

# OBJECT LESSONS

## USING THE EYE-GATE IN A LECTURE

### 1. Strengths

Like a powerful story, using an object during teaching can catch the attention, crystalize the lesson, and serve as a magnifying glass to bring truth into focus.

The clearer the intent of the speaker, the more memorable the object.

6 objects used to illustrate 6 messages of Jeremiah are far more unforgettable than any 6-point sermon ever delivered.

It is even possible to review orally because the object has been burned into the memory.

### 2. Weaknesses

#1 Picking the wrong object is the greatest crime.

\* The teacher may be so enamored by the first object which comes to mind.

\* The object itself may not convey the meaning beautifully, only casually or obtusely.

#2 Less is more—don't give more details about the object than are absolutely necessary—you are not talking about the object [its history, fascinating colors, its personal appeal, cost, location purchased] unless. . . those factors are vital to the purpose of the truth being explained.

#3 Too many objects, like too many anecdotes or stories, blur the message, and we have to.

Remember THE LESSON IS EVERYTHING.

#4 Failure to draw parallels, not just reminders.

#5 Emphasis on object instead of the Bible verse.

Note: Bringing David's original sling and stones is not an object lesson. That is just visual illustration. You are not teaching about slingshots, you are trying to explain the power of boy who had confidence in God. Bring an object which demonstrates a lesson you remember about confidence in God. Bring an object that demonstrates confidence.

Of course, there is nothing wrong with bringing simple reminders: shepherd's staff, fish & loaves, a coffin, pinnacle of the Temple, mustard seeds, urn holding Elijah's water, apple from the Garden of Eden. But a truth wrapped up in a visible object captures our heart as it captures our mind.

### 3. Tips

Start with the objective—a dark room may illustrate your point better than a bright light.

A poorly designed tool or bowl or chair may be a more potent object when you speak of "excellence in Christian living" than an high end tool, or expensive bowl, or comfortable chair.

Choose only ONE parallel to make between the Bible verse and a quality of the object.

Take you time as you select the object. If it takes you less than several minutes to sort through all the possible objects that you might use, you may not have taken enough time to be selective. I have boxes full of "stuff" in my office that I might use as teaching tools someday.

Symbolism/association doesn't bloom until about the 3rd grade. Younger ones can repeat the truth from memory, but their understanding is fuzzy. A little boy said, "I didn't understand why Jesus had to die for me until the bee stung Mama and not me."

Keep it brief.

Make the parallels clear. Wind is invisible but it is real. The Holy Spirit is also invisible & real.

The gift of God is. . . . We don't earn birthday presents. They come from people who love us.

Repeat your "one sentence" LESSON [your **BIG IDEA**] 3 or 4 times using almost the exact same words each time. They should be able to repeat it.

