

Materials I Need:

Legend:

 = Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade

 = Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade

Bolded Words in Story = Key Concepts to Highlight during the Bible Adventure

Memory Work:



“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Luke 12:34



“I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God. But he who disowns me before men will be disowned before the angels of God.” Luke 12:8&9

Aim Questions:


1. Tell the five warnings that Jesus gave to His disciples. What do they mean?
2. Give a correct definition of hypocrisy. In what ways might you act as a hypocrite today? Why is that not a good thing?
3. Tell in your own words the stories that Jesus used about the farmer, the wedding and the head servant? What is Jesus warning us about in each story?
4. Pick one of Jesus' warnings and think of three ways that you may heed this warning this week.

 **Hook:**



It's a Secret (Learning Activity). Before class starts, whisper a secret to three different people at different times, but tell them not to tell anyone. For example, there will be cake and ice cream after class today, it's so and so's birthday, our family is expecting another baby soon. Before the Bible Adventure begins, ask the class how many people had learned the secret. **DEBRIEF:** In today's story, we are going to learn that God knows things that are said in secret and these will eventually be told out loud. You may say something mean about someone in secret, but God knows, and one day everyone will know what you said.



Body and Soul (Learning Activity).  Put a fragile figurine or Christmas ornament inside a clear plastic bowl (*don't use one of your favorites for this activity!*). You might place the figurine in "peanut" packing or in some other soft material so it doesn't shake around. Take the kids outside and have them throw rocks or jello or anything you prefer at the bowl. Tell them the goal is to break the figurine inside. **DEBRIEF:** What was our goal today? Did you have any luck? Why not? Explain that our souls are the same way. Man can hurt our bodies, but no one besides God can touch our souls. We are protected from everything when God is our Savior.



Warning Signs (Illustration/Discussion). Show **BLUK11.GF1** to the students. What do these signs mean? What are the dangers they warn against? What could happen to a person who ignored these signs?



Book:

Presentation Ideas -

NOTE: The following illustrations for the five warnings covered in this lesson can be used during the Bible Adventure and then later reinforced in Look time as the signs for each station.



Don't Be a Hypocrite (Illustration/Overhead). Luke 12:1-11, **BLUK11.GF2.**



Don't Trust in Possessions (Illustration/Overhead). Luke 12:12-21, **BLUK11.GF3.**



Don't Worry About Food and Clothes (Illustration/Overhead). Luke 12:22-34, **BLUK11.GF4.**



Be Ready for Christ's Return (Illustration/Overhead). Luke 12:35-48, **BLUK11.GF5.**



Be Prepared for Disagreement (Illustration/Overhead). Luke 12:49-53, **BLUK11.GF6.**

Bible Adventure -

As we've gone through the first eleven chapters of the book of Luke, we've seen many different reactions to Jesus and to the things He was teaching. We've seen people who left everything behind to follow Him and others who were angered by His teachings, like the Pharisees. The disciples were witnesses to the Pharisees' rejection of Jesus. In His wisdom, Jesus used five warnings and began to teach them what they would have to do to follow Him consistently.

You remember from last week's story that Jesus had some pretty strong words to say about the Pharisees and their practices. You see, the Pharisees were so wrapped up in trying to impress everyone with their religious superiority that it had become more important to them than God, Himself. They publicly claimed to be godly people, but secretly they went against much of the teaching of God's Law in their hearts. They focused on appearances, fooling the crowds who watched with their rituals and knowledge, but Jesus saw their pride. He had a name for what they did. He called it hypocrisy. It means playing a part, being insincere, faking being godly or virtuous. It was bad enough that *the Pharisees were being hypocrites*, but the general feeling seemed to be that they were getting away with it. There was great pressure among the Jewish people to act like the Pharisees did in order not to displease them. The people were afraid of these men, knowing that they even had the power to execute whoever they wanted.

Jesus reminded them that even though the Pharisees had so much power as to put someone to death, they did not have the power to cast their souls into hell. God, and only God, has that authority, therefore He is to be the Ultimate Ruler of our lives. **They were not to fear the Pharisees or to let fear lead them into hypocrisy** (*place Illustration BLUK11.GF2*). This was Jesus' first warning. Those who denied Jesus in the face of His teaching, miracles, and life example will be denied before God. These men had seen Jesus in action and still rejected Him. Absolute resistance of the conviction of God's Spirit was a sin that would never be forgiven. Jesus was not simply giving a warning about living a consistent life. This was a warning that meant going against the entire Jewish national leadership. Jesus understood this and gave His followers the encouragement that God would supply the words they needed when they found themselves defending their lives before rulers and authorities.

The second warning Jesus gave was one we would do well to listen to today in this country (*place Illustration BLUK11.GF3*). **He warned us not to put our trust in possessions.** You may have heard it called the American dream, but in reality it is putting our trust in and gaining security from the things we own and being convinced that's all we need. Jesus told the story of a wealthy farmer who raised such a good crop that his barns would not hold it all. He wondered what he should do about the problem. Then the idea occurred to him that he would tear down all the barns and build even bigger ones. This he did, and after the work was done and all his crops stored away, he sat back and said, "I have everything I need now. I'll just lay back and take it easy for the rest of my life." The farmer was in for a nasty shock as God required his life that very night. All his wealth could do nothing to save him. He had stored everything thing up for himself and given nothing to God. Jesus was telling His followers that we should always be investing in God's work, regardless of how rich or poor we might be. In doing this we will lay up treasures in heaven, spiritual treasures that result from our obedience to Christ.

On the opposite side of the fence from the man all caught up in his possessions was the person who always **worried about not having enough**. Jesus warned that this, too, can be a danger (*place Illustration **BLUK11.GF4***). Jesus used examples from nature. He spoke of the ravens who never went hungry because God always provided food for them and **the lilies, whose colors were more beautiful than any clothing**. "If God cared enough to feed the ravens and clothe the flowers," Jesus said, "wouldn't He also do the same for His own children?" Being consumed by worry over these things distracts us from the purpose for which God placed us here, to seek His Kingdom and to glorify Him. When we do that, all the other things will fall into place. Jesus told them, "Do not be afraid, little flock." Against the rich and powerful leaders of the Jewish nation these Christ-followers appear as a little flock of defenseless sheep, but they will be protected and provided for by God.

