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Introduction



Children's messages are great growth stimulators—especially when it's faith you're trying to grow!

Kids learn and remember more about God's Word when they experience it in a meaningful way. Children's messages play a key role in guiding kids into a deeper understanding of God's plan for our lives, and they offer an eye-opening view of how God's Word is relevant to us today. If you're looking to grow kids' faith, devotions are a regular part of their developmental diet. And if you're spiritually nourishing kids, you need this book. Each of the more than 100 children's messages in these pages is specifically designed to deepen kids' understanding of a Bible point or concept while evoking emotions through interesting and unexpected experiences. Kids will find real-life meaning in the midst of fun and thought-provoking activities. And they'll experience Scripture in new and memorable ways.

When kids are engaged and learning in your ministry, they want to come back. The children's messages in this book will add meaning and depth to every lesson you teach. So go ahead and start thumbing through—you'll find more than 100 children's messages that explore courage, God's power, grace, peer pressure, truthfulness, wisdom, sadness, forgiveness, and so much more—all while solidifying biblical learning.

In your hands you hold the perfect complement to every lesson, event, or extra five minutes you have with kids. Are you ready?

Get Set, Go!

Here's how to use this book to find the children's message you need.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Each children's message has a topic, such as courage or prayer. Peruse the Table of Contents to find more than 50 topics to choose from.

All children's messages are categorized according to the age group they work best with: lower elementary or upper elementary. Each topic has an activity for both of the age levels.

For each topic you'll find an activity title followed by the Bible point, which connects the Scripture message to the topic.

SCRIPTURE INDEX

Each children's message has a direct Scripture link. To find a children's message based on a Scripture, just go the Scripture Index on page 159.

Safety First!

MAGNET WARNING!

MAGNET WARNING

For activities with magnets, use only large magnets that can't be swallowed, and warn kids against putting a magnet anywhere near their face. A swallowed magnet is a medical emergency, so take steps to discourage kids from doing anything but the assignment with the magnets, and collect them when the activity is over.

ALLERGY ALERT!

ALLERGY ALERT

Be aware that some kids have allergies to certain foods and other materials. The activities in this book that include these items have an Allergy Alert symbol. Always check with parents to see whether children have allergies or dietary concerns beforehand.

BALLOON WARNING!

BALLOON WARNING

Balloons and broken balloons are serious choking hazards for people and pets. Use balloons with caution, and pick up and discard all balloons and pieces of balloons. Also be aware of any latex allergies children may have.

Listen-and-Obey Faces



Do what the Bible says

AGE GROUP

Early Elementary

SCRIPTURE

James 1:22-25

SUPPLIES

You will need a Bible. For each child, you'll need a copy of the "Foolish Faces" handout, a blindfold, and crayons or colored pencils.

PREPARATION

None needed.

Have children sit in a circle or around tables. Distribute handouts and crayons.

Say: **Each of you has a blank face on your paper. You're going to finish drawing the parts of the face by following my directions. But you'll be blindfolded so you can't see what you're drawing.**

Secure a blindfold over each child's eyes.

Say: **Follow my directions to finish the face on your paper.**

- Find the center of your paper and draw a big nose.
- Right below the nose, draw a smile with teeth.
- Draw a small eye on both sides of the nose.
- Draw spikey hair on top of the head.
- Draw an ear on both sides of the head.

Say: **Let's take off our blindfolds and see our finished faces.**

Have children take off their blindfolds and set them aside for the Closing Prayer.

Ask:

- Did your face turn out like you expected?
- Tell me what you were thinking while you followed my directions.

Open your Bible to James 1:22-25. Show children the words and tell them the Bible is God's special book. Read the Scripture.

Say: **The faces we drew look silly or foolish. Even though you could hear my directions, you couldn't see what you were doing. It looked like we forgot what a face looks like!**

Ask:

- Why do you think we're foolish if we don't obey God's Word?
- How can we make sure we're obeying God's Word and not just listening to it?

