

Activity tie-in: "Awareness of environment"

Object: Signs- directional or caution signs (example: caution: rocks ahead; warning: poison ivy, caution: rat poisoning, etc.)

Lesson: Just as you should be aware of signs on a trail, you should be AWARE of the devil, the world, your sinful flesh and be AWARE of God's directions for you.

INTRO IDEAS

- If it is a sign warning against poison ivy you could put it near a plant and ask students if anyone would like to come touch the plant. Similarly, if it is for rat poisoning, you could place it over food and ask students if anyone would like to try it.
- Have a couple signs and hold them each up, asking what each of them means and in where you might see that sign and how you would abide by what it says.
- Ask students for various examples of what could happen if one were to disobey a warning or a sign, or examples of what has happened to them when they did not take a warning seriously.

LESSON SUGGESTIONS

- Discuss with them why we use signs and what they tell us, how they help us. Talk about why signs are necessary to be able know where you are or what you should be doing, etc.
- Quote the passage "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." romans 12:2. Discuss how God gives us guidance and direction and how things can go wrong if we do not follow them in his word and rather choose to follow the destructive paths of this world.
- Discuss what happens when people do not follow signs (for example: if you do not follow a warning sign, you could end up with poison ivy or even dying.) Discuss what happens when we do not follow God's instructions. We are forgiven! No matter how grievous the sin.

QUESTIONS FOR INTERACTIVE LESSON

- What are some worldly "signs" that people tend to follow even though they are clearly marked in danger?
 - People may read the Bible and know what is wrong but they often still resort to sin and worldly forms of comfort.
 - We continuously fall into temptation no matter how many times we see the bad outcomes.

- How does God give us “directions” for the right path? What do those directions include?
 - God gives us directions in his world, here he clearly lays out for us his will for godly living. (Bonus: God ALSO gives us a conscience to figure out what’s right and wrong!)
 - These directions include sticking to God’s word, praying, showing kindness, showing love, putting God first... etc.
- Does God ever try to lead us astray? What does God do when we get “off track” or fail to take his “signs” into account?
 - God promises never to lead us astray (“And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.” 1 corinthians 10:31)
 - God not only promises to help and guide us along our path (Exodus 15:13) but also promises that when we do stray from God’s commands and fall into sin, He loves us just the same because He has already forgiven ALL of our sins through our savior Jesus. Psalm 103:12 “as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.”

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear God,

We know that you have set a path for us but that we often go astray. Please help us to be aware of the temptations around us and to do our best to follow you and glorify you in all we do. We pray that you would forgive us when we fail to follow your will for us. Thank you for your guidance. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.