Jesus' fourth warning was a **caution to His listeners to be ready to receive Him** (*place Illustration **BLUK11.GF5***). He used the story of some servants waiting for their master to return home from a wedding banquet so that they might open the door for him. Even if the master came home very late, the servants were expected to be waiting. Jesus told another story of a manager who was put in charge of the rest of the servants in the master's absence. The master expected him to treat the servants fairly, even if it took him a long time to return. It was not too hard to see that the nation of Israel was unprepared for the coming of their Messiah. Not only that, but He found the spiritual leaders of the nation abusing God's people. However, this warning is not just for the people of Jesus' time. Because we do not know the hour of Jesus' return, we need to be busy taking good care of the household of God. Knowing God's truth and His message is a great and wonderful gift He gives to us, but it is also a great responsibility. God expects that we will invest our time, money and talents in spreading that message and taking care of one another. The nation of Israel failed to do this and has been in big trouble ever since. Those who resist Christ will not enter the Kingdom of God, ever!

The last of Jesus' five warnings is the easiest to see and to apply (*place Illustration **BLUK11.GF6***). **The Gospel of Christ is not like the kind of love the world teaches**, "I'm OK, you're OK, whatever you want to do is OK, too. Let's just love each other and try to get along." Even as Jesus was speaking to His followers, **His ministry was separating households**. Families would be divided as they made the choice whether to follow Jesus or not. It's the same way today. You probably know of several families where some follow Jesus and others do not. Jesus did not want us to be surprised or discouraged about it. You may already have experienced having someone disagree with you about who Jesus is. Not everyone will agree with you when you stand up for Jesus. That doesn't mean we should get into arguments or fights about it. It's okay if they oppose your belief in Christ. It doesn't make the gospel any less true. When it happens, just hold on to Luke 12:8 and 9, "I tell you, whoever acknowledges Me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God. But he who disowns me before men will be disowned before the angels of God." We can put our anchor down in the truth of those words.


Jesus has given us five areas to work at so that we can be ready for His return. How can we do it? We need to live the Word of God as He teaches it to us. Put it into practice. Give our highest priority and attention to the Kingdom of God, not to the world's riches. Trust God to supply our needs every day. Eagerly watch for Christ's return. Don't be thrown when people disagree or even oppose the gospel. All these steps will help you avoid becoming like the hypocritical Pharisees. They will help you live that consistent life of genuine faith before God.



NOTE: Look activities are intended to be used in “stations.” Set up one station for each of the five warnings covered in this lesson. Identify each station with a “warning sign” (**BLUK11.GFS 2 – 6.**) Choose one activity to use at each station.


DON'T BE A HYPOCRITE!

Yeast of the Pharisees (Snack and Discussion). Serve some kind of yeast roll (*cinnamon pull-apart rolls would be good*). Jesus said, “Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.” What is yeast and how is it used? Why do you think Jesus described hypocrisy as yeast? A little yeast permeates a lump of dough slowly, but with drastic results. Sometimes a proud person is described in Scripture as “puffed up.” Is there a connection?

Fear Not (Craft).  Using a paper plate, draw a face in the middle. Then take strands of string and glue them around the plate to form “hair.” Have students braid the “hair.” Finally, have students write the verse, “Fear not. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered,” Luke 12:7.
DEBRIEF: If God knows even the number of hairs on our heads, won't He also know the content and real intentions of our hearts? Do you think He knows when we're just “acting”?


What's a Hypocrite? (Role-play). The word “Hypocrite” means “actor,” one who plays a part. What part were the Pharisees acting out? Who were they really? Have student volunteers pretend to be someone they're not. Have them choose one of the following rolls. President of the United States, a Basketball Star, a Billionaire, a Doctor, a Movie Star. This is not charades; they can talk. The other students in the group can guess which roll each volunteer is playing. (*Bring some props to make things fun. Maybe a scarf, a hat, and a briefcase.*) There's nothing wrong with a little play-acting, but what kind of “acting” do we want to avoid in our lives?

DON'T TRUST IN POSSESSIONS

Quick Draw (Worksheet).  Draw a picture of your most treasured possession inside the barn doors. Color the picture. What will happen to this thing when you die? Where is our real treasure? Where is our heart? “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also,” **BLUK11.GF7.**

DON'T WORRY ABOUT FOOD AND CLOTHES

Collage (Craft). Precut pictures of birds and flowers from magazines for students to use in a collage. (*This saves time and distraction in completing this project.*) Have students randomly glue the pictures to make a collage showing how beautifully God takes care of His Creation. These can be done as small individual crafts or larger group projects to display in the classroom.

No Toiling or Spinning (Craft).  Create pinwheels. Each student will need a copy of **BLUK11.GF8** copied onto cardstock, crayons, scissors, a brad and a straw. Have the students color and decorate both sides of the pinwheel after the square has been cut out. Follow the directions on the page to create a reminder for the kids not to worry about things. Luke 12:27 says, “Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.”





BE READY FOR CHRIST'S RETURN

Be Ready (Game). Jesus wants us to be ready for His return at all times because we never know when He will come. Have students think of something that a good servant would do to prepare for his master and something that a foolish servant would do. Read Luke 12:35-46 for ideas. Players should be ready with answers because they never know when they will be called on. Leader will point to students at random and call out “wise” or “foolish.” Students must immediately tell something that kind of servant would do or they will be “out.” Younger students might be allowed to repeat answers.

BE PREPARED FOR DISAGREEMENT

Steadfast Believer (Object Lesson). Place a baseball-sized rock on the floor. Give marbles to the students. Have them roll the marbles at the rock. The rock represents us as believers. The marbles represent opposition. Marbles hit the rock as the disagreement from unbelievers will "hit" us, but we need not be moved. The rock doesn't change its position or react when hit, because the marbles have no power over it. We, too, will be opposed, but we can be as solid as rocks; not angry or defensive, just immovable in our faith.

Don't Be Surprised (Worksheet). Fill in the blanks with the symbols provided, **BLUK11.GF9**. Refer to Luke 12:51 and 52. **Answers:**

Do you think I came to bring  on  ? No, I tell you, but  . From now on there will be **5** in one family  against each other, three against **2** and two against **3**.



Took:

Ready or Not, Here I Come (Game). Play "hot potato." Place a sign that says "not ready" on the "potato." Have the kids sit in a circle and pass the potato around until the teacher yells out, "Jesus Christ is Back." Whoever has the "not ready" potato is out of the circle and the game continues until one person is left. **DEBRIEF:** What does it take to be ready for Christ's return?

That's My Treasure (Game). Get four pieces of butcher paper and label two "Treasures on Earth" and two "Treasures in Heaven." Then draw four barns, one on each piece of butcher paper. Divide the class into two groups. Place one of each barn on the wall in front of each group. Then hand out a complete set of cards per group, one or two per student. This is a relay race. When you say, "Go," one at a time, the students are to run forward and tape their card onto the correct barn. First team with all the cards in the barns and with the most number correct wins. For example, the card labeled "Money" would go on the barn "Treasures on Earth." The card labeled "Caring for the Sick," would go on the barn "Treasures in Heaven," **BLUK11.GF10**.



