

ASK A FRIEND

This object lesson will reveal just how fast a Sunday school class can grow when God's Word is shared.

TOPICS:

Body of Christ, Growth, Witnessing

MATERIALS:

32 pieces of penny candy

(Other items may be used, such as pennies, but candy will have a greater impact, and can be used later as treats or rewards.)

Bible

Brown paper bag



DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes

PREPARATION:

Before class, put the 32 pieces of candy (or other items) in the brown paper bag.

WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

Jesus told us to "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15) In Romans 10:14-15 the Bible says, "How then can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news?"

(Take one piece of candy out of the bag.) This piece of candy represents the very first kid to come to children's Sunday school. After church, this kid went home, told a friend the Good News about Jesus Christ, and asked a friend to come to church the next week.

(Take another piece of candy out of the bag and place it next the other.) Now there were two kids in children's Sunday school. After church, these two kids went home and each told a friend the good News about Jesus Christ and asked those friends to come to church the next week.

(Take out two pieces of candy and place them next to the others) Now there were four kids in children's Sunday school. After church, these four kids went home, told a friend the Good News about Jesus Christ, and asked a friend to come to church the next week.

(Take out four pieces of candy) Now there were eight kids in children's Sunday school. After church, these eight kids went home, told a friend the Good News about Jesus Christ, and asked a friend to come to church the next week.

(Take out eight pieces of candy) Now there were sixteen kids in children's Sunday school. After church, these sixteen kids went home, told a friend the Good News about Jesus Christ, and asked a friend to come to church the next week.

(Take out sixteen pieces of candy) Now there were thirty-two kids in children's Sunday school. In just six weeks, the size of the class grew from one child to thirty-two kids. (Give each child two-pieces of candy) Here is a reward for hearing about what it means to go into the all the world and preach the good news. Enjoy one piece and share the other with a friend.

FAKE FLOWERS

Real Christians are as different from fake Christians as real flowers are different from artificial ones

TOPICS:

Christian Living, Fruitfulness, Godliness, Truth, Values

MATERIALS:

One small vase
One artificial flower
One fresh cut flower



DURATION:

Approximately 5 minutes

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Before class, find one artificial flower and one fresh cut flower, and place each in the vase. Fill the vase with water. (Flowers do not need to be the same type, but if they are similar, it will enhance the effect of the lesson.) You will have the children identify the real flower from the fake flower not by sight, but by using their other senses such as smell and touch. In a similar way, we can identify a fake Christian from a genuine Christian. Looks may be deceiving, but there are ways to tell.

WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

Look everyone, I have two beautiful flowers here. Both flowers are beautiful, can you tell any difference between the two flowers? *(The kids will most likely be able to see that one of the flowers is not real, some might even say the fake flower is prettier. This is OK.)*

Both flowers do look pretty. Both are sitting in water and in a vase, but one is not real. I am sure you can tell which flower is fake. Fake Christians are a lot like this fake flower. They may say they are Christians, go to church on Sunday and look like Christians. However, their walk with the Lord is fake or artificial. They do not have a real spiritual life. Let me show you some other ways you can tell the difference between real and fake.

Ask a volunteer to come forward, touch the fake flower, and describe how it feels. Then have them touch the petals of the real flower and describe how it feels. Yes, the fake flower is stiff, but the real flower feels smooth and soft, pleasing to touch. Ask another volunteer to come up and smell the fake flower and describe what he or she smells. Then have them smell the real flower and describe how it smells. Yes, the fake flower has no smell, or perhaps smells like plastic, but the real flower smells good, it has a pleasing aroma. Real Christians are like this real flower, not only do they look like Christians by being at church on Sunday, but the rest of the week they are doing things that please God, and they are a blessing to others. They are not dead, but have everlasting life. Now which of these flowers would you rather be?