

BORN AGAIN!

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 PETER 1:3-9

The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

BORN AGAIN

Supplies

- a piece of tarnished brass
- brass cleaner (like Tranex®)
- soft polishing cloth

Bring in a piece of tarnished brass like an old candlestick or door knocker and a good instant brass cleaner or polish such as Tarnex®. If you only have paste cleaner it will take a little elbow grease but it will still work. You will also want a soft polishing cloth. If you don't have tarnished brass, hold a piece of brass over a campfire or a candle. It will get sooty and tarnished and can then be cleaned for the illustration.

Read the passage to the children and when you get to the place where it says we were born again, explain to the children that our sin is like the tarnish on the candlestick (or whatever you are using). Sin has taken what was once very beautiful and made it ugly. Explain to the children that sin is disobeying God. Tell the children that when God changes our hearts and we believe in Jesus we are "born again." Explain to them that God writes His law on our hearts and changes us so that we want to obey Him. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:17 the old has gone and the new has come.

Take the candlestick and dip it into the cleaner and watch the tarnish dissolve. If you are using a paste, begin to clean the object and then show them how shiny it is underneath. Show them the rag, which is dirty, and tell them that is like our sin.

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BELIEVING WHAT WE CANNOT SEE

Supplies

- one electric fan
- some feathers

Read 1 Peter 1:8 which tells us we love the Lord and believe in Him though we cannot see Him. Ask the children if they know anything else that we believe but we cannot see. Then tell them the wind is like that. Ask them if they can see the wind. Then set the fan up on a table. Place a pile of feathers (a dozen or so) on the table. Ask them what will happen when you turn the fan on.

Turn on the fan and watch their reaction. Ask them what happened and help them understand that the wind created by the fan, which cannot be seen, moved the feathers.

Set the whole experiment up again and ask them what will happen when you turn the fan on. Several of the children should be able to say the feathers will blow away. Make a point to help them see that by believing the fan will blow away the feathers they actually believe in something they cannot see.

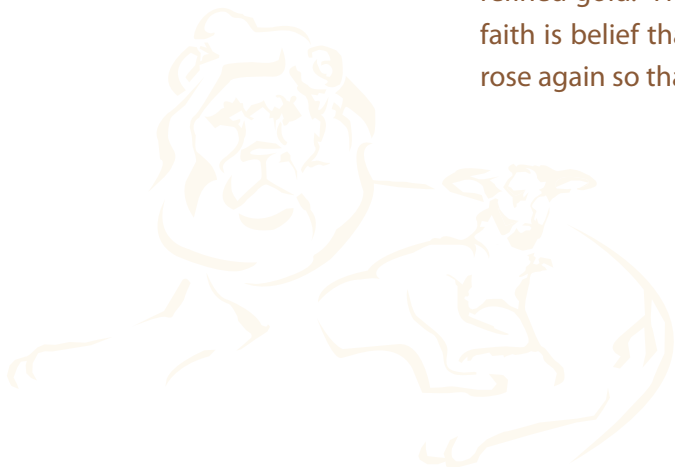
We believe in and love God with all our hearts in spite of the fact that we cannot see Him. We trust the Word of God which teaches us that He is real, and we see all the creation around us which He has made.

FAITH LIKE GOLD

Supplies

- gold ring (Make sure to polish the ring prior to class to enhance its shine.)

Share with the children how God compares our faith to gold. Tell them how precious the ring is that you brought and pass it around the class and allow the children to touch it. Tell them that gold is very valuable and that is the reason special rings are made out of it. Often wedding rings are made of gold. Tell them that God thinks our faith is so special that He compares it with pure gold, refined gold. He even tells us that our faith is more valuable than gold. Our faith is belief that Jesus is real and that He died for our sins on the cross and rose again so that we could be forgiven and go to be with Him in heaven.



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WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Peter tells us that the outcome of our faith is the salvation of our souls. Belief in Jesus and His resurrection saves us from the consequences of our sin. Peter also tells us that it is by the resurrection of Jesus Christ that we have hope for a life in heaven that will never fade. Just earlier in 1 Peter 1:2 a reference to the blood of Christ shed on the cross is mentioned to complete the Gospel message. Though we cannot see God now, when Jesus Christ returns those who are born again will see Him. Until that day we can rejoice even in the trials which come to us.