God Gives Words (Activity). This activity is to illustrate our need to depend on the Holy Spirit. Line up five students and three teachers. Give them hard questions to answer about the Bible or other facts. Each teacher will give an answer to help the students, but only one of the teachers tells the correct answer and each student will have to decide which one is telling the truth. Goal is to see which student can answer five questions correctly first. **DEBRIEF:** This is what it is like in life when we need answers. We are told a lot of different things. To whom do we need to turn? The Bible tells us the Holy Spirit will give us answers and help when we turn to Him.


Warnings to Remember (Mobile Craft). Materials needed for each student:

- One copy of **BLUK11.GF11 Pgs. 1, 2 and 3**
- One wire hanger
- Five random lengths of string from 18 to 36 inches long
- Glue and scissors

Instructions: Cut out each warning sign and glue matching shapes back to back with the end of a string between the two. Make sure the other end of the string is coming out of the top of the sign. Tie warning signs to a wire hanger and hang.

Variation: Make signs with Popsicle sticks instead of strings and hangers.

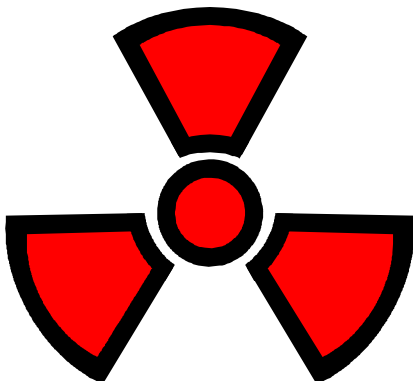
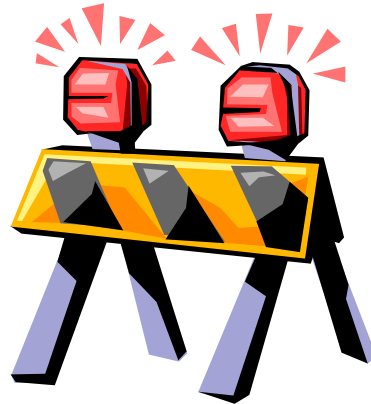
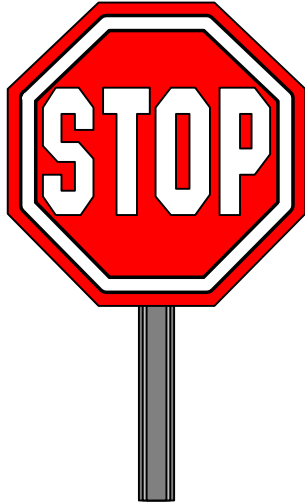
 **Be a Believer - Not a Fighter (Role-Play/Discussion).**  What kind of opposition have students already encountered? Has anyone told them they're wrong to believe the Bible or foolish to serve God? In Luke 12:49-53 Jesus warned that allegiance to Him would even cause division among family members. Do not misapply His words. Jesus did not say that it was His intention to disrupt and split families. He explained clearly for us what would happen when people, even from the same household, were confronted with the truth of Who Jesus is. The truth that Jesus is and was the Son of God, and that His words have ultimate authority in our lives, was and is not popular. If we are true followers of Christ, we must be prepared to stand alone. We should not be surprised when our own family members disagree and even criticize us. However, be careful with this idea. Some people actually go looking for arguments, believing that being criticized is proof that they are righteous. In context, the issue that divides these people is the issue of Jesus' return. Not **when** He will return as much as **that** He will return, and we should be living in a manner that is pleasing to Him. From Jesus' words, we can be sure that we have to be prepared at times to stand alone against criticism and rejection of our faith. To give the students a taste of what it means to stand against this kind of opposition, hand out separated cards from **BLUK11.GF12** to either teachers or volunteers. Let them read these rejections and prepare to defend the point of view described from the information supplied. These are common complaints against the Christian faith. Let your students struggle with them. Do not allow them to resort to name calling or side-stepping the argument. After each argument, discuss the Biblical answers to these arguments. This will be a good opportunity for your students to experience real arguments that divide people from Christ.

 **Journey with Jesus.** Make entries in your journals. Peter might write something like this:

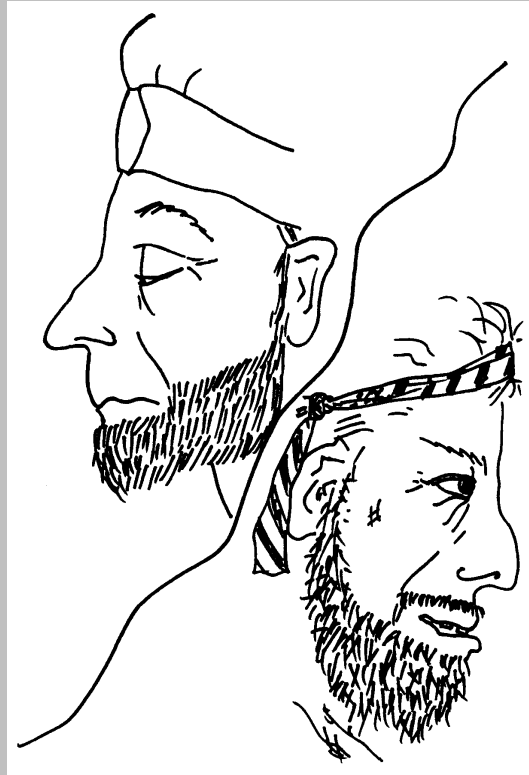
Jesus gave us some warnings. He told us not to be hypocrites like the Pharisees. He said not to trust in our possessions, but also not to worry about getting the things we need. God will take care of us. He told us to be like faithful servants, ready for Him to come at any time. I didn't understand whom He was talking to because He's right here with us. Finally Jesus told us that He came to bring division. We shouldn't be surprised or discouraged when some people don't believe in Him.

