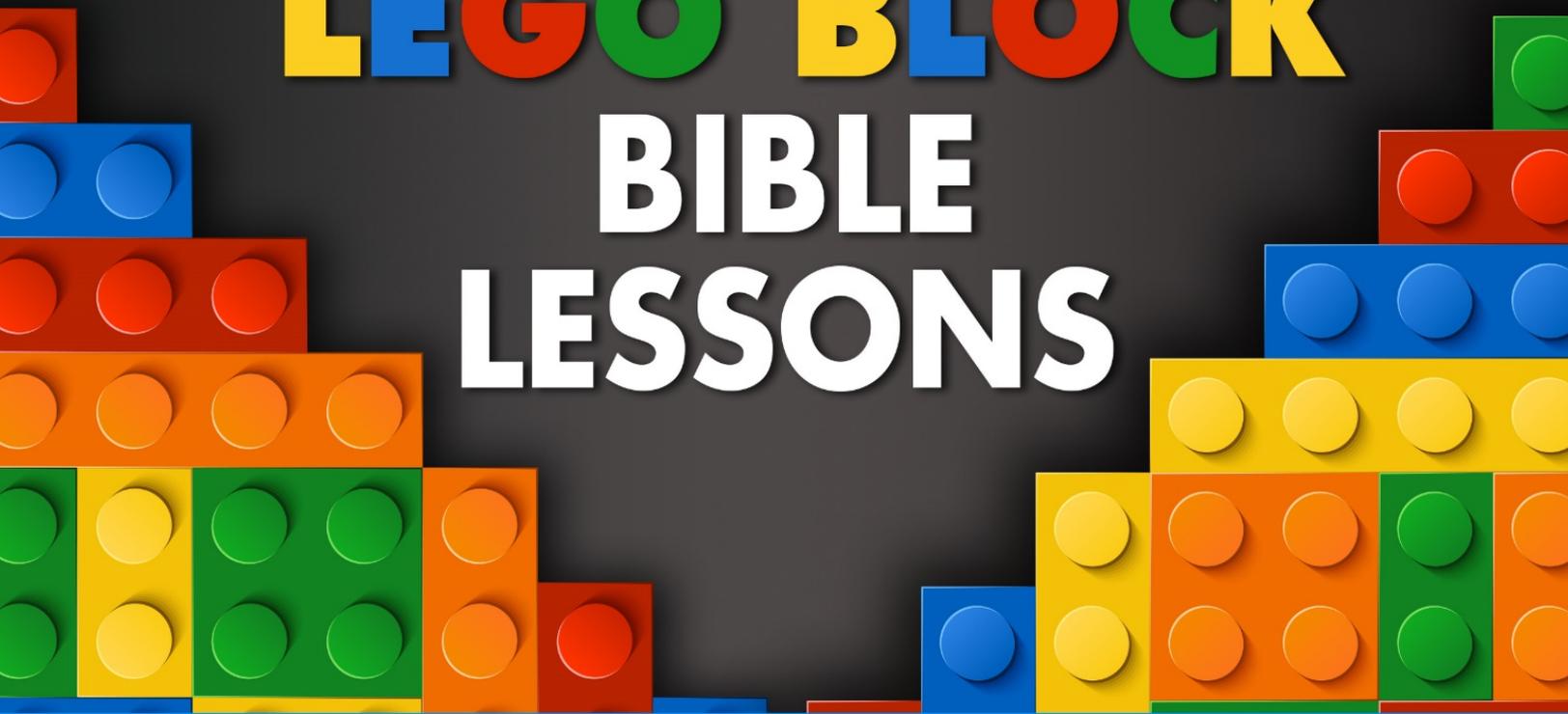


18

LEGO BLOCK

BIBLE

LESSONS



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## INTRODUCTION

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# USING LEGO BLOCKS IN SUNDAY SCHOOL TO TEACH THE PARABLES OF JESUS

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It happens to almost every mom of today and therefore to many Sunday school teachers: A mom buys her little boy the Star Wars Lego kit. He's thrilled! But after about a month, all 1,000 or so pieces are in the box, and there's no way to sort them out! Or... they're mixed in with the pieces of the Pirate Lego kit or the Quik-E-Mart kit or a dozen kits that Mom can't even remember! What does she do with all those pieces? They're too expensive to throw out!

If you aren't this mom, then someone in your circle of friends probably is and can help you out greatly with some fun Sunday school teaching: If you put a whole bunch of no-longer-used Lego blocks into one giant pillowcase or bucket, you have the essential tools to teach the enclosed package! Use Lego pieces to teach a Sunday school classic:

That's correct: *Teach 18 Parables of the Bible done in Lego blocks that almost every mom owns!*

## **INCLUDED ARE SIX LEGO PUPPET PLAYS, SEVEN LEGO BUILDING PROJECTS, AND FIVE LEGO GAMES!**

---

In all, that's 18 Lego activities which will teach 18 parables of the Bible. These activities will be sure to keep kids' attention, because they involve a favorite toy.

For the Puppet Play Lego scenes, you build the scene and tell the tale, moving the little pieces about. All scenes are easy! Beginners are welcome! For the Building Projects, students will work together to create the scene or some of the elements from seven parables. This will build teamwork and unity! Finally, the five Lego games will burn energy, generate thought, and have everyone smiling and laughing.

Here is what materials will be covered by using your bag of discarded Lego blocks:

## **TEACH USING LEGO PUPPET PLAYS:**

---

- Unmerciful Servant
- The Good Samaritan
- House on the Rock
- The Great Banquet
- Faithless Servant
- The Prodigal Son

## **TEACH USING LEGO GROUP BUILDING PROJECTS:**

---

1. Speck in Your Brother's Eye
2. Let Your Light Shine
3. Take Up Your Cross and Follow
4. Treasure Hidden in a Field
5. The Lost Sheep
6. The Unclean Spirit
7. The Fig Tree

## **TEACH USING LEGO GAMES:**

---

1. Wheat and the Tares
2. The Lost Coin
3. Blind Leading the Blind
4. The Strong Tower
5. The Narrow Gate

## HOW TO USE THIS PACKAGE

---

Each activity includes the parable being taught in *italics*. You should read the parable at the top of the activity and then read the mini-lesson which will help kids understand it. Our mini-lessons, known herein as *Introductions*, can be read word for word or used as a guide if you like to use your own words!

Each activity also is followed by several *Discussion Questions*, which will encourage the students to apply it to their own lives! As Bible parables often deal with thoughtful and sensitive issues, we encourage you to make discussion time a very open and nonjudgmental place! Students will be encouraged to confess wrongdoings in order to correct situations, and others will be listening. Have a no-judgment-allowed policy, and watch how the Lego blocks kick off great discussions!

If you are unsure of what answers you should be looking for in the discussion questions, answers are provided for you in *italics*. However, there are no wrong answers, and you'll find yourself enjoying all the ways students contribute.

