

The A B C's  
of  
Salvation  
&  
Salvation  
Illustrations



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## Forward

The purpose of this compilation of salvation illustrations and instructions, is to equip teachers with an exciting way to present the gospel of salvation to children. I am very thankful for those who have helped to teach me about how to teach youth and hope to pass some of that knowledge along. Often, we are very repetitious in our approach to salvation – hopefully these illustrations will help to keep your children's attention as well. They say our worst teaching method is the one we use over and over. It is my goal to present the gospel in many different and exciting ways.

I started out trying to make the illustrations in this binder and distributing them to churches but I realized I didn't have the time to make everyone a set or have the financial means. These instructions should enable you to make your own set. If you need help constructing any of the illustrations let me know and I will be happy to help.

We recommend that you create a space to hold your illustrations. We are currently working on a three part system. The first part is this book, which we will make available to anyone who may have a need to present the gospel in our ministry. The second part is the folder file. Each illustration will have its own manila envelope. The envelope will contain all of the information needed to prepare the illustration. Finally, there will be a container file. The containers are labeled to match the illustration envelopes and will contain all the parts needed to present the illustration.

I would like to give a special thanks to my wife, Lisa, along with Abby Salmans and Bethany Williams, for their help in putting this all together

## The Great Commission

According to Matthew 28:19, we are commanded to teach others about Jesus Christ to the point of them believing in and following the Lord in obedience. This applies to all who can hear with understanding (Nehemiah 8:8). Notice how, not only did they teach the word of God, but they took the time to make it make sense. By explaining the gospel in many different ways we hope to be able to help everyone who is able to understand. I am also reminded that the great commission does not end with salvation; instead, it is the beginning of our responsibility to share the whole counsel of God. Each teaching opportunity yields a chance to share the gospel.

## How to Present the Gospel

It is important that we always present the Gospel and also give opportunity for a response to what is presented. It is imperative that our students understand that what we are teaching them, comes directly from the word of God. When possible I like to use an open Bible so that it is visible, that what I am conveying, comes from God's word.

### The A,B, C's, of Salvation

#### Step A. Admit (Romans 3:23)

I need to be lost before I can be found. Take time to help your students to understand what sin is. I teach that sin is "anything we say, do, or think that displeases God. I like to give a few simple illustrations about sin to help them understand, such as disobeying a parent or saying or thinking something mean about someone else.

- A. We all have sin
- B. Sin separates between us and God
- C. There is a wage for your sin
- D. Sin lasts for eternity.
- E. You have sinned

#### Step B. Believe (John 3:16)

God's word teaches us not just about sin but about how God has offered a gift to pay for our sins. God sent his own son to die to pay for our sin (the wages of sin is death). We can have our sins taken away by asking God to remove them. We need to believe that Jesus is God's son, that He lived a perfect life without sin, and that He died willingly to pay for our sin. God has promised to take away our sins if we ask him to.

Step C. Choose (Romans 10:9,10)

It is a personal decision that we all have to make. This one small decision will determine our eternity. It is a free gift; God already paid the price. All we have to do is receive the gift.

Ask God to take away your sin  
Let God be your heavenly Father  
Begin a new life in Christ Jesus

## Counseling Children

Exodus 18:19 Counseling for Children's church takes place after the invitation when individuals show interest in the invitation. When giving the invitation, be sure to give the option to talk to someone about what is going on. Be sure to carefully watch their attitude and expressions towards the invitation as you present them with it.

Once you know someone will need counseling, you will want to text your predetermined counselor. (Before class you will need to make sure you have a counselor and that they know you will text them when you need them.) When they arrive, have them take the child to a visible yet quiet place and counsel the student according to our Counseling Card. Don't stop for counseling until you have finished the whole invitation. Do not announce anything that may distract from your invitation until everyone involved is dismissed.

Make sure you get a decision card before leaving the service. This card is confidential and will need to get to the Sunday School Superintendent immediately. Even if no decisions are made we need a record of each counseling session.

## Illustrating the Gospel

Jesus used many illustrations during his earthly ministry. Often times he used something we could see or understand to illustrate what we believe by faith. In our own ministry our youth look forward to their favorite illustrations, and will often request ones they haven't seen in a while.

Spend time practicing before you do an illustration so you are sure you can do the illustration properly as you teach. Be sure to work in Bible verses and, if applicable, parts of your lesson as you give the illustration. Children love to help out, as well - for example, they love to try to unlock the lock in the Key to Heaven illustration. However, it is important to be sure you remain in control, and that whoever tries to unlock with the red key knows what they are doing so they can unlock the lock easily, proving the point of how Jesus is the only way. Don't be afraid to modify these illustrations to fit your needs. The following list is an ever growing list of salvation illustrations, and we would love to hear of any suggestions you may have!

