

CONVICTION

OVERVIEW

lesson 4



BIG IDEA

Conviction is devotion to and following of the precepts of Scripture with zeal, whatever the cost. It is firmly believing in something so that it influences your choices, behaviors and actions.

KEY VERSES

1 Thessalonians 1:5a

For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.

MATERIALS LIST

- two paper clips
- clear cup, glass or bowl
- water
- dish soap
- toothpick
- small object
- blindfolds
- washable paint
- small paper plates
- markers
- white paper
- white paint, optional
- wiggly eyes, optional
- glue
- wet wipes
- copies of coloring pages





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OBJECT LESSON



PREPARATION

1. Fill a clear cup, glass or bowl with water.
2. Bend a paperclip so it forms a right angle.
3. Have a second paperclip ready.
4. Have a bit of dish soap and a tooth pick ready.
5. Practice the paper clip trick (below) a few times to understand how it works.

PAPER CLIP DEMONSTRATION

Fill a cup $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water. Bend a paper clip so that it forms a right angle. Lay a second paper clip across the first one. Make sure the water in the cup is still. Gently lower the bent paper clip onto the water. The paper clip that lies across the bent paper clip should float. Talk about surface tension: the water molecules cling together in such a way that the surface is strong enough to support a paper clip.

When we have conviction our actions, behaviors and choices are based on a firm belief. Convictions help guide us and support our decisions.

After the paper clip is floating, touch one end of a toothpick in liquid detergent. Then, gently touch the detergent end of the toothpick to the water. The paper clip will sink. The detergent weakens the surface tension, allowing the

paper clip to sink.

When we don't have firm beliefs and convictions we allow ourselves to be open to any idea or social pressure. We become weak and unable to hold up under pressure.

What are some convictions or firm beliefs that you have? (Lying is bad. Love is good. Sunscreen is important. Breakfast is the most important meal.)

What are some convictions that are important in a community or society? (Education is important. Children should be protected. Crime should be punished.)

What are some convictions that the Bible teaches us? (There is one God. Jesus is God's Son. Jesus saves people from sin. Respect is important.)



STORY

About 40 years ago there was a lot of attention in the news about a serious disease called AIDS. There was a lot of fear because a lot of people were getting sick and a lot of people were dying. Doctors did not yet understand the disease and so people were scared and confused. Many people thought they could get the disease just by touching someone who had it. This is not the case, but again, there was not a lot of research or understanding at that time. People who had AIDS felt shunned, feared and hated.

In England there was a famous young woman named Princess Diana. She had a lot of compassion for people who were suffering with AIDS. She opened the very first clinic in her country dedicated to treating the disease. She was convicted that people who were suffering from this terrible illness deserved dignity, care and understanding. When she went to the new clinic to visit she made a point to look at the patients in the eyes and shake their hands. She understood that AIDS could not be caught by simply touching someone. Her example of conviction and compassion was shown on TVs around the world. This forever changed people's perception of the disease.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In the story what caused people to have the wrong conclusions and convictions? (Lack of understanding. Fear.)
- What was Princess Diana's conviction based on?
- How did Princess Diana's conviction change the opinions of people around the





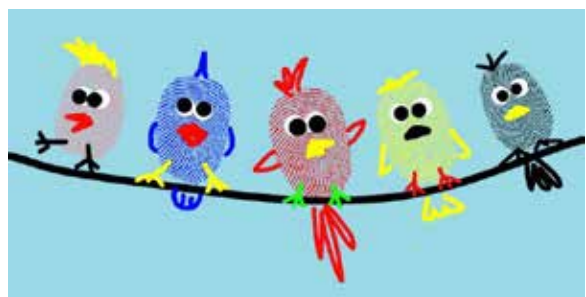
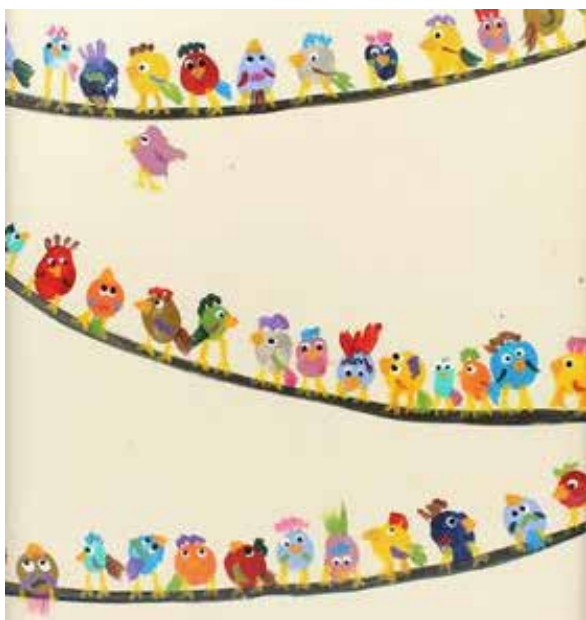
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CRAFT

BIRDS ON A WIRE

Kids turn their unique fingerprints into cute birds. Line them up on a wire or create a picture story.



PREPARATION

- Place dabs of washable paint on paper plates. Spread paint out into a thin coat.
- Pass out paper and markers.
- Pre-make some examples.
- Have wet wipes available for easy cleanup.
- White paint and toothpicks, optional
- Wiggly eyes, optional

DIRECTIONS

1. Draw background objects such as a power line.
2. Dip finger into paint.
3. Press finger onto paper firmly onto paper being careful not to smear.
4. Press several finger prints of the paper.
5. Using a black or colored marker add beaks, eyes, wings, tail, etc.
6. Optional - Use a toothpick and white paint to create the whites of the birds eyes.
7. Optional - use tiny wiggly eyes

CONVICTION

GAME



COMPETING VOICES

It can be chaotic to have people tell you what to do and not know which voice to listen to. Have fun with this crazy game.

PREPARATION

- Set up obstacles in the play area.
- Select an object to hide.
- Have blindfolds available.

DIRECTIONS

1st Run - Select an object to be hidden. Have one student leave the room. Hide the object. Select two other students, one to direct the first student to the object, one to direct him away from the object.

Blindfold the first student and bring him back into the room. Time how long it takes for the student to find the object, listening to the directions from the second and third students.

2nd Run - Run the activity again exactly as before with three different students, except this time have the student who is correctly directing say, "listen to my voice."

Time how long it takes for the blindfolded student to find the object knowing which voice to listen to.

3rd Run - Run the game again with several blindfolded players and their director/misdirector.

Did it make a difference when the blindfolded student knew which voice to listen to? Why?