### USE PROJECTS AND GAMES TO REINFORCE LEGO PUPPET PLAY

---

Generally, you will have time for two or even three Lego activities during your Sunday school session. That's why we are including games and building projects. If you are using Lego blocks for a six-week module, use the six Puppet Play Lessons for the top of each class. Fill in with the game or group building project of your choice. All activities relate to each other because they all teach parables; yet any can be used in combination with each other.

Leave your building project displays up until the start of class next week, when you can go over again what it means by repeating the related Discussion Questions. You'll have plenty of volunteers to dismantle it! Have a couple of students pull all the Lego blocks apart again and put them back in the big bag.

### LET YOUR IMAGINATION FLY, AND YOUR KIDS WILL TOO!

---

The best thing about our Lego Lesson Package is its flexibility to all the Lego pieces you have available! There is no activity that calls for specific Lego pieces outside of the standard rectangles and squares. Whatever you have will work!

Just announce to the students that imagination reigns supreme. Sheep can be red; barns

can be yellow and have flat roofs. Additions of silk flowers, Play-Doh enhancements, and coloring-paper backdrops are all great. The most important thing for you to understand is that kids' imaginations will follow wherever you lead. If your house doesn't look quite as good as ours, your kids will still believe you if you tell them it's a house. If you have to make characters out of the skinny, stackable pieces, just tell students that this is a person and they will go right along!

### **PRACTICE! THESE PIECES ARE LITTLE!**

---

You'll keep attention better if you practice how to hold the pieces so that your arm or hand is not obstructing the children's view. While it might feel awkward at first, some teachers have found the best way is to hold them from above with your arm going straight down, either to hold onto their hat or an arm.

### **DON'T ALWAYS DISMANTLE; SOMETIMES RECYCLE!**

---

The props in the puppet plays can be used in several scenes, so don't dismantle everything from your puppet play at the end of your session! The banquet table can be used the Great Banquet, Faithless Servant, and Prodigal Son. Also, houses from the House on the Rock can be used in the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son.

Be practical and reuse!

### **WHY TOYS TEACH WELL**

---

A wise man once said, "Interest is the key to learning." It's true that toys make things very interesting! Use our Lego Lessons to help give the Bible Parables an unforgettably fun twist.

# **Six Parables for Puppet Play Using Lego Characters and Scenes**

**(To Teach Parables 1 - 6)**

# THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT



*A king (left) forgives a servant his debt (center with family). The servant is building a house (center) and refuses to forgive his friend (right). Why should God forgive us, when we don't forgive others?*



---

## LEGO CHARACTERS NEEDED:

- A servant, his wife and child
- A king
- A poorer servant

---

## LEGO PIECES NEEDED:

- A throne for the king
- A half-built house for the servant to be building
- A little house for the poorer servant

## **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

---

All instructions are clearly marked *in italics* except for one consistent movement: When a character speaks, pick him up slightly and jiggle him back and forth a little.

## **SET UP:**

---

Put the throne on the left, the half-built house in the center, and the poor servant's house to the right. Put the king on his throne, the servant family in front of him, and the poorer servant in front of his house.

## **PARABLE (WITH LEGO INSTRUCTIONS IN *ITALICS*):**

---

Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. Jesus said...

*Point to the king on his throne.*

"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to get money back that he had graciously loaned to his servants. As he began, a man who owed him \$10,000 was brought to him.

*Move in the servant, wife, and child pieces.*

Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that the man and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

*Have the servant jump up and down in panic. Wiggle the wife and child in panic.*

'Oh no! Be patient with me!' the servant begged. 'Please don't take my wife and child! I will pay back everything! I promise!'

*Have the king come down off the throne and embrace each one.*

"I'll tell you what." the king said. "I forgive your debt. You don't have to pay me at all! How's that?"

*Have the mom and dad jump up and down.*

"Hooray! You are a very nice king!" the servant said.

"We appreciate you!" his wife said.

"Can I really keep all my toys and still have my old room back?" the child said. "Thank you, great king!"

*Put the king back on his throne. Move the servant toward his half-built building. Have him leap about on it like he is working.*

The servant went back to his building business, working doubly hard out of gratitude to the king. One day, he had to buy more materials and went past the place where an old friend lived.

*Move him in front of the poor servant's house and the poor servant.*

“Wait a minute, wait a minute,” the servant said. “*That* guy owes me 100 bucks.”

*Have the servant approach the poorer servant.* “Hey! Where’s my hundred dollars?”

The poorer servant was embarrassed and flustered. “Be patient with me. Please?” he begged. “I will pay you back!”

The servant thought about it for a minute.

He said, “Wait a minute! I know what it’s like with you guys. You always say you’re going to pay back. But then *you don’t!* I want my money now! Pay up or I’m calling the cops.”

“Oh no! Please don’t do that!” the poorer servant cried.

But the servant kept demanding his cash.

The king heard about this. “Uh...come back here!”

“Who, me?” *Move the servant back to the king.*

“What on earth are you doing?” the king asked.

“Uh...just collecting on an old debt,” the servant said. “That idiot has owed me a hundred bucks for weeks!”

“What are you doing, calling names?!” the king shouted. “YOU owed me TEN THOUSAND bucks, and I forgave you! Now you can’t forgive him a measly hundred bucks?? Guess who’s calling the cops?! ME! The only person going jail around here is YOU! I forgave you, and you should have forgiven him! You are a hypocrite.”

“Hon, what were you thinking?” his wife cried.

“Dad, WHO’s an idiot?” the child asked.

“Oh no!” the servant said. *Grab all three of them up in your fist, and point your finger in the air.*

What Jesus meant to say to Peter is this: The parable has to do with money, but the

message behind it is about bad behavior in general. You need to forgive your friends and family when they behave badly or not the way Jesus would want them to. *Why?* Because *you* act up too! If you can't forgive when somebody hurts your feelings, why should God forgive you when *you* hurt somebody else's feelings?

*Point your finger at the children. If you forgive, then God will forgive you!*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

---

1. Have you ever been really mad at somebody? What did they do?
2. Think hard; think clearly: *Have you ever done anything wrong?*
3. What can you forgive somebody for today so that God will be very happy to forgive you?

# THE GOOD SAMARITAN



*The Good Samaritan (left) happens upon an injured man who had been robbed (lying down center), after two allegedly spiritual men had passed him by unconcerned (center). He takes the man to an inn and leaves money for his care after staying with him all night. This famous parable answers the questions: Who is our friend, and how should we treat others?*



## LEGO CHARACTERS NEEDED:

- Good Samaritan
- Selfish traveler
- Second selfish traveler
- Injured man
- Innkeeper

## **LEGO PIECES NEEDED:**

---

- A mule and wagon
- Pot of money
- Tree (or two)
- An inn

## **OTHER ITEMS NEEDED:**

---

- Red water-based marker to color some blood onto the injured guy.
- A tissue. Cut off two pieces, a half-inch of it lengthwise. Roll the strips up so that each looks like a bandage.