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COLOR BALL  
SALVATION ILLUSTRATION  
SI 1



**The Color Ball is a 3-D version of the color book, that can be held and played with. It shows our condition, God’s gift, our new position, and steps to Christian growth**

## **Romans 6:23**

*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

## **Materials list**

Stack and Roll Cups

Red, black, white, and gold paint

## **How to build illustration**

**-Step 1:** start by getting a Fisher Price “Stack and Roll Cups. (you can get online or at Bed Bath and Beyond)

**-Step 2:** you will need at least five, layer pieces. Start with your smallest layer and stack the ball to your biggest layer.

**-Step 3:** using a sharpie, mark the two outside layers with a B (for black). Pull off the largest layer, and mark the one below with and R (for red). Now pull off the other layer, labeled B, and mark the layer underneath W (for white). Now pull off the layer labeled R, and mark the one underneath G (for gold). If you are stacking more layers continue to follow this pattern.

**-Step 4:** Place the layers dome side up on a paintable surface. Paint the layers according to their labeling. This may take several coats, make sure that each layer is fully covered, and make sure that all pieces are fully dry before putting the ball back together. If pieces stick use a piece of sand paper, to remove excess paint at the joints.

## Giving the illustration

- Step 1:** start with the black ball and explain sin.
- Step 2:** peel off the first black layer to reveal the red dome.
- Step 3:** Explain how Jesus died to pay for your sin.
- Step 4:** Peel off the other black layer to reveal the white dome. Explain how Jesus' blood can cover up our sin and makes us white as snow, based off of our decision of belief.
- Step 5:** Peel off the red layer to expose the gold dome. Explain how once we accept Jesus' blood as the payment for our sin, God gives us a home in heaven for eternity.



## Hints and tips

You can use more layers, to illustrate things such as, baptism (blue layer) and growth (green layer). You can also put things inside the ball, such as green or blue felt, to illustrate baptism and growth as well. The reason that we suggested five layers, is because the “Stack and Roll Cups” come with 10 layers, so you can make two and give one to a friend.

BALLOON POP  
SALVATION ILLUSTRATION  
SI 2



**This illustration shows how we may think we can play with sin, but the truth is sin will destroy our life.**

### **Numbers 32:23**

*But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out*

### **Materials list**

Several balloons

Tape

Sharp skewer

Black marker

Soap – liquid form

### **How to build illustration**

- Step 1:** Color your skewer using a black marker, to represent sin.
- Step 2:** Fully inflate the balloon, and tie it off.
- Step 3:** Place a piece of tape near the “pucker” on the bottom of the balloon.
- Step 4:** Coat the skewer in liquid soap.

**Step 1:**



**Step 2:**



**Step 3:**



## Giving the illustration

- Step 1:** Start with the balloon and explain how it represents us.
- Step 2:** Explain how the skewer is sin, and how often we don't do or do the opposite of what God tells us to.
- Step 3:** Stick the skewer through the tape, to the inside of the balloon. (you can spend some time at this point if the air holds well. Explain how often it seems as if there is no punishment for our sin and maybe I'm getting away with something)
- Step 4:** Quickly pull out skewer and stick into the side of the balloon popping it, explain how sin will destroy your life every time.

Step 1:



Step 2:



Step 3:



Step 4:



## Hints and tips

It is a good idea to practice this illustration before hand. Also, facial expression can help you teach (When you place the skewer through the tape into the balloon act like you are afraid of the balloon popping, then relieved when it doesn't pop.)

There are several online YouTube videos, on how to stick skewers into balloons without popping it, which may be helpful in completing this illustration.

LOOSED FROM SIN

SI 3



**This illustration demonstrates that sin separates us from God, and the simple way to have our sins removed.**

### **Isaiah 59:1-2**

*Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

### **Materials list**

Three large wooden beads

Two ropes approximately three feet in length.

Paint, to paint the wooden beads

### **How to build illustration**

- Step 1:** Pick the rope that you will want to use (the rope needs to be able to fit 4 times into the inside of the beads that you are using.)
- Step 2:** Find beads (the hole in the bead needs to be big enough for the rope to pass through it 4 times and needs to be long enough to hide looped thread inside)
- Step 3:** Color beads, so that there is white for God, black for sin, and you can paint “you” any color that you would like.