Warning Signs

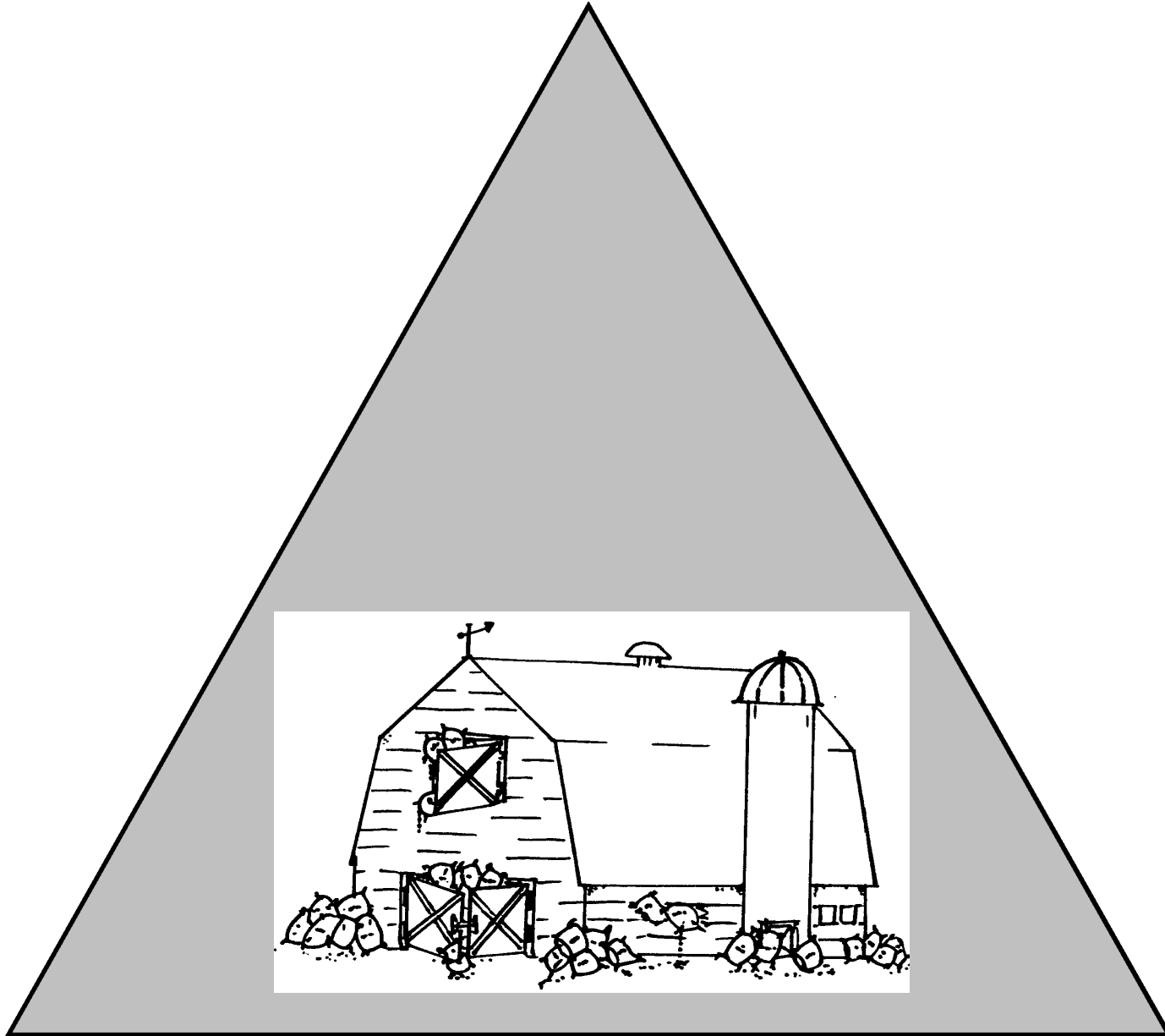
What do these signs mean? What is the danger they warn against? What could happen to a person who ignored these signs?



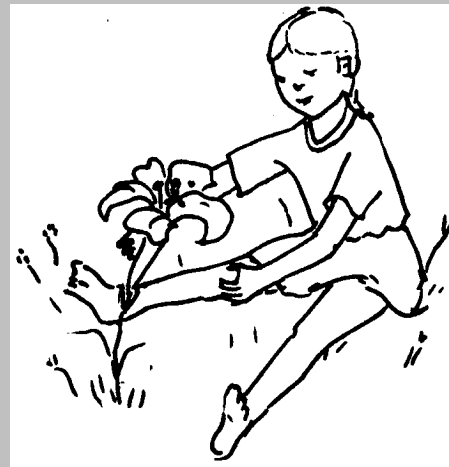
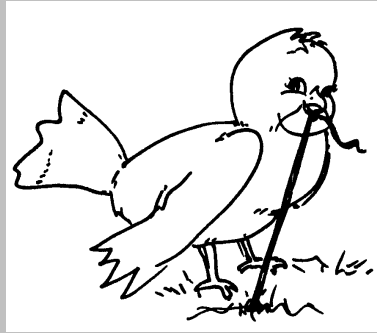
DON T BE A HYPOCRITE