## **PREPARATION:**

---

Put the tree on the left and place the injured man under it, lying flat. In the middle, place the inn with the innkeeper in front of it. On the right, place the mule and wagon. Place the Good Samaritan, the bandages, and the pot of money inside the wagon. Place the selfish traveler and second selfish traveler in front of the wagon.

## **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

---

All instructions are clearly marked *in italics* except for one consistent movement: When a character speaks, pick him up slightly and jiggle him back and forth a bit.

## **PARABLE (WITH LEGO INSTRUCTIONS IN *ITALICS*):**

---

And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Jesus. He asked, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

Jesus said, “What is written in the law?”

So he answered and said, “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

And he said to him, “You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.” But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Then Jesus answered and said this.

*Point to the injured man on the ground under the tree.*

A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half-dead.

*Pet the injured man on the head with sympathy.*

“Oh no!” he cried. “I’m hurt! I could die! They took all my money! Help! Please help!”

*Walk the selfish traveler up closer to him.*

By chance, a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw the injured man, he stopped short.

*Have the selfish traveler walk in an arch, so he’s on the far side of the road.*

“That guy’s all bloody. I wonder what he did to deserve that. Eew!”

And he passed by on the other side.

*Walk the second selfish traveler up close to him, then arch him around.*

Likewise a Levite came and looked, and passed by on the other side.

“That’s really gross,” he said. “I don’t want to get involved.”

*Bring by the Good Samaritan in his cart with the donkey. Have him stop in front of the injured man.*

But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw the injured man, he had compassion.

“Oh my goodness! You look really hurt!” he said.

“I am!” the injured man said. “I feel like I’m going to die!”

“Here, let me help!” the Samaritan said. *Unroll both bandages and wrap them around the injured man.*

So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him in his own cart.

*Move them toward the inn.*

“My friend is hurt!” the Good Samaritan said. “May I bring him in?”

The innkeeper shrugged. “Well...if you really think...”

“I will stay myself tonight and take care of him,” the Good Samaritan said.

*Bring the injured man and the Good Samaritan behind the innkeeper's front door.*

“Whatever,” the innkeeper said. “But this could cost you.”

The next day, the Good Samaritan gave over some of his riches to the innkeeper. *Take some money out of the money pot and put it near the innkeeper.*

The Good Samaritan said, “Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.”

“You’re a nice guy,” the innkeeper said. “All right. I’ll help out too.”

*Bring the Good Samaritan, the selfish traveler, and the second selfish traveler to the front.*

So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?”

*Put the Good Samaritan in your hand.*

Jesus was answering the question, “Who is my neighbor?” The Good Samaritan *had just met* the injured man on the road. They were not good friends. In fact, they did not know each other.

Jesus meant that *everyone* is your neighbor. You should be nice to *everyone* - without passing judgment, without thinking yourself to be better, without saying that it’s best not to get involved. Jesus wants us to show love to *all*, and that means helping *anyone in need* whom he puts in your path!

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

---

1. Have you ever seen someone being bullied? Let’s discuss the circumstances.
2. Were you a bystander or did you actually help the victim? What could you have done that would have been even more helpful? Take some time and think about this.
3. What can you do next time you see a similar thing happening?

# HOUSE ON THE ROCK



*The Foolish Man built his house on the sand (left) and the Wise Man build his house on the rock (right). What happens when we pour a pitcher of water over them both?? What happens when we don't follow Jesus in our daily lives??*

## **LEGO CHARACTERS NEEDED:**

---

- Two homeowners

## **LEGO PIECES NEEDED:**

---

- Two houses

## **OTHER HOUSEHOLD ITEMS NEEDED:**

---

- Brick or rock
- Handful of sand or soil
- Pitcher filled with water
- Square baking pan or tub

## **PREPARATION:**

---

The House on the Rock parable is a short one, but an important one! You can dramatize it a little by having each homeowner building a little bit of his house! Therefore, finish making your houses so you know where all pieces go, but remove the last couple of pieces.

Place the rock or brick in the square baking pan. Place the sand beside the brick (not so high that the water won't knock the house over!). Place one house and its couple of pieces on the rock and the other house and its pieces on the sand. Place both homeowners beside their respective houses.

Have your pitcher of water nearby.

Building houses out of Lego pieces is fun. You can enhance your house by putting in gardens and play sets and cars even other family members. Use what's available and let your imagination roam free.

## **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

---

All instructions are clearly marked *in italics* except for one consistent movement: When a character speaks, pick him up slightly and jiggle him back and forth a bit.

## **PARABLE (WITH LEGO INSTRUCTIONS IN *ITALICS*):**

---

Jesus told this story in the Sermon on the Mount:

Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

*Mime the builder putting those last two pieces on the house on the rock. When he gets finished, have him stand back in satisfaction.*

“Ah!” said the builder of the house on the rock. “I’m done building! Now I can enjoy my house that I worked so hard on!”

Jesus continued. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

*Mime the second builder putting those last two pieces on his house on the sand. When he gets finished, have him stand back in satisfaction.*

“Ah!” said the builder of the house on the sand. “I always wanted a house right on the beach! Now I’ve got it!” Have him turn to stare at the house on the rock. “That guy has to walk all the way down to go to the beach. He’s pretty far off from all the excitement. Wonder what *he* was thinking...huh!”

Uh-oh! Suddenly, a storm rose up....

*Take your pitcher of water in your hand.*

Both homeowners heard it coming—thunder in the distance and lightning on the horizon.

*Tip your pitcher and start to pour into the baking pan.*

The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against the houses.

*Blow on the house on the rock, then on the house on the sand. Gasp as the house on the sand floats away and the sand dune diminishes.*

“Oh no!” said the builder of the house on the sand. “Now I get why that guy built his house on the rock! His house is still standing, mine is...” *Many tears and sniffles and cries.* “...washing away!”

“Wow, that poor guy!” said the builder of the house on the rock. “That’s a shame. He did not plan ahead for things that can go wrong in life!”

The wise man’s house did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house. It stood strong - but the house on the sand fell with a great crash!

*Pick up both builders and hold them out for students to see.*

What Jesus meant by this parable is to rely on God and understand his word! It will be like a spiritual rock in your heart! Trouble will always come—life is not always peaceful and happy. But so long as you have Jesus and his word in your heart, you will not crumble and fall. You will stand strong until that stormy situation ends!

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

---

1. What Bible verses do you know by heart? Let any students who want to recite a verse by heart.
2. Have you ever thought about that verse when you were in trouble? What were the circumstances?
3. Would you like to learn a Bible verse now to help you in times of trouble? Teach them one of these three favorites (or all three!)

Psalm 23:4: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.

Psalm 121:3: He will not let your foot slip. He who watches over you will not slumber.

Psalm 91:11: For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

# THE GREAT BANQUET



*A rich man (left) threw a great banquet. His friends (right front) forgot about him and had “better things” to do. Crushed, the king invited the lame, blind, and beggars (right) and also the foreigners lost on the highway (far right). This parable helps us to remember what can happen if we forget about the great banquet we are invited to in heaven.*

## LEGO CHARACTERS NEEDED:

---

- A host
- A servant
- Three invited guests
- Three beggars
- Three people from the highway

*Note: If you don't have enough Lego people, one idea is to draw faces on wooden clothespins with the spring!*

## LEGO PIECES NEEDED:

---

- One long table
- Chairs or benches

## **OTHER HOUSEHOLD ITEMS NEEDED:**

---

- Use your imagination to design plates of food, balloons, flowers, and other decorations.