## Giving the illustration

- Step 1:** Fold the first string in half and then push it through the black bead until the loop appears.
- Step 2:** Fold the second string in half and insert the loop you just created through the first loop.
- Step 3:** Using the tails from the first rope, pull both ropes into the inside of the bead
- Step 4:** you are going to take the top rope from both sides, and tie an over had knot on top of the black beads.
- Step 5:** you should now have two ropes hanging out either side of the black bead. On either side of the black bead thread the other two beads. Slide the other two beads up tight against the black bead.
- Step 6:** The last step is to pull the strings that you did not use to tie the knot with, which will release the black bead, allowing the two outside beads to come together, illustrating how now without sin we can be connected to God.

Step 1:



Step 2:



Step 3:



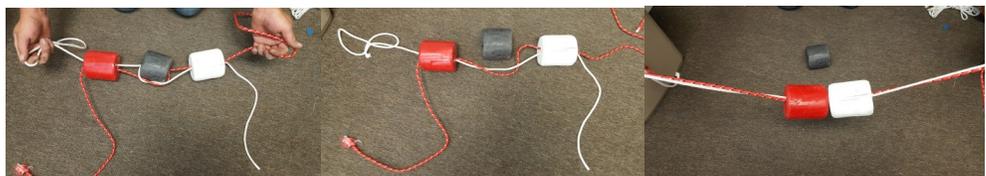
Step 4:



Step 5:



Step 6:

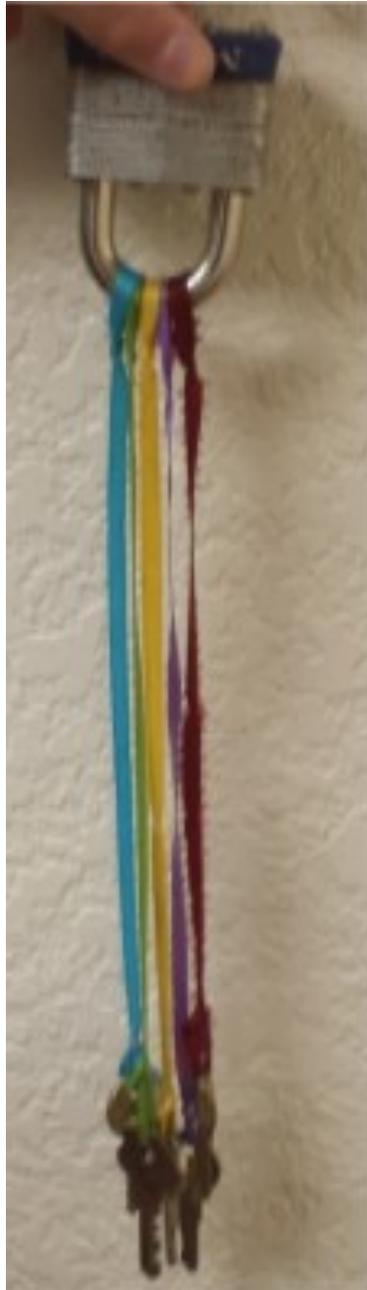


## Hints and tips

The beads in this illustration were made by drilling a 1 1/2" hole saw into a 2x4. Wiggle the hole saw as you drill so that the "bead" slips out of the hole saw easily. I then drilled the center holes to match my rope diameter, times four. We also made a larger model using a 4" diameter log and cut 4" chunks. The edges were cleaned and rounded with a belt sander. A hole was then drilled through the center to accommodate a larger rope. This would work well in a larger group setting. Beads can be made of many different types of materials although they should be solid in order for the ropes to work properly.

# THE KEY TO HEAVEN

## SI 4



People may try many things to get to heaven but there is only one way to get to Heaven. This illustration will help to visualize the fact that there is only one way

### John 14:6

*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

### Materials needed

1 ft. pieces of yarn or ribbon in the following colors

Purple, Green, Yellow, Blue, Red

Keyed padlock of any size would work although I would not recommend overly small.

4 extra keys that will not open the padlock

### How to build illustration

-**Step 1.** Tie each ribbon to the loop on the back of the key

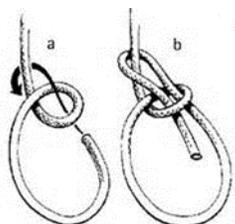
-**Step 2.** Tie a 1" loop on the opposite side of each ribbon

-**Step 3.** Loop all the ribbons through the "shackle" of the padlock leaving the red ribbon on one of the outsides

Step 1:



Step 2:



Step 3:



## Giving the illustration

Explain that we are sinners and give some specific examples of sin such as mean thoughts, name calling, stealing, fighting, disobedience, Explain that our sin keeps us locked out of Heaven. There seems to be many ways to get to Heaven but the truth is that There is only one way. etc. Now what can take away our sins and open the gate to heaven? Explain that there are a lot of good things that look good and even pretend to be the answer but there is only one way to heaven. Explain what each ribbon stands for, then ask if it will get us to heaven. Let one of your students try to open the lock using the key attached to the ribbon you are explaining. Continue until you get to the red ribbon and the lock is opened.

