

“Life Lab” - LESSON 4

“Separation”

Main Focus:

We must be different than those who don't know Jesus



Power Verse:

“...come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them’, says the Lord.”

- 2 Corinthians 6:17a



Whatchagaddaknow:

“I Won't Live Like The World!”

LEADER'S INFO

Have you ever known someone who claims to be a Christian, but acts just like the world? They go to church, give in the offering, worship God, but then they act a totally different way when they are away from church.

There is a word for people like that - hypocrites. They say they belong to Jesus, but they don't act like it. Their words, actions, and attitudes are no different than those who are not following Jesus.

Sadly, when lost people look at hypocrites, they think THAT is the way all Christians act. As a result, they want nothing to do with Jesus.

In today's lesson, the children will learn from the story of Ananias and Sapphira how to NOT be hypocrites. They will learn that they must live lives that are separated unto God!



“The Spark” Intro Video

“Gotta Be Different”



“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Cali from the Valley teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Beaker”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“Kleenex Kleenout”



Bible Story

“Ananias and Sapphira”



Power Verse Video

“...come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them’, says the Lord.”

- 2 Corinthians 6:17a



Call To Action

“Separation”



Rewind!

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

We must be different than those who don't know Jesus



Power Verse:

“...come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them’, says the Lord.”

- 2 Corinthians 6:17a



Whatchagaddaknow:

“I Won't Live Like The World!”

Lesson 4 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 4 - The Spark” Intro Video

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

- “Whatchagaddaknow - Lesson 4 - Teaching” Video

- “Whatchagaddaknow -v Lesson 4 - Trigger” Video

Character Skit

- “Beaker” Theme Graphic/Music

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video

- “Kleenex Kleenout” Graphic

- Two Boxes Of Kleenex

Bible Story

- “Lesson 4 - Bible Story” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 4 - Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “Lesson 4 - Call To Action” Graphics

- A Large Jar

- Cooking Oil

- Water

- Green Food Coloring

Rewind!

- “REWIND!” Bumper Video

- “REWIND!” Lesson 4 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Ananias And Sapphira Print Piece

- Bibles

- Pencils, Crayons, Or Markers

- Cereal With Marshmallow Pieces

- Wooden Chopsticks

- A Timer

- Bowls

“The Spark” Intro Video

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Call To Action

“Separation”

Rewind!

Review Game

Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey, kids! Today, we are continuing to learn about the essential elements of a healthy Christian life in “Life Lab.”

Okay, quick question for you. Have you ever tried to mix something together that just doesn’t go together? Like brushing your teeth right after drinking orange juice? Or maybe putting ketchup on your ice cream? Have you ever tried anything like that? *(let some kids share their experiences)*

Some things just don’t mix. And guess what? That’s exactly what we’re learning in LIFE LAB, today.

But before we get too far into it, check this video out...

(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 4”)

Leader: As Christians, we’re called to live differently than the world around us. We don’t just blend in with everyone else. We stand out by the way we talk, act, and live for Jesus.

So today in the LIFE LAB, get ready to find out why living differently from the world isn’t just important, it’s one of the essential elements of a healthy Christian life. Let’s discover what happens when we choose to be set apart for God!

Right now, we need to find out “Whatchagaddaknow.”

(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Beaker” (His full name is Eugene Buttonsworth III; He is the “Custodial Engineer” at Life Lab, dresses like a janitor, wears rubber gloves, and pushes a mop bucket around which he refers to as “Professor Sloshton”)

Beaker: (Enters and swipes mop like a sword) HI-YAH! That’s right! Don’t mess with me, you bunnies!

Leader: (Nervously) Beaker! What are you doing? Did you say, “bunnies”?

Beaker: Yes! I’m battling the evil forces of... dust bunnies. One hopped right at me! Looked me square in the eye! If Professor Sloshton hadn’t been there, I might not be standing here today.

Leader: (Unconvinced) You were attacked by a dust bunny?

Beaker: Don’t say it like it’s not a common thing! One minute you’re sweeping, next thing you know - ACHOO! It’s all over.

Leader: Okay, well, I don’t think there are any dust bunnies here.

Beaker: That’s what they want you to think! Soon enough, they’ll be the topic of your lessons!

Leader: Actually, Beaker, we’re not talking about bunnies. We’re talking about something a little different. Today, the kids are learning about separation.

Beaker: (Stops suddenly) Wait. Did you say... separation?

Leader: Yes...

Beaker: (Grabs the mop bucket dramatically) NOOOOOO! You can’t separate me from Professor Sloshton! We’ve been through everything together! Gum in the carpet, spilled Kool-Aid, even... (shudders) glitter. Don’t make me say goodbye!

Leader: (Laughing) No, Beaker! I didn’t mean you have to be separated from your mop bucket.

Beaker: (Hugs the bucket, relieved) Ohhh, Sloshy... I almost lost you!

Leader: (Smiling) What I really meant is this: God calls us as Christians to be separated from the world.

Beaker: (Confused) Separated like... we all live on Mars? (To the kids) Who here wants to go to Mars?

