



## Speaking to Children

1 Cor. 3: 1

### *Items Needed*

- ✓ Bible with marked scripture
- ✓ Pencils/Markers
- ✓ Scarf
- ✓ Image of Baby in Crib
- ✓ Index Cards (Written with things a baby learns, ie. Sit up, walk, crawl, eat, drink from a cup, write, read etc..)
- ✓ Wooden blocks
- ✓ Images of Adam & Eve, Slain Lamb & Cross
- ✓ Baby coloring page



## Speaking to Children

### Objective of Lesson:

The objective of this lesson is to demonstrate what Paul is teaching to the Corinthian church in this verse and how Christ reveals the truth to His children. We learn as a little child learns. God's truths must be revealed through demonstration and experience. It is a process and a "lifting of the veil".

### Scripture Reference

*1 Cor. 3: 1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.*

### Lesson Instructions:

1. Let's read our verse of scripture. \_\_\_\_\_. Today I want us to talk about what this verse means and what the Lord is teaching us when He calls His people, "babes". By calling us this, He is illustrating how we learn about Christ and how we come to know the gospel of God's free grace. Did you know the Bible refers to God's people as His children? Many times in the Bible the Lord uses the term, "Children of God," because it is a wonderful illustration of how the Lord's people learn of Christ and His salvation by grace. Human babies learn exactly the same way God's people learn spiritual things. When we are born, do we know everything we need to know in order to live?

No! That's silly! We're just babies! Our minds are not complete when we are born. We are born ignorant. What does ignorant mean? That means we don't know or understand anything. Why don't we know it? It's because we have never experienced anything or taught anything. How does a baby learn? They learn through demonstration and experience. Demonstration means seeing it done correctly. Experience means they learn by doing it themselves.

2. (Hold up the image of the baby laying in its crib and stand up to act this part out)...What if this baby's mother came into the room and said (Wag your finger and act out as you say the words), "Okay, (Students Name), it's time you learned how to walk. I want you to stand up, put your right foot in front. Now, I want you to put one foot in front of the other. Lean forward, and then put your left foot in front." Ha! Can a baby understand that? No! That's so silly! The baby has no way to understand it. Why can't they understand it? They don't know what the words mean. It's just sounds to them; the sounds have no meaning. That is what Paul means here when he said, "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal." He is saying if I used these big, spiritual words you would be like, "Wha? What in the world is this guy talking about? I don't even recognize any words in that sentence! He is just saying a bunch of sounds." They would have walked off because they didn't understand it. Paul said, "I didn't do that. I spoke to you as if you were a small child so you could understand what I was saying."
3. Does it matter you are telling the baby the truth? What I just stated was true, wasn't it? That IS how you walk, right? That's right, but it doesn't matter. You can be telling them the truth but they have no way to understand it. What if you walked up to a blind man and said, "Boy! Today is such a beautiful day. The sky is the prettiest shade of blue!" The man who is blind would say, "Ummm.. I don't know what in the world you are talking about? What is blue? What is a sky?" He doesn't know because he can't see it. He doesn't have the ability to see anything. Did you know this is what it's like for us to learn spiritual things? If God came to us and starting talking

about spiritual things, in terms we had never heard before, would we understand it? No! It would just be words to us! We don't have the ability to see it. Even though what God is saying is true, we don't have the ability to understand it! We can't see spiritual things. We have to learn spiritual things just like a baby learns, through demonstration and experience. We have to have the truth shown to us, and we have to experience the truth for ourselves.

