

SEPARATION

Objects to have: An advertisement for cigarettes and one for liquor. A picture representing rock music. A picture of book5. Two or three stones, small and large. Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson: I want you to “put” on your thinking caps. (All “put” them on.) I’m going to teach you some hard lessons, but you can learn them. I’m going to tell you how big a millstone is. A millstone is not a big stone like this. It’s a great big one this size. (Show by making a big circle with both arms in-front of you.) It is so heavy that it would knock you down to the floor if someone were to hand it to you. If you held it in your arms or it were tied around your neck you would not be able to get up. What’s that great big stone called? It’s called a millstone.

Now, let’s think about something else. What’s loving someone? Think about your mothers for a minute. We all love our mothers. Loving our mothers is wanting them to look pretty and wanting them to be happy always. We want to cry if our mothers cry. Loving our mothers is wanting to put our arms around them and hug them real close. Loving our mothers is saying, “I love you, Mom”. Loving our mothers is wanting to do nice things for them.

I think that there are lots of people who love you. If you have sisters and brothers, they love you. If you have a mommy and a daddy, they love you. If you have aunts and uncles and a grandma and a grandpa, they love you. You all have Sunday School teachers; they love you. There is Someone Who loves you even more than anybody else loves you. That Someone is Jesus. I know that Jesus really loves you and me because I talk to Him everyday and He lets me know of His love. I know that Jesus loves you and me because I’ve seen how He takes care of you and me and because I have read about His love in the Bible.

Let me tell you a story today that will let you know for sure that Jesus loves you. I need everyone to help me this morning. Get ready. Close your eyes for a minute. With your eyes closed, let’s make up a picture that we’ll “see” in our minds. Let’s put into our picture some green grass and a hill. Now, we’ll need a pretty blue sky. It’s such a pretty day in our picture. Now we need a lake. Hear the waves gently rolling in to the sand. Our picture is not finished yet. Now we need some people. Put into your picture some children, and some grown ups. Put into your picture the most important Person - Jesus. Now, open your eyes but remember your picture.

The Lesson: Jesus had been talking with one of His disciples. He had been talking with Peter. Then He wasn’t talking with anyone. His disciples were talking with each other. I need some of you to pretend to be some of His disciples. (Choose some from the class to come to the front) Jesus had twelve disciples, but I do not know, for sure how many were with Jesus at this time. While Jesus disciples were talking with each other some of them were getting pretty loud. Some of them were arguing. One of them might have said, “I think that Jesus would choose me rather than you to be close to Him.” Another of them might have said, “I think Jesus would like to have me do a certain job and not you.” So, the disciples were fussing with each other about who would be more important to Jesus. Jesus loves each person. The disciples came to Jesus with their argument. Remember your picture in your mind? There were other people around the disciples and Jesus maybe some people were walking. Maybe some people were going to the store. Others were sitting, looking at the pretty lake.

The disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Jesus, who is going to be the greatest of all of us?” (Beckon to your disciples” to come to you.) Jesus was displeased to think that they had been arguing. Jesus would have been pleased if they had shown love for each other by saying, “I love you and

would like to see you honored by Jesus. The disciples asked, "Jesus, who of us is the greatest?" Jesus looked at the people who were near Him. He reached out and chose a little child. (Choose one from your class.) How would you have liked to have been that child? Wouldn't it have been wonderful to have Jesus choose you to stand with Him? Jesus said to His disciples, "This little child does not want to be the most important person in all the world. Disciples, watch me talk to this little child." (Turn to the child in front with you.) "Little child, I love you. I will always take care of you. There are certain angels whose only job is to take care of you. I see to it that special care is given you. Do you believe that I love you and that I will always take care of you?" (Tell the child to say "yes" to you. Turn to your "disciples.") "See, disciples, this child believes Me when I tell him/her that I will always love him/her. You ought to be like that. You ought not to worry about anything."

Jesus taught His disciples that one lesson with the little child. Then He taught another lesson with the little child. "See this little child? If you are teaching a little child, you better be sure to teach him the right thing all the time. If you teach a little child the wrong thing, trouble is waiting for you.

Boys and girls, Jesus thinks that little children need special care. Isn't that wonderful? Aren't you glad that Jesus loves you that much? Everything that you know was taught to you by somebody. Somebody taught you how to walk when you were a little baby. Somebody taught you how to hold a spoon to feed yourself when you were very small. They taught you how to say your first words.

You watch grown - up people, don't you?" You see how they do things and you try to do them, too. Jesus told His disciples and the big people around Him that day that they better do the right things so that children would learn to do the right things. (Hold up appropriate pictures for the following:) Jesus doesn't want you to say bad words or to tell lies. Jesus doesn't want you to go to bad places like to dances and bars or rock music concerts. He doesn't want you to read bad books that will hurt your mind. Jesus doesn't want you to smoke cigarettes or cigars and He doesn't want you to drink liquor. Liquor hurts your mind and your body. Liquor (beer, wine, etc.) makes you think slowly, and act badly; it keeps you from doing right. Taking dope will do the same thing and even worse. Jesus wants your body to be clean and healthy. Smoking, drinking and taking dope will make your body dirty and sick, or they could even cause you to die.

What can we do to keep all these bad things away from us? For one thing, don't play with anybody who would do bad things, and don't go to their houses. Who would do bad things? People who don't love Jesus. They are not thinking about wanting to please Him. They should not be our friends. We should be separate from them. Let's name some of the bad things from which we should stay away. (Review with the children.)

Jesus told His disciples when He chose the little child to stand with them, "If any of you were to teach a child to do wrong, it would be better for you if somebody wrapped a great big millstone around your neck and dropped you into the sea." Boys and girls, don't let anybody teach you to do anything wrong. We're teaching you in Sunday School how to do right. Always do right.

Let's learn our Bible verse: "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Romans 12:2.