**Purple-** royalty, can we get to heaven by who we are or who our family is?

**Blue-** religion can we get to heaven by going to church, praying, and reading the Bible?

**Green-** Good works- Can we get to heaven by doing good things like helping others or saving lives?

**Yellow-** gold or money- Can we buy our way into heaven?

**Red-** The blood of Jesus- Can believing in Jesus and asking him to take away our sins get us to heaven?

## Hints and tips

I like to let some of the kids try to open the lock, be sure to pick someone who can easily open the lock when you get to the red ribbon.

It is neat when a key fits the lock but will not open the lock, this would make a good illustration for religion (blue ribbon). Religion often looks and feels right but it will not take away our sin.

**CLIPPED TO THE SAVIOUR**

**SI 5**



**The only way to a relationship with the God, is by the removing of your sin,  
through the finished work of his son, Jesus Christ**

### **Isaiah 59:1-2**

*Behold the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

#### **Materials needed**

A large piece of black ribbon (I used 2 1/4" from Walmart)  
Two large paper clips (I used 4" paper clips from Staples)

#### **How to build the illustration**

- Step 1.** Cut a 20" piece of ribbon
- Step 2.** Seal the edges using a lighter. Lay the end of the ribbon past the edge of a table and using a lighter carefully melt the edge to seal the ribbon and keep it from fraying.

**Step 1:**

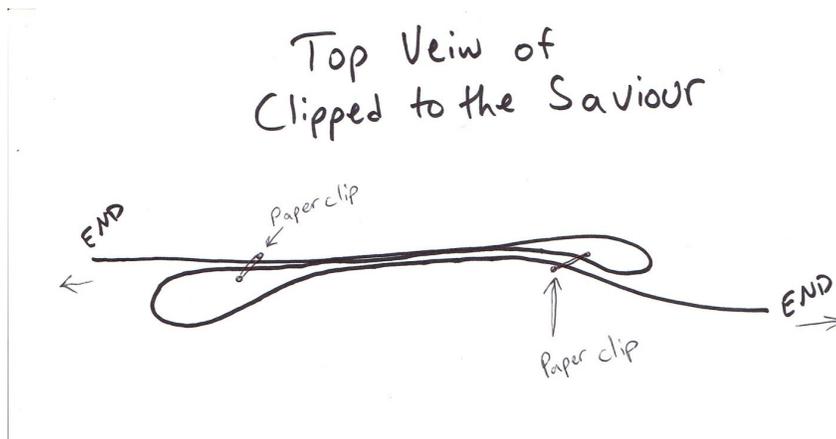


**Step 2:**



## Giving the illustration

This illustration pictures the sin that separates us from God. Begin by explaining that your ribbon represents sin. Then explain one paper clip represents God as you clip it to the proper place on your ribbon. Then explain that the second paper clips represents your life as you clip the paper clip onto the ribbon. Now ask your audience what is separating us from God? Explain what sin is and then ask them how to remove sin from your life. After you explain that through faith in and calling upon Jesus for his free gift, pull the ends of the ribbons. Explain that this is our eternal state after faith in Christ, forever together with him



## Hints and tips

You can paint one of the paper clips with spray paint or use different size paper clips so there is a visible difference between God and man

# POWER POINT COLOR BOOK

## SI 6



**The only way to get to heaven is by believing that Jesus died for you and then asking him to take away your sin. This makes a nice end to a power point based lesson!**