## **PREPARATION:**

---

1. Create the banquet table and the chairs. Place them in the center. Place the host and his servant on one side of the table.
2. Place the three invited guests off to one side.
3. Place the three beggars farther away.
4. Place the three people from the highway farthest away.

## **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

---

All instructions are clearly marked *in italics* except for one consistent movement: When a character speaks, pick him up slightly and jiggle him back and forth a bit.

## **PARABLE (WITH LEGO INSTRUCTIONS IN *ITALICS*):**

---

A man once gave a great banquet. He invited many people.

And at the time for the banquet, he sent his servant to speak to those who had been invited.

*Walk the little servant over to the three invited guests.*

“Come, for everything is now ready!” the servant said.

But they all alike began to make excuses.

*Walk each of the three up to the servant, one at a time, as each speaks. Walk each off to the side again as he finishes speaking.*

The first said to him, “Oopsie! I just bought a field. I have to go see it! Have fun without me!”

And another said, “Oopsie! I have bought five new horses. I have to go see them! I’ll catch you next time!”

And another said, “Oopsie! I just got married! We just can’t spare the time right now!”

So the servant came and reported these things to his master.

*Have the servant return to the master.*

“Uh-oh.” The servant swallowed hard. *Gulp*. He was nervous. He knew what his boss could be like.

“Uh...boss...it’s like this...” *Have the servant whisper in the master’s ear.*

“Oh no!” the master said. “You cook, clean, and make a great celebration for your friends, and *this* is how they treat you?? I am *really* angry right now!”

Gulping, the servant said, “I ...I knew you would be!”

“Grrrrr...” the master said.

Then the master got an idea! “Quick! Go out to the streets of the city. Bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame! I will share my party with people who will really appreciate it!”

So the servant went out. *March the servant up to the group of beggars.*

“Hi there! You guys want to come to a party?”

“A party?” one lame person said. “I’m lame! I never get asked to parties. The host is always afraid I’ll scare people off!”

“Not this host,” the servant said. “You’re invited! And so are you!”

“Um...I’m a beggar,” another person said.

“We don’t care. You’re invited!”

“Wow!” a blind guy said. “A real party? I’m dreaming this! I never get invited to anything!”

*Bring all three people back with the servant and seat them at the party.*

“Welcome!” the host said. “You want some great food?”

“Sure!” all three said.

Then the servant told the master, “Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room!”

“Double great!” the master said. “Go out to the highways and hedges and invite foreigners to come in, that my house may be filled. I am telling you now... *none* of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet!”

*Have the servant go to the remaining group of three.*

“Hey! You guys want to come to a party?”

“Oh! Mebbe you no want me ‘n my famb-lee!” one man said. “We foreigners! We no speakie no much good English!”

“My master says to invite you and welcome you!” the servant said.

“Wow!” said the foreigner’s wife. “We no speakie good...mebbe we eatie good for once!”

*Hold up the three invited guests who made excuses.*

Jesus will invite *many* people to join him in the kingdom of heaven. But some people will have been too busy making money down here on earth. Some will just think they are way too cool for all this “Jesus stuff.” They will think that only dorks are involved with Jesus, and they’ll turn up their noses. Some people will be so busy thinking about love and marriage and boyfriends and girlfriends and who’s hot and who’s not, they’ll forget about Jesus.

*Hold up some of the other guests who could come.*

In heaven, the some of the most popular people will have been considered kind of dorky down here. And some people who get shut out will have thought they were “all that.” We need to accept Jesus’ invitation and be part of his celebration! We want to celebrate for *eternity*, and not get too caught up in the few meager years we will spend in our lives on earth!

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

---

1. Let’s say you could have the birthday party of your dreams. What would it be like?
2. Who would you invite, and why? Who would you leave off and why?
3. Now that we’ve heard this parable, how does it affect whom you might invite to your party?

# **THE FAITHLESS SERVANT**



*A master went away on a long journey. He left his servant (far right) in charge of a lady servant (left) and a man servant (center). He abused them and treated them unfairly. But then...the master came home and caught him red-handed! This parable raises the great question...Will you be ready when Jesus returns, or will you be behaving in ways that would bother him?*

## **LEGO CHARACTERS NEEDED:**

---

- Master
- Faithless servant
- Man servant
- Lady servant

## **LEGO PIECES NEEDED:**

---

- One long table
- Chairs or benches
- Lots of food and dishes to make the table look good
- Two torches or lamp stands

## **OTHER HOUSEHOLD ITEMS NEEDED:**

---

- Use some of the same things you used to design Lesson #4, the Parable of the Wedding: plates of food, balloons, flowers, and other decorations.

## **PREPARATION:**

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Create the banquet table and the chairs. Place them in the center. Have the master, faithless servant, man servant, and woman servant behind the table.

## **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

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All instructions are clearly marked *in italics* except for one consistent movement: When a character speaks, pick him up slightly and jiggle him back and forth a bit.

## **PARABLE (WITH LEGO INSTRUCTIONS IN *ITALICS*):**

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Be dressed and ready for service, and keep your lamps burning. Be waiting for Jesus to return. It's like when a master had to go on a trip. He put one servant in charge.

*Bring the master up to the faithless servant.*

"I will be gone quite a while. Will you take care of all my other servants while I'm gone?"

"I can handle it just fine," the faithless servant said. "You have nothing to worry about. Stay away as long as you need."

"Thank you," the master said, and he left.

*Take the master out of the scene.*

But then the servant starts thinking selfish things.

*Bring the faithless servant forward.*

"My master is taking a long time in coming! I can do whatever I want to! He will never catch me!" And he then begins to mistreat the other servants.

*The faithless servant goes up to a man servant.*

"Hey! Get out of my way! I'm in charge. You have to do what I say,

and guess what? You have to like it too!”

“Ouch! Stop hurting me!” the man servant said.

“No, you deserve it!” the faithless servant said.

*Bring the faithless servant over to a woman.*

“Hey, guess what? You’re my girlfriend now!”

“But I don’t want to be your girlfriend!” the woman said.

“Too bad!” the faithless servant said. “Get my meal ready! Massage my back! Do you want to be put out onto the streets?”

“Not really,” the woman servant said.

*Bring the faithless servant over to the table. Have her follow and wait on him, sniffing.*

“Yum, yum! Gobble gobble! Slurp Slurp! I can eat everybody else’s food too!”

*Move the man servant over to the woman servant.*

“Wow, what kind of a boss is this? I want our master to come back!” he whispered.

“Me too!” she whispered back. “I wish he would hurry up!

The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of.

*Bring in the master.*

Have the female servant gasp. “*The master is back! Thank goodness!*”

*Have the man servant sigh in relief.* “Just in time!”

