

# Fifteen Reasons: Why I Believe in Object Lessons!

By Rev. Barney Kinard

- 1. They help the teacher to teach from “the known to the unknown.”**

This is one of the “basic laws” of the learner, which employs the familiar to provide a basis to introduce a spiritual or an unknown lesson.
- 2. They help learners to move from “concrete” to “abstract” thinking.**

The younger the student, the more concrete the object lessons needs to become when teaching abstract truth. However, for older students, the object lessons can be more abstract and symbolic representing the truths of the Bible.
- 3. They can be helpful to reduce a complex subject into something simpler.**

Another advantage of an object lesson is its ability to be used to simplify a grand theological truth. Therefore, even the young can receive and relish the truth on their own level.
- 4. They assist in the integration and application of truth.**

Object lessons can be used to clarify the nuances of truth, especially for the “visual” learner. The visualization of something complex results in the student getting the concept. For some, this is the only effective way they can learn. For them, all visual lessons are converted into mental pictures that are integrated with other known images already “on file” in their head.
- 5. They provide an “aid to the memory.”**

Object lessons are therefore, “mneumonic” devices, which means that they provide an “aid to the memory.” They become like a mental framework to help learners remember by simple association involving the object and the lesson.
- 6. They provide a “basis” for review and testing for recall.**

Either by referring to an object or showing that object, the learner can recall the message and application that the teacher taught about that object. The student will then automatically associate the presented object with the “lesson taught.” The object then becomes synonymous with the lesson taught and therefore easily retained.
- 7. They have a way of “fixing themselves” in your mind for years.**

Many adults give testimony of remembering object lessons learned from childhood. They seem to have a lasting impact, even years later. Once the mind has been fixed on these lessons, they have a way of being used by God in ones adult life. These past spiritual lessons, which are easily remembered, are testimony that the object lessons are still bearing fruit. It is always amazing when adults can relive object lessons they were taught as children.
- 8. They utilize the “eye gate,” which accounts for 50% of what we learn.**

Research has shown that 50% of what a student remembers is from what he sees. Therefore using visual aids can help a student receive and retain what is being taught more effectively. Teachers using the eye-gate can substantially enhance what is being said.
- 9. They provide a focus to “hold the attention” by capturing the eyes of the learner.**

Object lessons are useful for giving the eye a visual reference. Therefore, it assists in holding attention while the teacher elaborates on the lessons that are inherent in the object’s usefulness. This is particularly true with children, but especially, younger children.

- 10. They accommodate any “age level” by the teacher adjusting “age-appropriate language” in their teaching.** Knowing each learner and what age-appropriate language to use, enables a sensitive teacher to fit the application of lesson to their developmental level. He knows what they are ready to hear and learn. Teacher should only use words that they can explain to the age of the children being addressed.
- 11. They can “peak” the curiosity of the learner, especially when the object is new or unusual to them.** Especially with older learners, the teacher can expand their view of world by introducing new, unfamiliar or even strange objects requiring explanation. When the element of surprise is added, the object becomes even more unforgettable. Their curiosity is “peaked,” and recall is enhanced by their new focus.
- 12. They facilitate “participatory” interaction between the lesson content and the speaker.** A good teacher can skillfully evoke questions and answers about the usefulness and applications taught by the presented object lesson. This kind of participation stimulates more recall and more mental interaction with the lesson and their teacher.
- 13. They are like “windows to the soul” that let the light of God’s Word enter.** Children can easily understand the stories of the Bible because there are so many everyday objects used to illustrate its teachings. When the object illustrates the message it becomes like a window for the soul allowing the light of God’s Word to shine brightly inside.
- 14. They were widely used by the Old Testament Prophets.** The prophets were emphatically told by God to use objects in their preaching and teaching. The prophets were able to convey their message so clearly by using objects that it left the Jewish people (and leaders of other nations) without excuse. Their object lessons left a profound impact on their hearers. Even today, we acquire profound understanding from their symbolical pronouncements.
- 15. They were the “strategic teaching method” that Jesus used repeatedly in his ministry.** The teaching ministry of Jesus provides abundant evidence that He expounded truth by repeatedly using object lessons. His lessons would either clarify or confound. Jesus often drew a sharp contrast between what other teachers said and what His Father taught. But to those who have “ears to hear” and “eyes to see,” they could learn lessons of eternal significance through His daily object lessons.