## **2 Peter 3:9 c, d**

*... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

### **Materials needed**

Power point computer program

An electronic picture

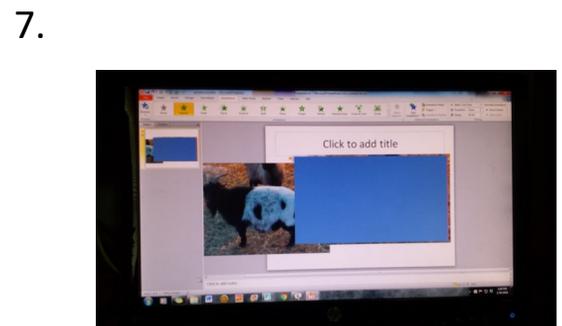
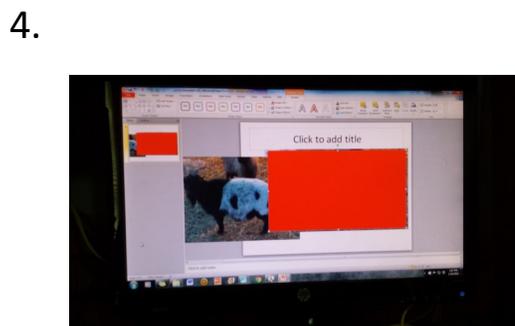
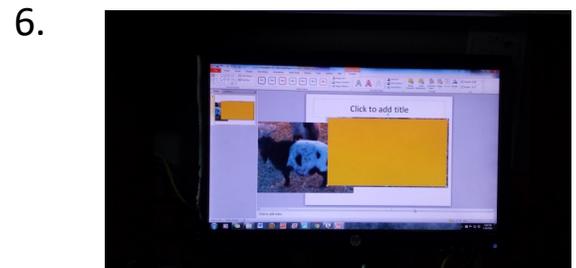
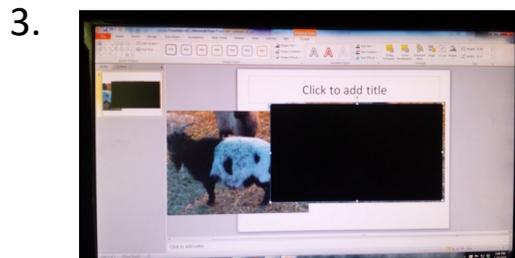
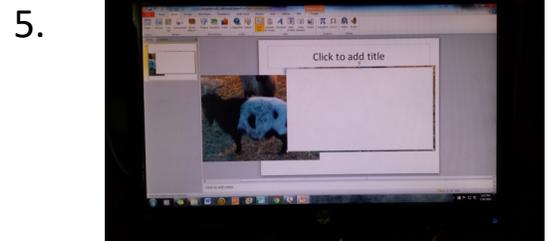
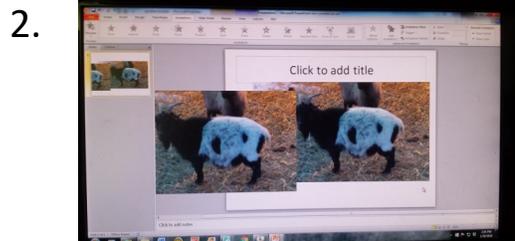
### **How to build illustration**

- Step 1.** Choose a picture, in this case we were talking about shepherds and goats so we used a picture of a goat.
- Step 2.** Copy and paste two pictures. Place the first picture in the center of the page. Set the second picture off to the side for now.
- Step 3.** Insert a text box. Using the drawing tools tab above, shape fill the box with black and make it slightly smaller than the picture in the center of the page. Click on the animations tab and add the “appear” animation.
- Step 4.** Follow steps in step 2 to make a red text box . Totally cover the black box .
- Step 5.** Follow steps in step 2 to make a white text box
- Step 6.** Follow steps in step 2 to make a gold text box
- Step 7.** Follow steps in step 2 to make a blue text box
- Step 8.** Follow steps in step 2 to make a green text box
- Step 9.** Now take the picture you set off to the side and left click for menu box. On the smaller box click on the bring forward picture until the picture is on the top of the stack. Now center the picture over the whole file.

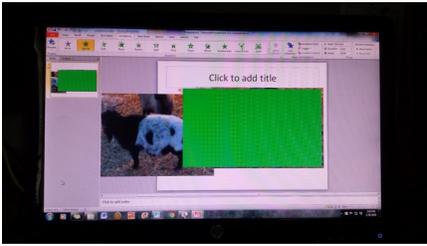
**-Step 10.** Click on the picture tools tab and select remove background. Enlarge the selection box to the entire size of the picture. Now remove the object instead of the background using the mark areas to keep/remove command to highlight the picture. Once the picture is removed select the keep changes check mark.

**-Step 11.** Your picture will now be green.

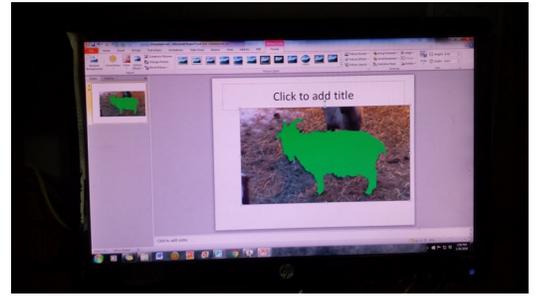
**-Step 12.** Click the slide show mark. Now navigate through the slide show using the right arrow. Now you have a unique color book!