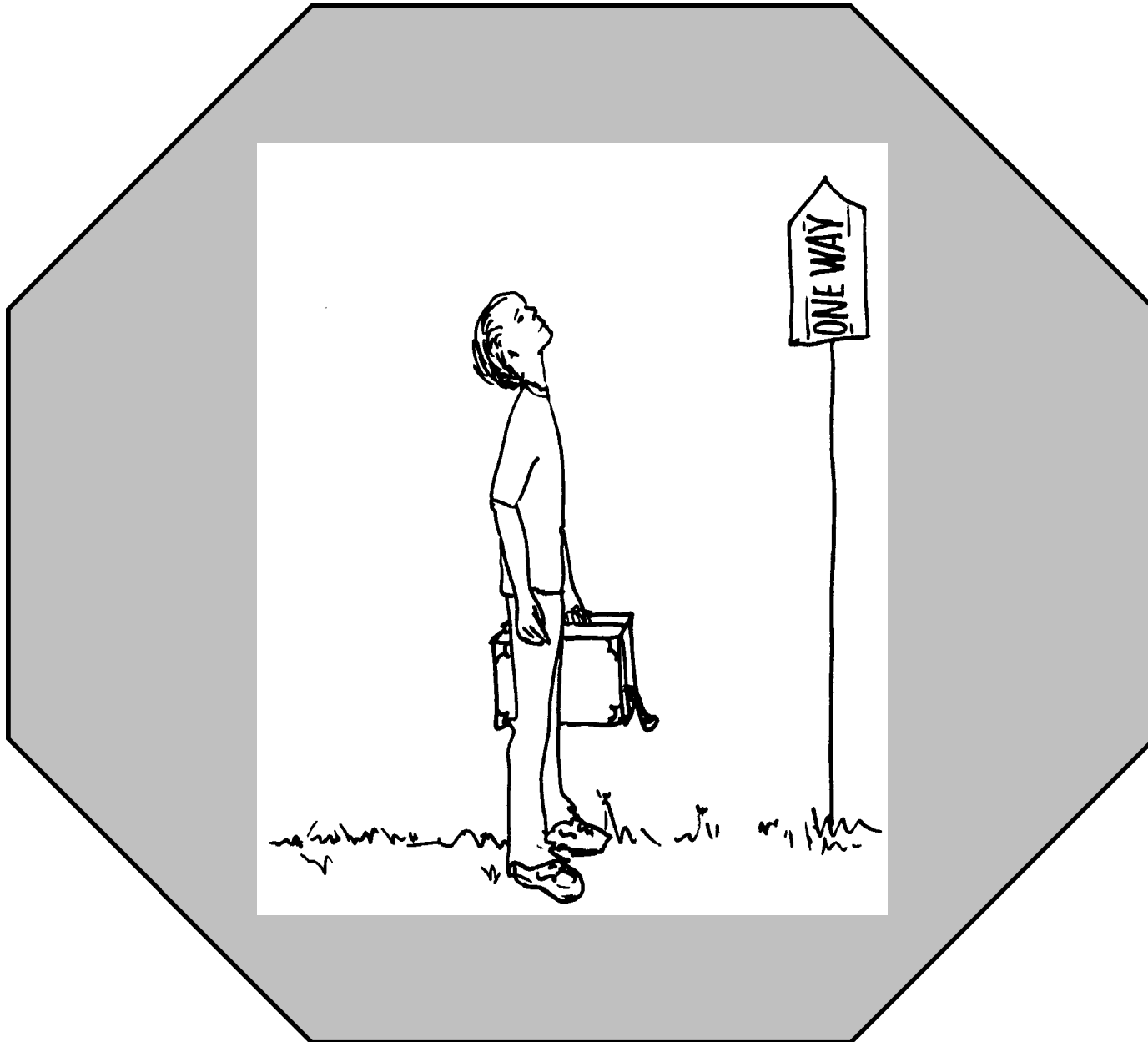
DON T TRUST IN POSSESSIONS



DON T WORRY ABOUT FOOD & CLOTHES



BE READY FOR CHRIST S RETURN

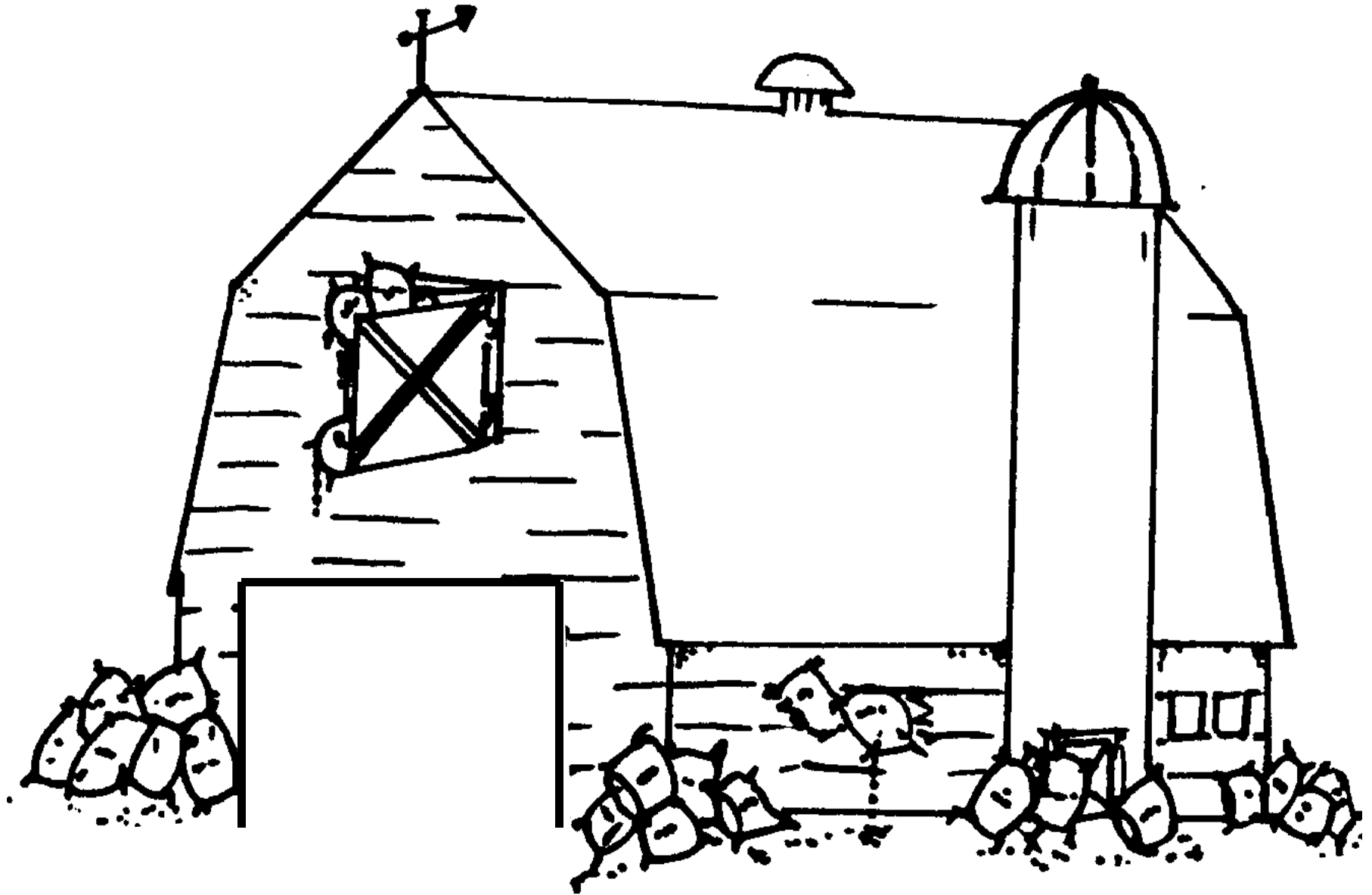


BE PREPARED FOR DISAGREEMENT



Quick Draw

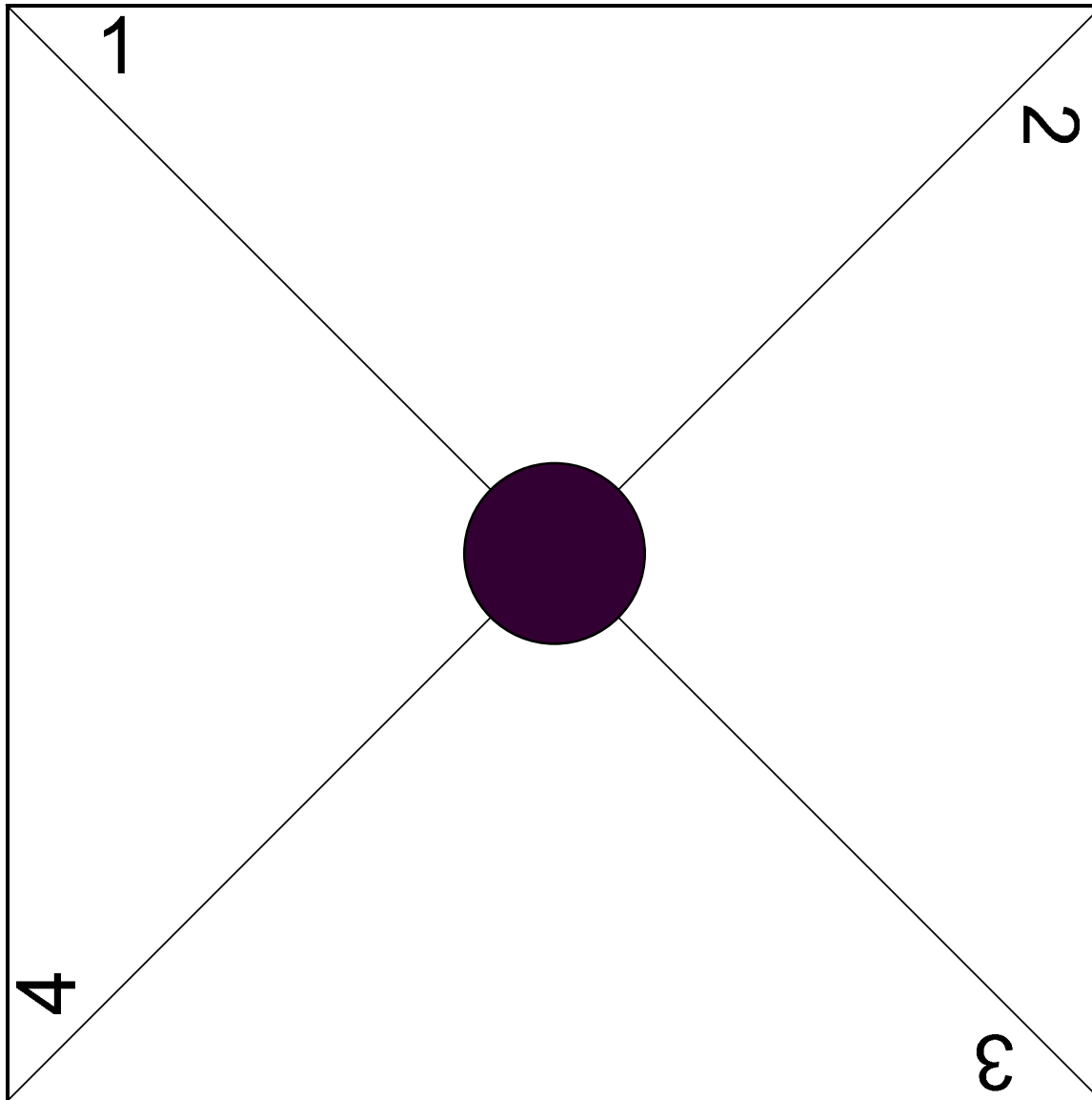
Draw a picture of your most treasured possession inside this barn. What will happen to this thing when you die? Color the picture. Where is your real treasure? Where is your heart?