*Bring the master up behind the faithless servant.*

“Uh...Excuse me! What are you doing?”

“Uh...well...” the faithless servant said.

“Are you abusing these people?” the master asked. “Are you beating them up and eating their food? Are you drinking wine?”

“Uh...” the faithless servant repeated.

“Get out!” *Have the master toss him off the property.* “You are fired! How dare you mistreat my fine servants?”

*Bring the man and woman servants up to the table, where the master hugs and kisses them.*

“There, there. I am home now. Nobody will abuse you ever again! I will serve you myself. I’ve got your back!”

It will be bad for those servants whose master finds them not ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak.

*Pick up the man servant, the woman servant with one hand and the faithless servant with the other.*

Which do *you* want to be? If Jesus came back tomorrow, would he find you being kind and nice and a faithful servant like these two?” *Hold out the hand with them in it.*

Or would you he find you being a snob and a bully and a really selfish person? Keep your lamps lit. Keep focused on your job as Christians. Because as Jesus himself said, “The Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

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1. Pretend your teacher left the class and asked you to be in charge for 20 minutes or so. Would you like to get even with some classmates who had not been very nice to you all year? What would Jesus say about that?
2. Have you ever had someone in charge of you whom you didn’t think was being quite fair? What happened? What should that person have done differently?
3. How are we supposed to show leadership as Christians? How does this story relate to Jesus coming back again?

# THE PRODIGAL SON



*A son (left) gets an early inheritance, leaves home in his wagon and his boat (right) and squanders all his money. Expecting he can be a servant in his father's house, he returns to find his father joyful and forgiving. This parable raises the question: How much is God willing to forgive us if we are truly sorry?*

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## LEGO CHARACTERS NEEDED:

- Father
- Son

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## LEGO PIECES NEEDED:

- Banquet table
- Chairs or benches
- Lots of food and dishes to make the table look good
- House that father lives in
- Wagon
- Boat

---

## OTHER HOUSEHOLD ITEMS NEEDED:

Draw a road up a piece of paper that the prodigal son can drive his wagon up and down.

*Note: You can use the same house from the House on the Rock parable!*

## PREPARATION:

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Create the banquet table and the chairs. Place them in the center. Have the wagon out on the road and the boat beyond it. Place the father and son in front of the house with the house behind the banquet (as if the banquet is out on the front lawn).

## SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

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All instructions are clearly marked *in italics* except for one consistent movement: When a character speaks, pick him up slightly and jiggle him back and forth a bit.

## PARABLE (WITH LEGO INSTRUCTIONS IN *ITALICS*):

---

Jesus told this story to his followers:

There was a man who had two sons.

One day the younger one made a request to his father.

*Bring the son to the father.*

‘Father, give me my share of the estate. I don’t want to wait until you die and I am old. I want what’s coming to me now!’

“I don’t know about this,” the father said. “You’re awfully young to have so much money.”

“I don’t care! I want to be rich!” the son said.

*Have the father sigh.* “As you wish...” he said, but not happily.

So he gave his son his share of the fortune.

*Have the father put some coins into the wagon. Have the son get in the seat.*

“Thanks, Dad! See you later!”

*Have the wagon move forward to the treasure chest.*

So, the son set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

*Have the son approach the treasure.*

“Hmm! Rolodex watches! I need one of those! I need some jewels! I need fine dining and a boat! I need more clothes!”

*Have the son take off in the boat and leave his trusty wagon.*

After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.

*Turn the boat around.*

“Gee. I’m out of money. I squandered everything. Now I’m hungry. My boat has a hole in it. I sold my watch to fix my boat, but it wasn’t enough!”

*Have the son get out of the boat and approach the trusty wagon again.*

“Maybe it wasn’t so bad, being at my dad’s house! Maybe I just didn’t appreciate what I had when I had it.”

*Put the son in the wagon.*

“I think I will go home now. Maybe my dad will have me back as a servant, at least. This is embarrassing, but, hey. He’s my dad.”

*Bring the father out in the middle of the road.*

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him.

*Have the father jump up and down. “Look who is home!”*

He ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

*Have the father run to the youngest son and hug him.*

The son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.”

But the father said, “You must put on the best robe. I have food for you! Let’s kill the fatted calf and celebrate!”

“Why?” the son said. “All I did was make a fool of myself!”

“I don’t care,” said the father. “This son of mine was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.”

So they began to celebrate.

*Hold up the father and the son.*

In life, we are all going to make mistakes. God is always willing to forgive us. Let’s be sorry when we make mistakes, but let’s not be afraid to approach God, say we’re sorry,

and try not to do it again. The prodigal son would still be out there starving if he hadn't said "I'm sorry." Let's do the same when we mess something up!

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

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1. Have you ever had your parents forgive you after you did something really wrong? What were the circumstances?
2. Why are we often surprised when our parents are so forgiving? Why do we often feel like God won't forgive us? What is the truth about God's forgiveness that we can see, just by observing good parents?
3. What is most important to do when we make a mistake? How can we expect God to respond?

# **Seven Group Art or Building Projects with Lego Pieces**

**(To Teach Parables 7-12)**

# THE SPECK IN YOUR BROTHER'S EYE



*It's a little campy, true! But students designed this house together, avoiding judgmental comments of "picking specks out of each other's eyes" and instead practiced teamwork and encouraging comments.*

Promote team play and positive encouragement from friends while constructing a Lego project as a team. Kids will learn Jesus' words in Matthew 7, that it's better to encourage than to look for the speck in your brother's eye - just like it's better to be complimented than have people discourage you!

## PARABLE:

---

And Jesus said...

*"Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye;' and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."*

## **INTRODUCTION:**

---

A big part of life means working together. While constructive criticism is important, we can often get absorbed in what somebody does wrong, as opposed to what they are doing right. That's what Jesus called "trying to get the speck out of your brother's eye." We miss people's creativity, effort, and sense of unity while we are finding fault.

Today, let's promote good, positive teamwork. We're going to make our own house with our big bag of spare Lego blocks. We need walls, a roof, a yard, a fence, and trees. We can also have a lamppost, mailbox, a pet or two, maybe a pond and a swing. How are we doing to do that? Let's break the tasks down and give everyone a primary and a secondary task from the two lists we just mentioned.

When we're finished, let's notice everyone's creativity, effort and willingness to work as a team!

## **ART INSTRUCTION:**

---

Pick a student to create the walls of the house or everyone will want to. Then mention the list above and have students volunteer to create each piece.

Once they start, compliment and encourage. Correct anyone who makes a discouraging remark.

When the craft is finished, call on each student to admire the parts of the project done by the person working to the left of him or her.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

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1. Do you ever find that one of your siblings is being overly critical with you? What happens?
2. Do you ever find that you are being overly critical with friends or siblings? What are the circumstances?
3. Think of some changes you can make if you are the one being critical? What can you remember to do instead of being so critical?

# LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!



*This lamp made in Germany actually lights! Yours doesn't have to in order to get a wonderful point across about sharing the love of Christ!*

If you want to exactly copy this lamp from a German school student, you will need about 300 rectangular standard Lego pieces. However, your students can make your class lamp smaller or bigger, or they can mix it up a bit using Lego blocks of varying lengths and heights with a few holes here and there! The idea is to collectively have kids working together to understand the parable, “Let your light shine among men!”

## PARABLE:

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And Jesus said...

*“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”*

## **INTRODUCTION:**

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When Jesus tells us to “let our light shine,” that is a metaphor. What does it really mean? *To let others know about Jesus.* There is another great saying: “Actions speak louder than words.” What are some things we can do around the house so that others can see the love of Jesus in us? How about around the neighborhood? How about in school?

Let’s be thinking of those things while we’re working together to make a giant light. It will help us to remember those things we just mentioned, and how we can let our light shine all week!

## **INSTRUCTIONS:**

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1. Whether you are building a small lamp or a big one, it should start with a large flat piece as the base.
2. The lamp itself should be much narrower than the lampshade.
3. Do not put the two pieces together, but make them separately.
4. To put them together, run electrical tape inside the lampshade from side to side twice, making a cross.
5. Sit the intersection of the X on top of the lamp and press down.

Have someone write a sign: LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE AMONG MEN.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

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1. Have you ever passed up an opportunity to talk about Jesus because you were afraid of being laughed at? Is there any way to let your light shine a little more?
2. Have you ever told someone about Jesus and were surprised at how open they were? Why don’t we foresee that when letting our light shine instead of expecting a quarrel?

# TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW



*This traditional Lego cross is made with 12 standard rectangular Lego blocks, plus two squares.*

Making a Lego cross seems easy - until you try to make one from a grab bag filled with random pieces! To reinforce Jesus' metaphor of "taking up your cross daily," engage students in the fun of emptying their "lot in life" onto the table and trying to make a cross out of it.

## PARABLE:

---

And Jesus said...

*"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it."*

## PREPARATION:

---

Have enough sandwich bags or (better!) brown lunch bags for each student. Sort out the long, straight pieces and try to leave out the people and animals, etc. Put a handful of the straight Lego blocks into a bag for each student.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

---

“Take up your cross” has a symbolic meaning. What does the expression mean? *To make sacrifices and do things you don’t want to do in order to be good.* That is not an easy thing to do. What are some of the sacrifices that you have to make at home? What are some sacrifices that you have made for friends that Jesus would like?

Today, we’re going to make crosses, which may not be easy! In life, we are given certain circumstances. Some of us have siblings, and we have to make sacrifices for them. Others have to do chores and homework assignments they’d rather not do. This is what Jesus meant by “taking up your cross daily.” It’s a lot like this bag of Lego pieces.

*Open one so the students can see in.*

You don’t know what will be inside. But you’ll be expected to take those pieces and find creative ways to make a cross. That will be your reminder to take up your cross daily for Jesus—make sacrifices, be unselfish, and put others first.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

---

1. Have you ever made a sacrifice for someone—a friend or sibling? What happened?
2. What are some things each of you can do for a friend or family member this week that is a service?
3. Will you promise to do it?

# TREASURE HIDDEN IN A FIELD



*A little girl and her dad built this Lego farm scene. You and your students can create a likeness or do your own thing.*

Have your students build their own version of a field, complete with barn and animals for creative touches if you have enough pieces. Use it to teach the parable of the Treasure Hidden in a Field. A treasure chest shaped out of aluminum foil works very well (unless of course you have the Lego treasure chest among your pieces!).

## PARABLE:

---

And Jesus said...

*"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."*

## PREPARATION:

---

Making a treasure chest out of aluminum foil will make it stand out in your display.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

---

We are comparing heaven to a treasure hidden in a field. That's a little bit complicated. It's easier to understand when we look at the statement "in his joy, he went and sold ALL that he had..." When you meet Jesus and you understand his love for you and his gift of eternal life, this means you should be willing to put lots of things aside. You should want to put aside anything that keeps you from him.

Do you watch TV shows that hurt your spiritual condition? Like horror movies or violence? Put them aside. Do your clothes make you vain and want to show off? That hurts your humility. Have a different attitude when you get dressed! Do certain friends influence you to do things you know you shouldn't? Find new friends.

Let's create a treasure in a field. Let's think of all the things we need to put aside or "sell" in order to buy a treasure—because being in heaven with Jesus is the greatest treasure of all - and it lasts forever!

## **INSTRUCTIONS:**

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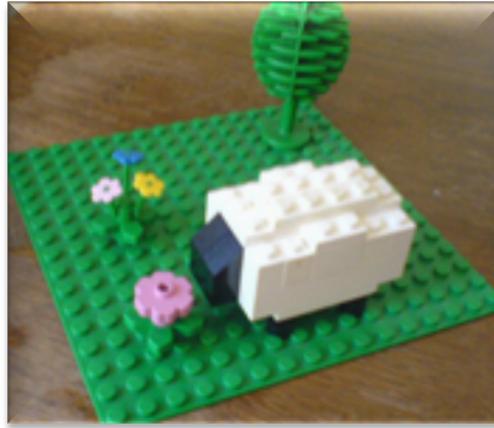
Let your students make the field by working together to create it. If you have enough pieces to make it a farm, do so! Give out jobs beforehand so your students don't squabble. Make sure to have someone fill the treasure chest out of aluminum foil!

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

---

1. What are some of the things you know are keeping you from loving Jesus more?
2. How can you change the situation?
3. Will you promise to do those things this week?

# THE LOST SHEEP



*Here are three ideas for sheep and a scene to go with the Lost Sheep parable.*

Even if you don't have so many white Lego blocks, sheep can be any color of the rainbow in kids' imaginations. Create an art project of sheep such as those above to reinforce the parable of the Lost Sheep.

## PARABLE:

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*"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."*

## **INTRODUCTION:**

---

Obviously, Jesus was concerned about people a lot more than sheep. But how are we like sheep? Sheep are not very bright. They can get lost easily, just like we can get “lost” easily in our spiritual walk with Christ. We can get sidetracked by temptations, friends who are bad influences, and even by our own laziness.

Today, let’s each of us make a sheep. Let’s pretend that sheep is us. We’ll make a field and a barn and put Jesus in there with us. It will help us to remember not to wander outside the fence where we can get lost!

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

---

1. Students will grab for the white Lego pieces first, so if you don’t have many, tell them that “girl sheep are red and pink” and “boy sheep are blue and black,” or something else that will get their creativity working a bit.
2. Assign everybody a job in making the barn and field. Someone can make the fence, another can make the roof, another can build the barn walls and door. Let them work together and encourage positive comments and helpful attitudes.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

---

1. What things in particular are weaknesses for you? What things are likely to distract you from your walk with Christ? Think of things you feel you love *more* than Jesus.
2. How can you either include God in your time with these things or avoid those things if there’s absolutely nothing about them God would like?
3. When a sheep gets lost, it bleats until someone hears its alarm and goes to find it. If you ever do “get lost spiritually,” what should you do? How will Jesus respond, according to this parable?