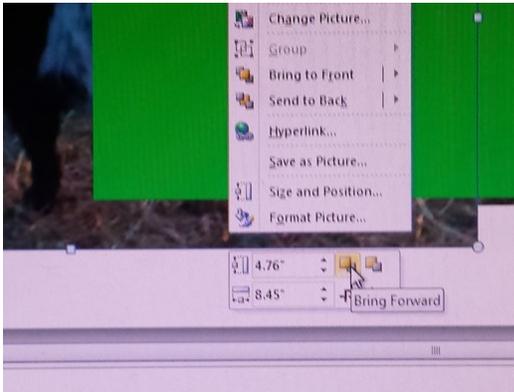
8.



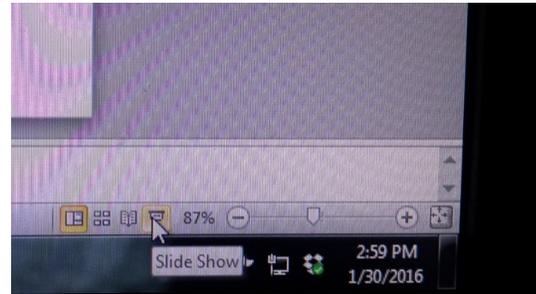
11.



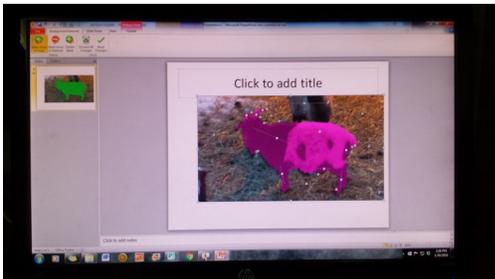
9.



12.



10.



## **Giving the illustration**

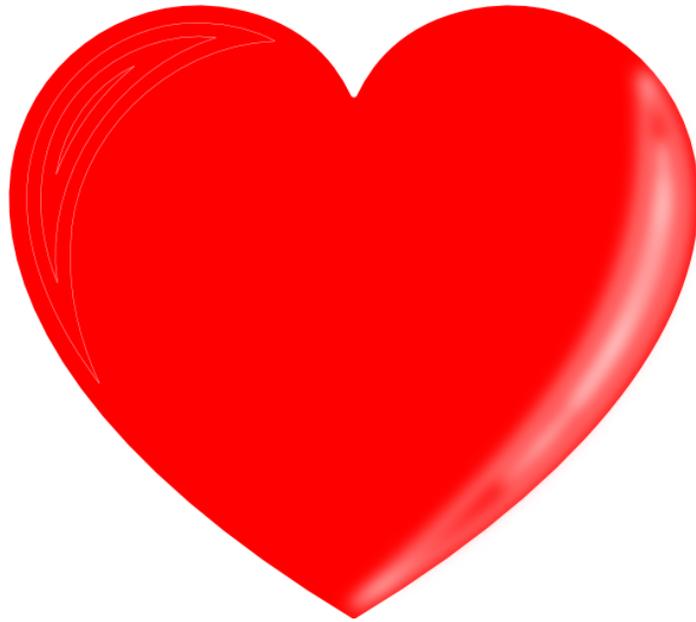
Explain each color as you click through the slides and then end with an invitation. Start with the black and explain sin. Then use the red to explain God's gift of Jesus Christ who shed his red blood to pay for our sin. Then say "when we ask" God to come into our heart and take away our sins, he makes us white as snow! explain how he gives us a home in heaven when we trust him (gold). Then explain he asks us to be baptized (blue) and discuss ways we can grow (green).

## **Hints and tips**

You can cut the blue and green for a simpler salvation illustration

# THE HEART OF GOD

SI 7



**The Heart of God in 3-D color: our condition, God's gift, our new position, and steps to Christian growth.**

**John 3:16**

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

**Materials needed**

A tin preferably a heart shaped tin (can often be found around Valentines day)  
Paint, we will need black, red, white, and gold

**How to build illustration**

- Step 1.** Separate the tin and lay the two sides so the insides are visible.
- Step 2.** Paint one inside completely black and the other completely red
- Step 3.** Paint one outside surface completely white and the other Gold

Step 1:



Step 2:



Step 3:



## **Giving the illustration**

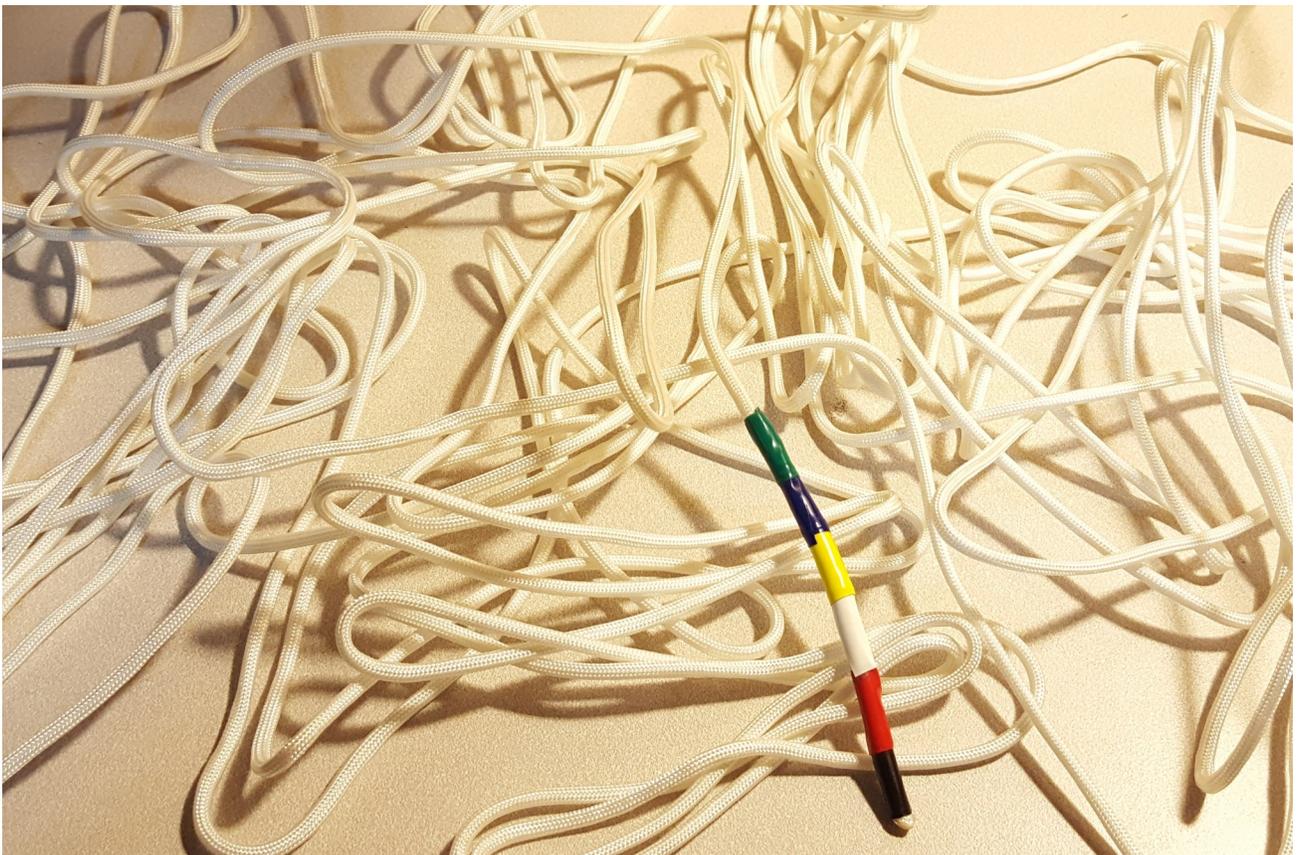
Start with the black half of the heart (facing your audience) and explain sin. Then use the red half of the heart and explain God's gift of Jesus Christ who shed his red blood to pay for our sin. Then say "when we ask" God to come into our heart and take away our sins, ( put the cover on the tin) he makes us white as snow! Then flip the tin over and explain how he gives us a home in heaven when we trust him.

## **Hints and Tips**

We have found some smaller tins and helped the kids to make pocket illustrations for a Sunday craft time.

# THE ETERNITY ROPE

SI 8



**The Eternity rope helps to demonstrate how long eternity really is and the need to make the decision to trust Christ and the need to live our lives for eternity rather than for today or tomorrow.**

### **James 4:14**

*Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*

### **Materials needed**

25 to 100 ft. of soft rope. Clothes line, or parachute cord works well  
Electrical tape in black, red, white, yellow, blue, & green this can be found at Walmart, automotive, hardware, and electrical stores.  
Zip lock bag

### **How to build illustration**

- Step 1.** use a lighter or gas burner to melt the ends of your rope so they won't unravel. If your rope does not melt, place one small piece of tape around the end .
- Step 2.** beginning with the black electrical tape, tightly wrap the end of the rope 2-3 times on the same spot, continue this for each color listed above slightly overlapping each time.
- Step 3.** carefully place rope into zip lock bag weaving it back and forth ending with the end of the rope with the layers of tape.