For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Luke 12:34

BLUK11.GF7

No Toiling or Spinning



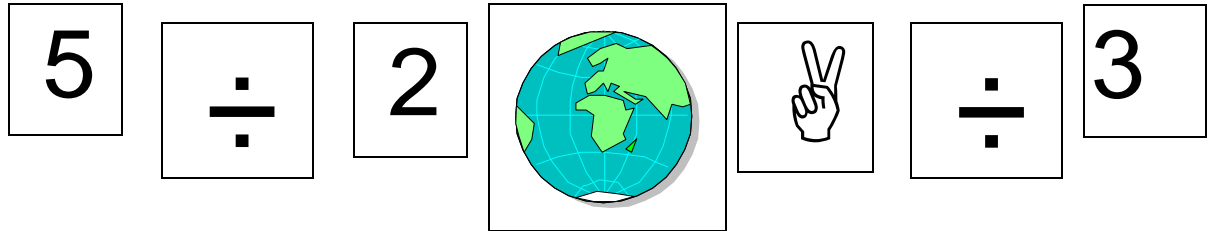
Instructions:

- ♦ Cut square out along solid lines.
- ♦ Color & decorate both sides.
- ♦ Cut on diagonal lines to outside edge of inside circle.
- ♦ Fold every other corner (labeled 1,2,3,4) to inside circle without creasing.
- ♦ Secure with brad.
- ♦ Attach brad to the end of a straw.

Don't Be Surprised!