# THE UNCLEAN SPIRIT



*A mother of several boys blogged how she made learning fun by having the boys create monsters. Notice the mouth stickers she used as well as the stick-on eyes!*

Kids love goblins and spooks and monsters! That's why using Lego monsters is a great way to teach the parable of the Unclean Spirit. Teachers have shied away from this parable, thinking it has only to do with possession. But it is a great way to cover bad habits, compulsive misbehavior, and lack of discipline in our lives as well. Kids can have fun with Lego blocks, creating their challenging habits in the form of Lego monsters, and have a great discussion on how to clean up their act!

## PARABLE:

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And Jesus said...

*“When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. Then it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation.”*

## **INTRODUCTION:**

---

It is kind of scary to think that there is a spiritual realm, and that it is not all good! Sometimes the forces of darkness can influence us away from our walk with Christ. However, we don't have to worry about them lurking in the closet or hiding under our beds. Here is the real way forces of darkness influence us.

They'll say, "[name one of your students] has a weakness for following the wrong crowd. Let's make sure to bring him in contact with a bad crowd, and we'll see what he does."

Or, "[name a second student] likes to binge out on ice cream. Let's try and influence her, and then she'll feel all guilty about binging, and she won't want to approach Jesus."

Or, "[name a third student] really likes those TV shows that Jesus knows will keep her awake at night. Let's just keep telling her how much she misses them, and then she'll watch, and then she'll be awake all night, scared and ashamed of herself."

The secret is to know what our weaknesses are and to bring them before Jesus every time we feel tempted or threatened. You see, the forces of darkness may not be scared of you - but they *are terrified* of Jesus, our great defender and savior.

Today let's each of us build a Lego monster that represents our biggest weakness that would keep us away from Jesus. This is not just a lesson in creativity; it's a lesson in honesty! Nobody is allowed to pass judgment on anything a friend says! While we're building, we will be giving that monster a name.

## **INSTRUCTIONS:**

---

If you have access to stick-on teeth or eyes, this is a great project in which to include them! However, kids' imaginations will work quite well without the added touches!

Empty the big bag of Lego pieces onto the table and let kids design their own monsters. Have them discuss what temptations that monster symbolizes: laziness, cheating, binging, or being mean to someone. That will be the name of the monster.

Encourage honesty without judgment, or letting anyone else pass judgment.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

---

1. We all live with temptation in our lives. What is your biggest temptation? Think of a name for your monster that is similar.
2. What steps can you take to keep that monster from rearing its ugly head?
3. Now, let's all say a prayer, and we'll take these monsters apart as a symbol of not letting them build up problems in our lives! "Father in heaven, please protect us from dark forces that want to influence us to do wrong." Have students take their monsters apart and throw the pieces back into the pile.

# THE FIG TREE



*One student created an apple tree using standard Lego pieces. But your students can create likeness to show the parable of the fig tree.*

Using the sample above, each of your students can create a fig tree, remembering to include fruit! The fruit is likened to our growth in Christ, as the message will make clear!

## PARABLE:

---

And Jesus said...

*“A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”*

## **INTRODUCTION:**

---

Jesus said that when he returns, he will look at all the work we have done in our lives for good and for selfish purposes. Those who lived a life of loving their neighbors as themselves and loving God and Jesus will get great rewards.

Those people are like the fig trees that bear great fruit. People who don't do the will of Jesus while here on earth are like the fig trees that bear no fruit. Which do you want to be?

Let's make our own creative version of fig trees out of Lego pieces, remembering to put lots of fruit in the trees! Afterwards we'll look at what some of those fruits mean for us personally.

## **INSTRUCTIONS:**

---

Remember to impress upon the children that with Lego play, trees don't have to be green and figs don't have to be brown! A good tree is one that helps them learn what the parable means!

Let them design and discuss.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

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3. What do the fruits on your tree symbolize? What good works would you like to do with your natural gifts that will add "spiritual fruit" to your life?

# **Five Games to Play with Lego Blocks**

**(To Teach Parables 13-18)**

# **WHEAT AND THE TARES**



*These above are examples of the smallest Lego pieces, which make great tares.*

Separating the wheat from the tares with a timer will help kids understand this great parable about how to avoid tares in your life...and not be a tare to others!

## **MATERIALS:**

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- A bucket
- About 300 Lego pieces
- Eleven of your smallest Lego pieces, similar to those photographed above

## **PARABLE:**

---

And Jesus said...

*“The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’ But he said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’*

## **PREPARATION:**

---

Pick out some of your smallest Lego blocks that are the same color and shape. Those will be your tares, or weeds. They might be like the white or red pieces in the photos above. Place 11 of them in the bag with all the other Lego pieces of different sizes, shapes, or colors. If you need to, use different types of pieces to make into the tares

## **OBJECTIVE:**

---

Be the student to sort out the most tares from the pile

## **INTRODUCTION:**

---

First, let's separate the wheat from the tares, and then we'll talk about what this means in our life

## **INSTRUCTIONS:**

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1. Pick two students to play against each other. Have them stand on either side of the table.
2. Take a big bag full of your Lego pieces with the tares and dump it on the table. That is the "go" signal.
3. Each must begin to root through the blocks to find the tares.
4. The student who has the most tares when all 11 have been found gets one point for each tare he found.
5. The winner will play the next student.
6. Sweep all the Lego pieces back into the bag for the next round, and repeat.
7. The student with the most points at the end of the game wins.

## **CONCLUDING DISCUSSION:**

---

Wheat and tares actually have two meanings in the parable. The first is good and bad people—good people being the wheat and tares being bad people. However, all of us have sinned and all fall short of the glory of God. The second meaning is that tares can be weaknesses that are overwhelming an otherwise good person. What little tares do you need to pull out of your life, before they become overwhelming?

Tares are like weeds. They can take over a garden and choke the good flowers. If you let your weaknesses take over, what could they take over your life? What might you be like ten years from now?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

---

1. Think of a tare like materialism, which means defining yourself by the things you possess and others by the things they possess. Do you know anyone like this? What do you think happens to them once they become adults and begin earning money?
2. Since it is such a big problem in America, how can you keep materialism from taking over your life?

# THE LOST COIN



*Finding the lost coin in a Lego mound can be a daunting task!*

A treasure hunt for a certain Lego piece, this game will help students understand how hard Jesus tries to bring us back to him when we have gotten off track.

## **MATERIALS:**

---

1. About 50 Lego pieces
2. One quarter
3. Brown lunch bags, one for each student
4. Phone with a stopwatch

## **PREPARATION:**

---

Hide the Lego pieces around the room. Hide the quarter with them.

## **OBJECTIVE:**

---

Be the person to find the most Lego pieces and/or the person to find the quarter

## PARABLE:

---

And Jesus said...

*“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”*

### INTRODUCTION:

---

There are 50 Lego pieces hidden around this room. There also is one quarter. You win by finding the most Lego pieces and/or finding the quarter. Search now, and I’ll tell you what it means after!

