



OBJECT LESSON

Writing Revealed

[10 min]

Supplies

- white printer paper
- baking soda
- measuring spoons
- 3-ounce disposable cups (2 per child)
- grape juice (about 1 ounce per child)
- cotton swabs (1 per child)
- paintbrushes (1 per child)
- tables
- wet wipes (in case of spills)

Easy Prep

- Mix equal parts water and baking soda, and then pour small portions into disposable cups, 1 for each child. The baking soda will settle to the bottom of the cups quickly, so stir the mixture well and continue to stir as you divide it among the cups to ensure each portion has baking soda in it.
- Pour small portions of grape juice into disposable cups, 1 for each child.

Use Grape Juice to Reveal Hidden Words

Say: **In today's Bible story, Daniel was the only one who knew the meaning of words God had written on a wall. Let's experiment with our own kind of hidden messages and see if, like Daniel, we can figure out what a message is telling us.**

- Have kids gather around tables, and give each child a sheet of paper, a cotton swab, a paintbrush, a cup of the baking-soda water, and a cup of grape juice. Small-group leaders can help you distribute the supplies.
- Have each child come up with a one-word action to write as a "hidden message." Allow a minute or two for everyone to think, and offer some ideas if needed, such as "jump," "clap," or "run."
- Have kids write their messages by first using the cotton swab to mix up the baking-soda water, then painting the message on the paper with the wet cotton swab. Adult and teen helpers can help anyone struggling to spell the chosen action, but reassure kids they won't be judged based on spelling.
- The cotton swab can be dabbed in the baking-soda water as many times as needed until the message is complete, but guide kids to not soak their papers or the message will take too long to dry.
- The baking-soda water needs to dry for a couple of minutes and should become almost invisible. Kids can blow on their papers to help them dry.
- Once the messages are dry, have kids move around the table to stand at a different message.
- Next, have each child use a paintbrush to lightly and quickly paint grape juice over the paper and watch as the message is revealed. The places where the baking-soda water was applied will turn gray.
- Have kids do the action they think the message says to do.

Talk About It

Say: **You painted your hidden message with baking soda water, and baking soda makes a compound called a *base*. Grape juice is an *acid*. Bases and acids are opposites, so when they're mixed they cause what's called a *chemical reaction*. The chemical reaction turned the words gray when you painted grape juice over the message written with baking-soda water.**

Have small groups discuss these questions.

Ask: • **What was easy or hard about figuring out what the hidden message was telling you to do?**

• **What's easy or hard about knowing what the Bible says to do?**

Say: **Sometimes it's fun to figure out a hidden message, and sometimes it's frustrating.**

Thankfully, God doesn't hide his message for us about what he wants us to do to live right. God gave us the Bible—God's Word—and God's Word helps us live right.



CRAFT

Bible Verse Display

[20 min]

Supplies

- disposable paper bowls (1 per child)
- craft sticks (1 per child)
- chenille wires (2 per child)
- pens
- markers
- "Bible Verse Display" handouts (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- scissors

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make a Bible Verse Display

Show kids the sample craft you made. Have small-group leaders give each child a bowl and a handout. Set out the remaining supplies to share, and have kids follow these directions to make Bible Verse Displays.

- Color the outside of the bowl any way you'd like.
- Curl two chenille wires to the halfway point using a finger.
- With the bowl upside down, poke the chenille wires through the center of the bowl, positioning the curls on top, and twist them together above and below the holes as shown in the picture. (You may need to use a pen to poke the holes.)
- Poke a craft stick through the bowl right behind the chenille wires so the verses can lean against it.
- Cut apart the verses on your handout, and choose which verse you want to display first.
- Put the whole stack of Bible verses in the curls of your chenille wires to hold them, positioning the one you want to display first in front.

Talk About It

Have kids sit with their small groups to discuss these questions.

Ask: • **Tell about the verse you chose to display. What do you like about it?**

• **What's one thing you like about the Bible?**

Say: **God's Word is full of amazing stories and wisdom! God's Word helps us live right. You can use your Bible Verse Display to see Bible verses all the time! You can rotate through the stack to switch things up or even make new cards when you find new verses you like to read.**

Have kids take their displays home and use them to remind themselves, their friends, and their families of what God's Word says.

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