Say: **If we read God's Word but don't follow it or forget what it says, we're as foolish as these faces. God wants us to read his Word and follow its directions.**

Closing Prayer

Open Our Eyes

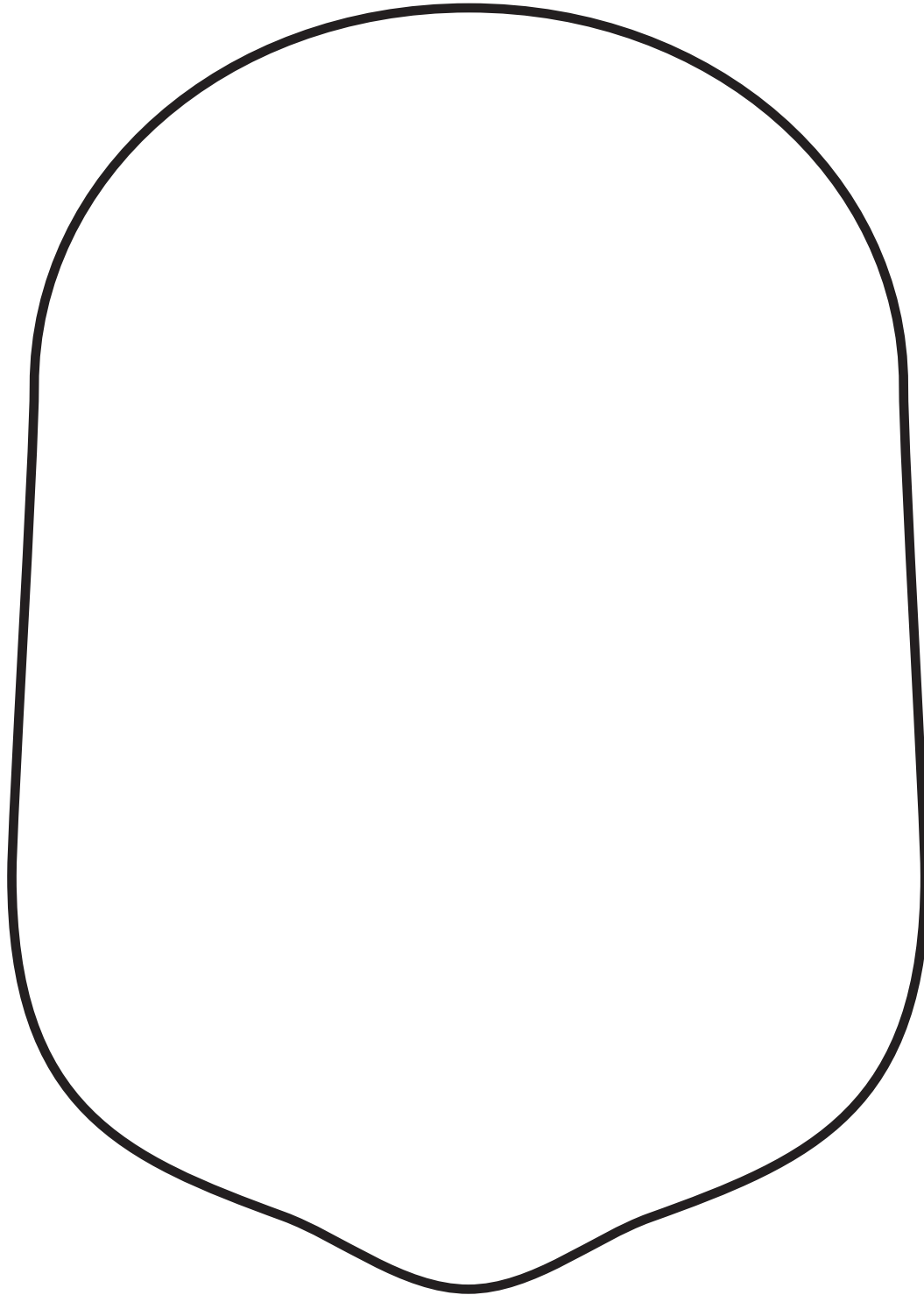
Have kids form a circle. Place the Bible in the middle of the circle.

Say: **As we pray, I want you to lay your blindfold on top of the Bible.**

Dear God, we thank you for giving us your Word. We know it gives us direction for our lives. Help us to not only listen to your Word, but also to do what it says. In Jesus' name, amen.



Foolish Faces



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