**Step 1:**



**Step 2-3:**



## Giving the Illustration

**-Step 1.** Now that you have the eternity rope bagged, leave the colored end of the rope hanging out of the bag. This illustration works best if you can then conceal the bag. You will begin by pulling out the colored end of the rope and start explaining what each color means, as you explain the gospel.

**-Step 2.** Explain how the colored part of the rope is a representation of our life on this earth. Then explain that the rest of the rope represents eternity. Begin to pull more rope out of the hidden bag. You can spread the rope all over the place, and then go back to the colored end, and talk about the fact that everything we do and the colored end of the rope will affect the rest of our eternity, so often we live our lives for the colored part of the rope, rather than for our eternity. Have fun illustrating the length of eternity.

Step 1:



Step 2:



## Hints and tips

Make sure that you never pull out the very end of the rope. Have the kids help you pull out some of the rope, to better explain eternity to them.

# NAILED TO THE CROSS

SI 9



**Jesus took on him the likeness of sinful man, and died on the cross in our place, to pay for our sin. Will we receive his free gift for the payment of our sins?**

## **2 Corinthians 5:21**

*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

### **Materials list**

11 Large nails with pronounced heads (4– 6-inch work nice)

Small wooden block for a base 2"x4"x6"

Paint, we will need black, red, brown, and blue

### **How to build illustration**

**-Step 1.** paint nails 8-black, 1- red, 1- blue, 1- brown

**-Step 2.** clean any rough spots and then paint your wooden base brown

**-Step 3.** after the base is dry, drill a hole the diameter of the nails, dead center of the block and 1 inch deep.

## Giving the illustration

**-Step 1:** Begin by putting the plain nail (gray) into the wooden base, ask the children if anyone wants to try and stack all the sins upon the nail. Let them try, and then pull out a red nail and place it on the table.

**-Step 2:** Explain how Jesus died for the sins of the whole world. Stack the black “sin” nails on the red nail and try to pick it up. Explain that it’s not enough to simply know Jesus died for sin.

**-Step 3:** Next talk about how we personally have to accept Jesus as our savior by faith (the blue nail) then restack the black nails on the red nail and then put the blue nail on the top side of the nail stack.

**-Step 4:** Now you can place all of the nails on top of the gray nail in the block, just as Jesus takes away your sins, when you put your faith in his finished work.

Step 1:



Step 2:



Step 3:



Step 4:



## Hints and tips

The trick is to get the heads trapped between the top and bottom nail, you may have to work the nails as you begin to pick them up.

# PEPPERED SIN

SI 10



The chemical reaction that takes place in this illustration makes for a lot of fun explaining how to have your sins removed

### **Psalms 103:12**

*As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.*

### **Materials needed**

White bowl full of water  
Pepper  
Dish soap  
Small red bottle

### **How to build illustration**

**-Step 1.** Put some dish soap in the red bottle, this will represent the blood that Jesus shed for our sins

### **Giving the Illustration**

**Step 1:** Start with a white bowl full of water. We are created clean and pure with the purpose of glorifying God.

**Step 2:** Sprinkle pepper on the water as you talk about how we sin, and how we are separated from God and unable to accomplish his purposes in our lives.

**Step 3:** Squirt a red drop of dish soap onto your finger. When we ask Jesus to take away our sins (put your finger to the surface of the water in the middle of the bowl) he takes our sins away!

Step 1:



Step 2:



Step 3:



## **Hints and tips**

Try this one several times before class. Experiment with the amount of pepper and soap. More soap usually weakens the effect of the illustration.

# Sparky

Sparky is a simple electrical circuit, consisting of a switch and two loads. Sparky by himself is just a pile of scrap until he is plugged into a power source. Once plugged into the power source Sparky can let his light shine and give an opportunity for other circuits to be plugged into his power source.

## **purpose and result**

### How to build illustration

pictures

Preparing the illustration before class pictures + materials list

### Giving the illustration

pictures

**Application of the illustration** Sparky is designed to represent our lives before and after trusting in Jesus Christ. He illustrates the ability to choose to live out God's will for our lives.

**1<sup>st</sup> Power-** for sparky this is an electrical extension cord. For us it is salvation through Jesus Christ. Take time to explain sin, our need for a savior, and Jesus' death on the cross for our sin.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Switch-** Sparky needs to decide to live for Jesus and flip his switch so his light can shine. Once we have decided to believe on Jesus, we must make the choice to live for him. We need to give our lives to him and look to him for strength and for direction in everything we do. Our light will shine through our testimony (what others see and hear us do). We should live in such a way that they would want what we have.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Outlet-** Sparky needs to use his outlet to bring others to his power source and then they too can let their light shine. Once we are saved and have made a choice to live for Jesus, we need to tell others about Jesus and what he can do for them!

Origami gospel teller