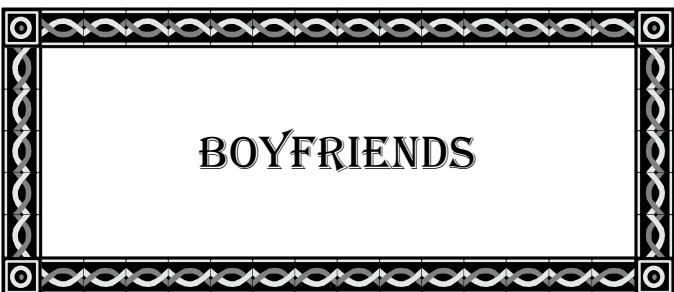
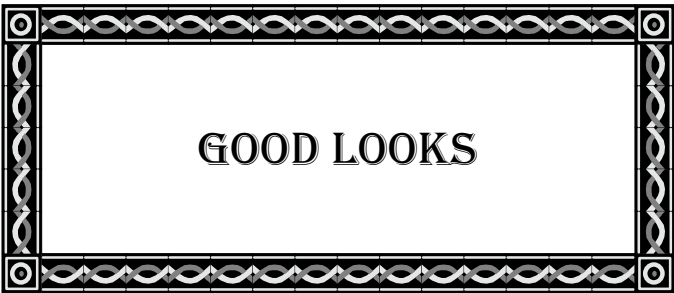
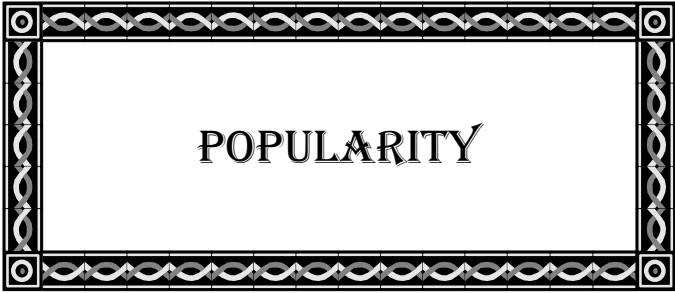
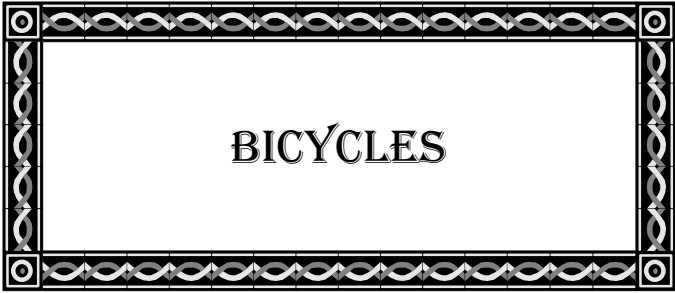
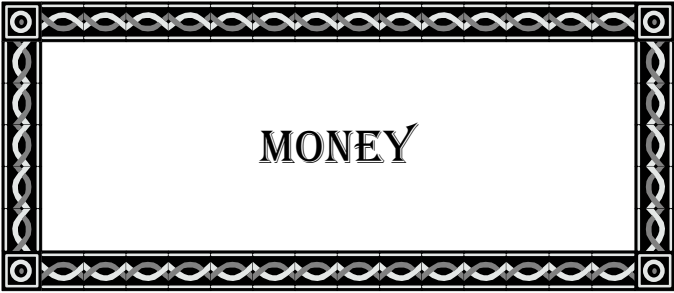
Fill in the blanks with the symbols provided.

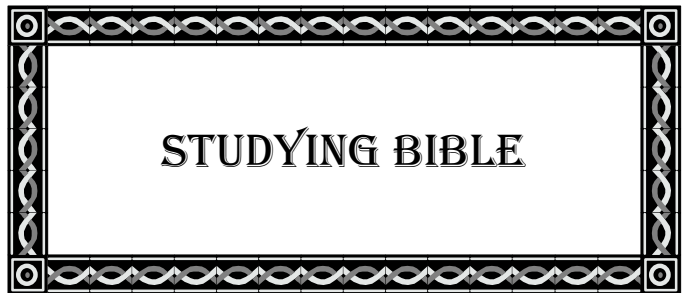
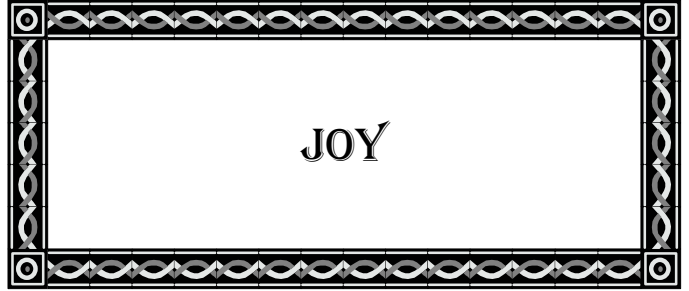
Refer to Luke 12:51 - 52



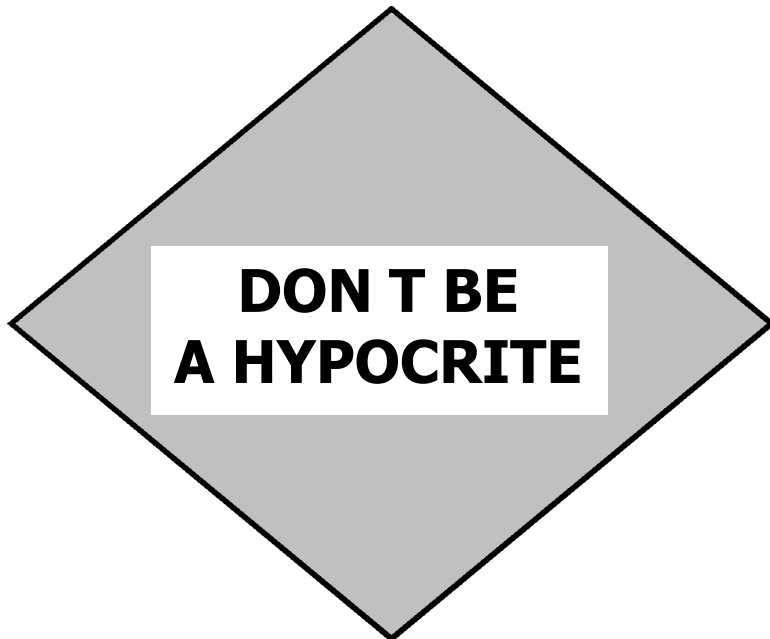
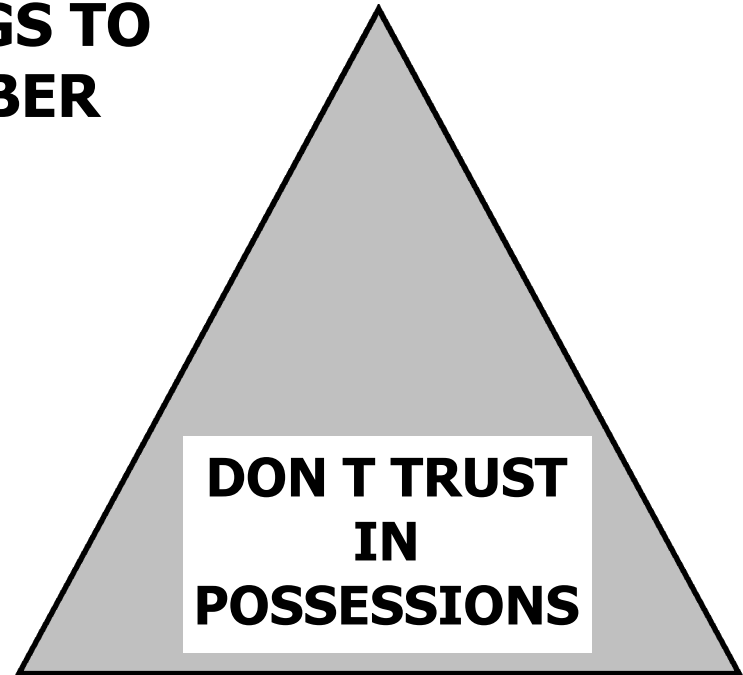
“Do you think I came to bring _____ on
_____? No, I tell you, but _____.