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CHARACTER SKIT

(Continued)

Leader: Not Mars, Beaker. It means we live differently from the world around us. The world says, “me first,” but God says, “put others first.” The world says, “Do whatever you want,” but God says, “Follow Me.”

Beaker: Ahh! Like my mop water. If the dirty water mixes with the clean water, it’s ruined! But if it stays separated, the clean water can actually clean stuff.

Leader: Yes! God wants us to stay clean, not full of sin, so we can make a difference in the world.

Beaker: If you’re clean, you can make the world shiny for Jesus! If you’re dirty... well, then you’re basically mop soup, and no one wants that.

Leader: *(Smiling)* Well said. God doesn’t want us to hide from the world, but He does want us to live differently from the world.

Beaker: But how will people know that I’m different? I mean, am I supposed to wear my shoes on my hands or something? I don’t see many people doing that.

Leader: That’s definitely different... but no. People will notice because Christians act, talk, and live differently from the people around them!

Beaker: Phew! I was afraid I would have stinky hands from now on!

Leader: Uhh... Are you saying your feet are stinky?

Beaker: *(Lifting his foot up toward the Leader)* Wanna find out?

Leader: No thanks! Please keep your feet away from me!

Beaker: Don’t you mean separated from you? Ha!

Leader: *(Laughing)* Sure, Beaker. Now, can we get back to today’s lesson?

Beaker: Of course! I must separate myself from this room so you can learn more about living like a true Christian. My name is Beaker! Remember, you don’t need a clean floor to hear from God—but it sure helps!

(EXITS WHILE THEME MUSIC PLAYS)



GAME TIME

“Kleenex Kleenout”

Items Needed For Game:

Two boxes of Kleenex

.....

Preparation:

Choose two boys and two girls to play this game.

.....

How To Play:

Have the players choose one team member to hold the Kleenex box and the other to be the “Kleener.” When you say, “Go!”, the “Kleeners” will each open their Kleenex box and begin pulling the Kleenexes out (*sending them flying everywhere*). The first team to “kleenout” their Kleenex box wins!



Bible Story

“Ananias and Sapphira”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 4; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Acts 5:1-11; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

One of the “essential elements for a healthy Christian life” we are learning about today is “separation.” That means we act differently than those who don’t follow Jesus. One of the ways we can do that is by using our words to speak the truth - never telling lies. Well, there’s a story in the Bible that illustrates why this is so important.

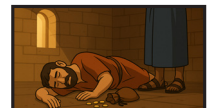
This story is found in Acts chapter 5, verses 1-11. It happened during a time when the early church was just getting started. Jesus had ascended to Heaven, and many people were becoming Christians. They started selling their possessions and donating the money to the church. They wanted to help out as much as possible.

Among the people were a husband and a wife named Ananias and Sapphira. (*show pic*) They sold a piece of land that they owned. They planned to give the money to the church, but then they came up with a plan. They decided to lie. They would tell the church that they were giving the entire amount, but would hold some of the money back for themselves.

(*show pic*) Ananias took the money to the church and presented it to the Apostle Peter. He said, “This is ALL of the money we got for selling our property.” The problem was - that was a lie. Peter knew it was a lie, too. (*show pic*) He said to Ananias, “How could you do such a thing? You weren’t lying to US. You were lying to GOD!” Then, as soon as Ananias heard these words, (*show pic*) he fell to the ground and died.

Some men carried Ananias’ body out and buried him. About three hours later, Ananias’ wife, Sapphira showed up. She had no idea what had happened to her husband earlier. Peter asked Sapphira, “Was this the amount of money you got for selling your property?” (*show pic*) Sapphira decided to lie as well. She told Peter, “Yes, this was ALL the money we got.”

(*show pic*) Immediately, Sapphira also fell to the ground and died. What a terrible thing to happen, huh? It goes to show each of us, we must not use our words to lie. That’s not what God wants for us as Christians. He wants us to speak truth and act differently than “the world” acts. In our lesson today, we are going to learn how to live a life that is “separate” from the world.





Call To Action “Separation”

Materials Needed:

The “Lesson 4 - Call To Action” graphics; large jar; cooking oil; water; green food coloring (water based)

Preparation:

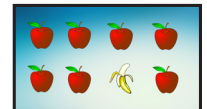
Begin with the slide titled, “Lesson 4 - Call To Action - Title”

The Message: *(title slide)*

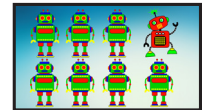


Today, we are learning how Christians should have a very important element in their lives: Separation. But, before we get into that I have a little exercise for you. Let’s see how you do at this...

(put up the first graphic that has the fruit on it) I want you to look at this. One of these fruit doesn’t belong in this group. It’s different. Can you tell which one? *(allow them to respond)* Of course! It’s the banana. It is a totally different fruit. It doesn’t look like the apples or taste like the apples. It definitely doesn’t belong!



