trust in God by ourselves, it's like we are as weak as one strand of paper. We might find it hard to do what God says. But when others help us and encourage us, it's easier to trust God. We are stronger together—just as the papers were stronger when they were put together. Count the ways this

verse says we can help others. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:14 aloud.

Pray, asking God to show children ways of helping others to trust Him.



### Discussion Questions

- 1. When might it be hard for a kid to do what God wants? How could a friend help him or her to obey?** (Pray for him or her. Say helpful words to him or her.)
- 2. What's something you know God wants you to do?** (Be honest. Stand up for someone who needs help.) **How could you also help a friend obey God in that way?**
- 3. Who has helped you learn about God and trust in Him?**

# A Faithful Watchman

*God showed His faithfulness in keeping His promise to send the Savior.*

## Teacher's Materials

Bible with bookmark at Psalm 117:1-2, one or more items security guards use (flashlight, keys, billy club, walkie talkie, handcuffs, etc.).

## Introduce the Object Talk

God showed His faithfulness when He kept His promise to send Jesus to be our Savior. Let's find out about someone who trusted God's faithfulness and was faithful to God.



## Present the Object Talk

1. Show items you brought. **Watchmen, or security guards, use things like these to help them protect buildings and people and make sure that they are safe. Just like watchmen watch for problems and tell people what they need to know to be safe, preachers pray for people and tell them what they need to know to become members of God's family and be saved from sin's punishment.**



2. In the early 1920s, a man in China changed his name from Ni Shu-tsu to Watchman Nee. He chose this name because his mother had prayed for him to be born while she listened to the night watchman make his rounds. When Ni Shu-tsu heard that his mother promised God that her son would love and obey Him, Ni Shu-tsu decided that the name Watchman would remind him and others of his plan to serve God.

For the rest of his life, Watchman did his best to be faithful in obeying

God. One day Watchman got a letter asking him to preach in the city of Chien-O. He wanted to go, but the boat trip to Chien-O cost 80 dollars and Watchman only had 10 dollars. Watchman asked for God's help and then went to the river. There was a small boat going to Chien-O for only seven dollars! Watchman Nee's faithful dependence on God meant others could hear about God.



## Conclude

Read Psalm 117:1-2 aloud. **What do these verses tell us about God? How did Watchman Nee show he was faithful to God?** (He obeyed God, even when he didn't know how God would provide for him.) Lead children in prayer, thanking God for His faithfulness.

## Discussion Questions

- 1. How has God shown faithfulness to us?** (He kept His promise to send Jesus. He makes us part of His family when we trust in Him. He keeps His promises to love and be with us.) Talk with interested children about becoming members of God's family (refer to "Leading a Child to Christ" article on p. 8).
- 2. When might people today have a hard time trusting God's faithfulness? What could you say or do to encourage someone in a situation like this?**
- 3. How does knowing about God's faithfulness help us?** (We can depend on Him.)

## Additional Information for Older Children

During the same year he became a Christian, Watchman Nee began writing books and articles for newspapers. Many Christians still read and learn from Watchman Nee's books. In 1952, Watchman Nee was arrested and put in prison because of his belief in God. He died in prison on March 30, 1972.