### INSTRUCTIONS:

---

1. When you say, “Go!” students should seek for as many Lego bricks as possible as well as the quarter.
2. Allow them three to five minutes, depending on their ages and abilities.
3. When you say “Stop!” have them bring them back to the table, dump out their stash, and count.
4. Find who has the quarter. If this student didn’t also have the most Lego bricks, then you have two winners.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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1. In the parable, what does the lost coin symbolize? What type of person? *A person who is lost.*
2. In Christianity, when we say a person is “lost,” what do we mean? *That he or she does not know Jesus.* When you tell someone that Jesus is the Messiah, what is Jesus likely to do, according to this parable? *Work really hard after you spoke up for him to get that person to know him.*
3. How hard did you concentrate when looking for the treasure? That’s how hard Jesus concentrates on trying to keep us from being lost from him. Isn’t it nice to know that God loves you that much? What are some ways this week that we could thank him for his love and protection?

# BLIND LEADING THE BLIND



*Kids doing their own thing with Lego is always fun, but you'll be upping the ante if you blindfold them!*

All kids love being blindfolded in play, and this game of designing Lego structures blindfolded will bring lots of laughs - and also a good lesson in why having spiritual vision is so important to their growth. This short but important parable will cause children to have lots to say about it.

## **MATERIALS:**

- Blindfolds of old neckties or bandanas, one for each student
- Your big bag of Lego bricks

## **PARABLE:**

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And Jesus said...

*"A blind man cannot guide a blind man, can he? Will they not both fall into a pit?"*

## **OBJECTIVE:**

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After the second half of the game ends, be the team of blind and sighted person voted to have built the best house.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

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It's no fun being blind in reality, but some like being blinded for play! Let's all put on blindfolds and see what kind of Lego structures we can create- without cheating!

## **INSTRUCTIONS:**

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1. Dump your big bag of Lego bricks on the table and let the blindfolded kids have at it. Give them five minutes to create whatever they want.
2. Have them pull off their blindfolds and survey what they made.
3. Have them dismantle the creations and throw the pieces back into the mound.
4. For the second half of the game, have half the kids blindfolded and the other half seeing. Have them work in pairs of two, one seeing and one blindfolded, to develop a house.
5. The seeing person may gather 10 pieces at the beginning. The seeing people must *take turns*, so that it doesn't turn into a free-for-all.
6. The seeing person may hand the pieces to the blind person and tell them where the next piece goes. But they may not touch the hands of the blind person.
7. Give them 10 minutes this time.
8. Have the blind students take off the blindfolds and behold each other's work.
9. Have the class vote on the prettiest house, and that team wins.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

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1. When Jesus was talking about the blind leading the blind, he was actually talking about spiritual leaders who don't know what they're doing as being spiritually blind. They are trying to lead regular people to a higher level of existence, and those people are blind from lack of learning.
2. How can this parable apply to the types of friendships we have? *If someone doesn't know how to be a good Christian, he can't help us to be one either.*
3. Have you ever had a bad influence in your life? What happened?
4. Have you ever been a good influence on somebody else? How did that go? What are some things we can do to have good leadership skills and be good influences?

# THE STRONG TOWER



*Strong towers are not complicated towers! Your students can make these with ease...if they aren't running around like crazy to get the job done!*

If you need to drain off some energy, here is a running relay involving building the strong towers of Proverbs 18:10. Kids will learn to work together to build a tower quickly...and what to do with their tower that symbolizes safety and protection.

## MATERIALS:

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- 30 standard rectangular Lego pieces
- Eight square standard Lego bricks
- Masking tape

## PREPARATION:

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1. Depending on your students, you may want to create a starting line on the floor with masking tape.
2. Place the table on the other side of the play area.
3. On top, place two piles of Lego pieces, each containing 15 of the rectangular bricks and four of the square ones.

## OBJECTIVE:

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To be on the team that creates the first of the two strong towers.

## PARABLE:

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Proverbs 18:10 says...

*The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runs into it, and is safe.*

### INTRODUCTION:

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First, we are going to build two strong towers using two teams. Second, we are going to talk about what to do with it!

### INSTRUCTIONS:

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1. Explain how to make a simple strong tower: The 15 double bricks go on the bottom, and the four square bricks go on top in the center. The colors don't matter.
2. Separate the class into two teams.
3. Have both teams stand behind the starting line.
4. When you say "Go!" one student from each team will rush to the table and put one Lego brick in place to make their strong tower.
5. As they return, the next student may run up and add one brick to it.
6. Students will end up taking multiple turns, but they should keep their place in line and only add one brick at a time.
7. The first team to complete their strong tower wins the game.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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1. First of all, that tower took a lot of hard work and huffing and puffing to build. How is that a lot like our spiritual life when we are trying to be more and more like Jesus?
2. Second, what does the parable mean? How is God like a strong tower? What do towers do? *Keep you safe and give you a greater view from high up, or greater vision.*
3. Is there an area of your life where you would just love to know what God is going to do next? What is it?
4. How can we use God like a strong tower in this case? What can you ask him? How often will you come to him about this? How well will you listen for his voice?

# THE NARROW GATE



*Use a Jar like this one or a carton with a smaller mouth to teach about the narrow gate.*

The narrow opening of a jar will symbolize the narrow gate, and students will have to see how many they can drop through it while standing on a chair. If your kids are extra coordinated...use a plastic milk carton! The game provides a great chance for you to talk to them about choosing the right behaviors in life.

## **MATERIALS:**

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- Mason jar (for younger classes)
- Milk carton (for older or more coordinated students)
- 25 to 30 Lego pieces of different shapes and sizes, all small enough to fit through the mouth of the container
- Sturdy chair

## **OBJECTIVE:**

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To get the most of the Lego bricks presented to you through the mouth of the container.

## PARABLE:

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And Jesus said...

*“Enter through the narrow gate, for the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”*

### INTRODUCTION:

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We are going to try to get Lego pieces through the narrow opening of a container! Then we'll talk about what the narrow gate is in our lives.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

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1. Have your assistant or a sharp student keep score.
2. Lay all the Lego pieces out on a table from smallest to largest (and therefore most challenging).
3. Have students line up to stand on the chair and try to drop their Lego into the jar.
4. They may not object to the Lego piece they are given. They must take the next one in the line.
5. As each one gets a piece through, he or she gets a point.
6. The student with the most points wins.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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1. When Jesus talks about finding the narrow gate, he is talking about there being only one means of salvation on planet earth. He said to his followers in John 14:6, *“I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the father but through me.”*
2. What is the ‘narrow way’ that Jesus was talking about? *Salvation through Jesus.*
3. You really had to take aim to get some of those bigger pieces through the opening and into the jar. The pieces in order were sort of like your spiritual journey through life. How do the pieces represent trials and tribulations? *Challenges get bigger as you get older and more mature.*
4. How can ‘taking aim’ in this game be compared to praying? *We need to be specific with our prayers and pray often and really concentrate on hearing God’s voice.*