From now on there will be _____ in one family
_____ against each other, three against
_____ and two against _____.”



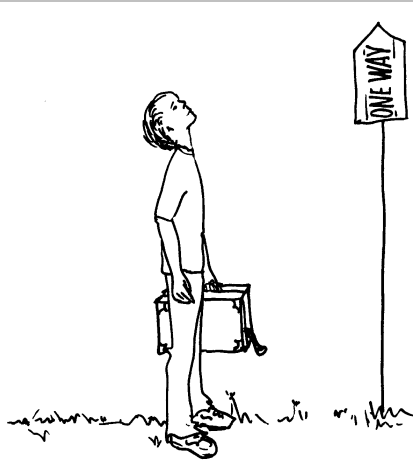
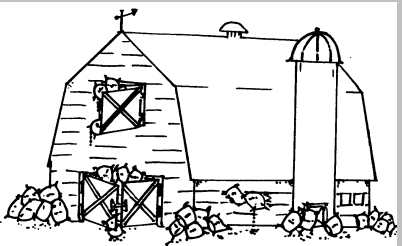


**WARNINGS TO
REMEMBER**

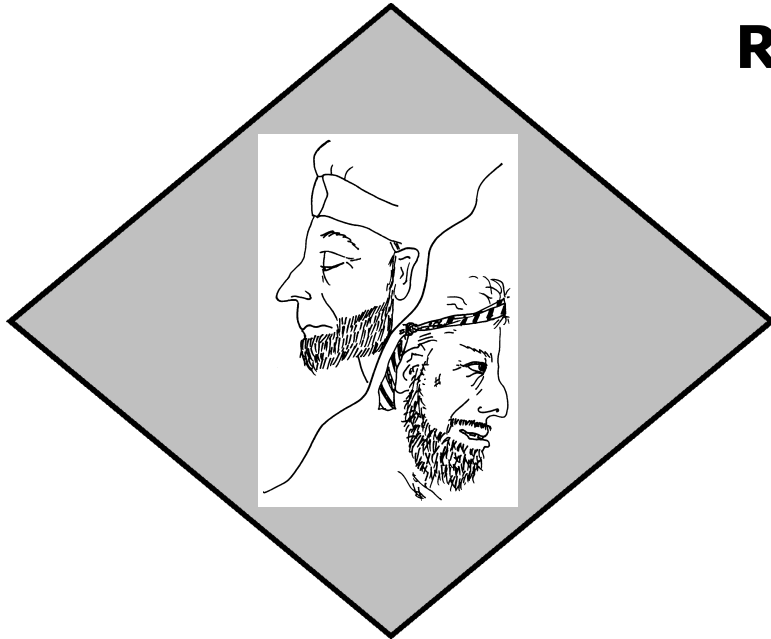


WARNINGS TO REMEMBER

**DON T WORRY
ABOUT FOOD &
CLOTHES**



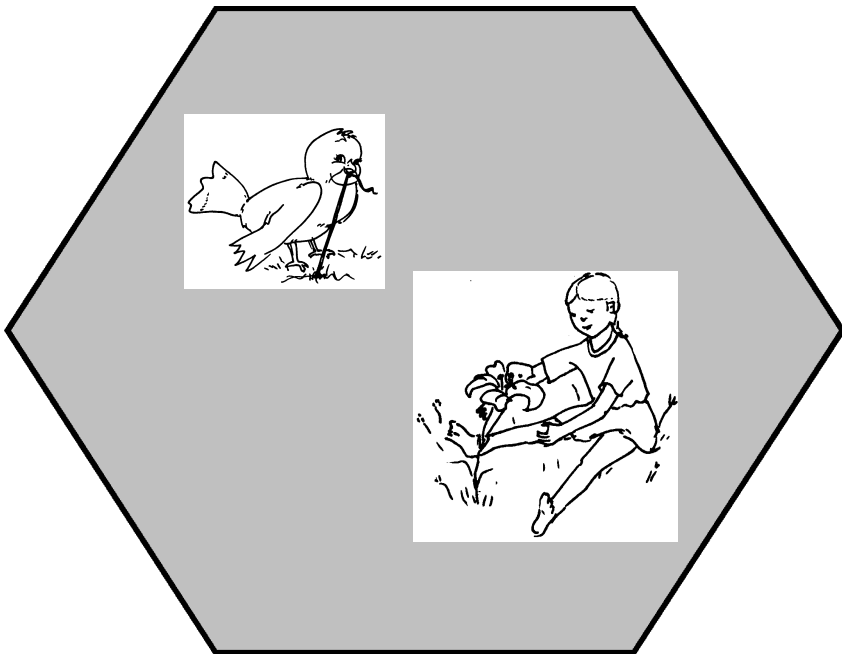
WARNINGS TO REMEMBER



Instructions for Warnings Mobile:

Cut out each warning sign, and glue matching shapes back to back with the end of a string between the two. Make sure the other end of the string is coming out of the top of the sign.

Tie warning signs to a wire hanger and hang.



Jesus is not the Son of God!

Argument: We are all sons and daughters of God. Jesus was a great teacher, prophet, even healer, but He was not God in the flesh as so many Christians believe. His miracles were exaggerated stories about what really happened. He was just a great man, but Jesus was not God.

The Bible is not reliable.

Argument: The Bible has been passed down for centuries. People have changed it and added to it for thousands of years. The men who wrote it were only giving their interpretation of what they thought God was saying or doing, but the Bible contradicts itself a lot. No thinking person would ever believe that it is the actual Words of God.

Jesus is just one way to find God. All religions lead to God along different paths!

Argument: God is love. He would not send good people to hell just because they don't believe in Jesus as many Christians believe. Buddha, Mohammed, Confucius and many others also lead us to God. To say that Jesus is the only way is ridiculous. We all must find our own paths to God. All religions basically teach the same thing about goodness and loving your brother. God has placed many ways for us to find Him.

Jesus is not coming back.

Argument: This is related to the first argument. Jesus was only a man. He may have been a great teacher, but He is dead. He will not return. The disciples or somebody probably stole His body. People have been predicting His return for 2,000 years. Where is Jesus? Face it, even Jesus wouldn't want us to be waiting. His return is when you listen to His teachings and love your brother, but Jesus is dead and gone.