

Activity: Blinded By Sin



FAMILY TIME
TRAINING

Teaching Goal: Sin can blind us and lead to more sin in our lives.

Scriptures: 1 John 2:10-11 Whoever loves his brother lives in light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him. John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.

Materials: 2 bowls 1 cup uncooked white beans 1 cup uncooked red or brown beans (similar size and shape as white beans) Blindfold

In Advance: Mix white and red beans in a bowl. Use 3 parts red beans to 1 part white beans.

Lesson and discussion

Words written in **bold** are when the leader is speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A. DISCUSSION: **When a blind person wants to go somewhere that they've never been before, how do they get there?** Listen to answers. **They need the help of a friend or guide.**

Did you know that people can be spiritually blind? Spiritual blindness can describes a person who does not know right from wrong, or, a person who does not believe and follow Jesus.

Invite volunteers to read John 8:12 and John 16:13. **Just like the blind person needs a guide to get someplace new...spiritually blind people need a guide to help them see truth and make good decisions.**

The Holy Spirit and the Bible...which teaches us about Jesus...are guides for people who are spiritually blind.

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FAMILY FUN TIME ACTIVITY

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Invite a volunteer to read I John 2:10-11 The word “brother” in this verse is a general term that can be used to describe a family member, friend or any other person in our life. The word “stumble” is a general term for sin—doing something wrong. The person who loves others is in the light and does not sin. The person who does not love others is in darkness and sin

B. ACTIVITY: Set the two bowls on the table. One is filled with a mixture of red and white beans and the other is empty. **The beans represent all the choices we can make in a day— choices about what to do, say and think. The red beans represent bad choices—sin. The white beans represent good choices—the kind Jesus would want us to make. The empty bowl represents a new day. Pick out 20 white beans and put them in the second bowl. Let every child have a turn. Because you can see, you can fill your new day with good choices in what you do, say and think. You can avoid the red beans which represent bad choices—sin.**

Let’s repeat the activity but this time we will wear a blindfold. The blindfold represents spiritual blindness. Pick out 20 white beans. Give each child a turn. Select 20 beans and drop them into the second bowl. When the child is finished, take the blindfold off. **There should be a mixture of red and white beans. Could you tell the difference between the white and red beans when you were blindfolded? No. In the same way, when we are spiritually blind it is hard to choose between what is right and what is sin. Now that your blindfold has been removed, pick out the dark beans and put them back in the other bowl.**

C. APPLICATION: Give examples of choices that you didn’t see as bad before knowing the Bible or listening to the Holy Spirit.

Being selfish in how I spend my time and money. Holding onto anger and resentment toward people who had treated me badly. Believing that being a good person would get me to heaven. Treating others as if rules were more important than relationships. Judge the sin in someone else’s life before looking at the sin in my life.

In our lives we need to learn more about Jesus by reading the Bible and we need to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to see what are good choices and what are bad choices

II. Close in Prayer

III. Pass It On: Make an extra copy of this lesson and pass it on to another family