Let’s try it again. *(put up the second graphic that has the robots on it)* Which one of these robots doesn’t belong in this group? *(allow response)* Of course, the red one looks totally different than the rest of them, doesn’t it? Let’s try ONE more! *(put up the third graphic that has the people and one alien on it)* Which one of these people doesn’t belong in the group? *(allow response)* That’s right! The alien! Did you know that Christians are considered aliens? It’s true! I Peter 2:11 refers to Christians as aliens. YOU are an alien! I am an alien! Do you know why?



This world is only a temporary place for us. We are here for a few years, and then we will go to our TRUE home - Heaven! That’s what makes us aliens! We are not from Earth, we are citizens of Heaven who happen to be here on Earth for a short time compared to the eternity we will spend in Heaven.

Why are we talking about this? Well, it’s because as Christians, we should be as easy to spot in a group of non-Christians as that alien was to spot in the group of people. Non-Christians should be able to look at us and TELL that we are different.

Sadly, some Christians act and talk just like those who don’t follow Jesus. They don’t have the element we are talking about today: “separation.” How should Christians’ lives be different than those who don’t know Jesus? One way is that we must...

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Call To Action

(Continued)

Talk Different (slide)



Christians should talk different than those who don't know Jesus. We should talk different from the people in the world. We shouldn't say mean things to people. We shouldn't lie. We shouldn't use bad words. We shouldn't tell dirty jokes.

Our mouths and our language should only be used for good, to help those who hear our words. *Ephesians 4:29* says, "Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them." We should talk in a way so that others can know we are different. When we hear others cutting someone down, we should choose to build them up by saying good things about them. When others are lying to stay out of trouble, we should tell the truth even if it means we might get in trouble. If others are using bad words, we should use kind words and show God's love to them.

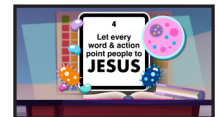
That's one of the ways we must "separate" ourselves from the world. Also, we should...

Act Different (slide)



Christians should act different than the rest of the world. The things we do, the places we go, and the way we treat others should all be different from other people in the world. When others are picking on someone, we should be their friend. When others are cheating on a test, we should be the ones doing right. When others are smoking, drinking, doing drugs, stealing...we should be the ones setting the good example. Why? Because, as Christians, we should...

Let Every Word & Action Point People To Jesus (slide)



Everything we do is a chance to show others the love of Jesus. What people see us do and say will make them think that's what Jesus would do and say. We represent Jesus to the world. Everything we do must show them that Jesus loves them, cares for them, and wants to make their lives the best they can be.

That is why it is so important that we should have the element of "separation" in our lives. We aren't supposed to ignore and stay away from people who don't know Jesus. It's not THAT kind of separation. Let me show you what kind of "separation" the Bible is talking about. (*pick up the water and pour enough in the jar to fill it halfway*) This water is going to represent those people in the world who do not know Jesus.



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Call To Action (Continued)

(pour cooking oil into the rest of the jar, notice how the cooking oil will not mix with the water) This cooking oil is going to represent you - Christians. Do you notice something? Even though they are both in the same jar, they aren't mixing together. They are IN the jar together, but they are not mixing. You can see where the oil stops and the water starts.



(hold up the green food coloring) This food coloring is going to represent sin. Sin is everywhere in this world. Temptation and sin is difficult to stay away from. *(pour the food coloring into the jar, noticing that the food coloring passes through the oil and goes all the way through into the water)* Do you notice how the oil is not soaking up the food coloring? The oil is having nothing to do with the food coloring just like the Christian should have nothing to do with sin.



The sin is mixing all in with the water, and it will be that way with people who don't follow Jesus. They will lie, cheat, steal, talk bad about others, listen to and watch things that are not good for them, and will do many sinful things. Christians are to stay SEPARATE from the sin. There must be a clear difference in the way that WE live and the way that others live.

We should be very careful to live our lives in a totally different way so that every word and action will point people to Jesus. HE is the only one who can save people from their sins. The only way we will be able to truly stand up for what's right is to have this essential element of “separation” in our lives.

Altar Response: *(play soft music)*

Pray that the children will live lives that are separated from the world. Pray that their words and actions clearly set them apart from those who don't know Jesus.



Materials Needed:

“REWIND!” Lesson 4 Graphics; “REWIND!” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “REWIND!” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “REWIND!”; there is a slide for each question

1. Whatchagaddaknow today?

Answer: “I Won’t Live Like The World!”

2. What is the “essential element” we are learning about today?

Answer: Separation

3. What were the names of the two people who lied in today’s Bible Story?

Answer: Ananias & Sapphira

4. What did Ananias and Sapphira lie about?

Answer: How Much Money They Made

5. What happened as soon as they lied?

Answer: They Died

6. According to our lesson today, “Act _____.”

Answer: Different

7. According to our lesson today, “_____ Different.”

Answer: Talk

8. According to our lesson today, “Let Every Word & Action Point People To _____.”

Answer: Jesus

9. True or False: Christians should try their best to blend in and not be noticed.

Answer: False

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: 2 Corinthians 6:17a

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