4. What are some things a baby must learn? Crawl, Walk, Sit up, Chew and swallow solid foods, feed itself. I want you guys to help me with something. Here I have index cards and on them are written things a baby must learn. I want you to put these in order. Does the baby learn to walk and then to sit up? No! What does it have to learn first, sit up or walk? To sit up! (Etc... put the index cards in order of a child's ability to learn.)
5. The baby has to learn slowly and in a certain order (Point to the index cards laying on the table). These things build upon themselves. You learn to sit up and then, because you can sit up, you have the stomach muscles (Flex your stomach and demonstrate strength in the upper body) strong enough to hold you upright, and then you can learn to stand. Once your muscles are strong enough to stand, then you can learn to put one foot in front of the other. A baby learns just like you learn in school! What are some things you learn in Kindergarten? (Get out the wooden blocks for this portion of the lesson. As you ask the following questions, begin stacking the blocks, demonstrating as they learn, learning builds upon itself). First, you learn your letters and numbers. Once you learn the shapes of your letters, can you pick up a book and read it? No! (Place a block on the stack) You must learn the sounds the letters make. Once you learn the sounds can you pick up a book and read it? No! (Place a block on the stack) You need to learn how the sounds fit together to form words. See how we learn? Our learning builds upon itself.
6. Did you know the Bible refers to God's people as His children? Many times in the Bible the Lord uses the term "Children of God", or "child" or "babes"

etc., because it is a wonderful illustration of how the Lord's people learn of Christ and His salvation by grace. Human babies learn exactly the same way God's people learn. (Lay out the three images of Adam & Eve, Slain lamb, the Cross, and cover each one of them up with a scarf.) This is an illustration of how God's people learn. (Cover your own head with the scarf...) When you first hear God's word and you hear you are a sinner, what is it you think? I can't be that bad. I look in the mirror and I look fine to myself. We all look nice, clean, clothes are pressed; we smell good, but just like the way that child learns, God must show you the truth. (Lift the first scarf from your head.) One day, the Lord may lift that veil and you will hear God speaking the truth and you will understand it and experience this truth for yourself.

7. Does God show everybody the same things at the same time? No! God may have revealed to you the truth but the person sitting next to you - God may not have lifted the veil for them to see it. Just like the baby we were talking about earlier, God's children must learn and experience things for themselves. Can you lift the veil for them? No! Only God can lift the veil. We are to have patience with one another for this reason. Just because God has taught you things doesn't mean He has taught another one the same things. Some people live their entire lives and are never shown the truth of the gospel. They go their entire life and God leaves them in their darkness. Why do they call it darkness? It's because you can't see in the dark. When God teaches you something it is called "light," because when there is light you can see.
8. I want to demonstrate how God reveals things to each of His children. (Pick up the scarf and the Adam and Eve image and hold it up in front of one of the children close to their face so they will be sure to see it) With the scarf over the image, ask the child, "This picture of Adam and Eve represents our sin, can you see your sin?" No! There is something covering it up. Just like this scarf, things in our lives may be covering up what is really in our hearts. We think our hearts are pure. We don't lie. We don't cheat. We obey our

parents most of the time. We go to church every time the doors to the church are open. You can't see your sin because all these things are covering them up. What happens when God takes all those things away? (Move the scarf) OH! NOW I see it! I DO see my sin! Oh, my sin is horrible! I have broken every single, holy law!

9. Once you see your sin, what happens? You cry out, "Lord! I see my sin! Lord, how can I fix this?" God reveals the only way to fix this is death! (Uncover the picture of the lamb slain). Then what happens? You cry out, "Lord! I can't pay this penalty. My death will not fix this! Lord, I need a savior!"
10. Does the Lord ever leave His people there and walk away? (Matthew 11: 38) No. In the Bible the Lord is quoted as saying: "All those that come to me I will not send them away empty." All His children will have salvation. Then the Lord lifts this last veil and shows you that Christ has already paid your penalty of Death. You have been His child all along. The Lord paid the price of your sins! See, how a child learns is a picture of how Christ draws His people and reveals the truth to them. He reveals the truth of their sin, the penalty of sin, and then His sacrifice for sin. What a beautiful picture! What a simple picture! Let's say a prayer and ask the Lord to lift these veils, so we might see that these things are true and praise His name for all of it.

## Lesson Activities

- Block demonstration: We learn through knowledge building upon knowledge
- Baby in the crib Demonstration: Teaching a baby to walk..
- Scarf Demonstration with the three images: Adam and Eve, Lamb Slain and the Cross
- Coloring Sheets

## Take Home Lesson Overview



### Children of God

#### Scripture Reference:

*1 Cor. 3: 1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.*

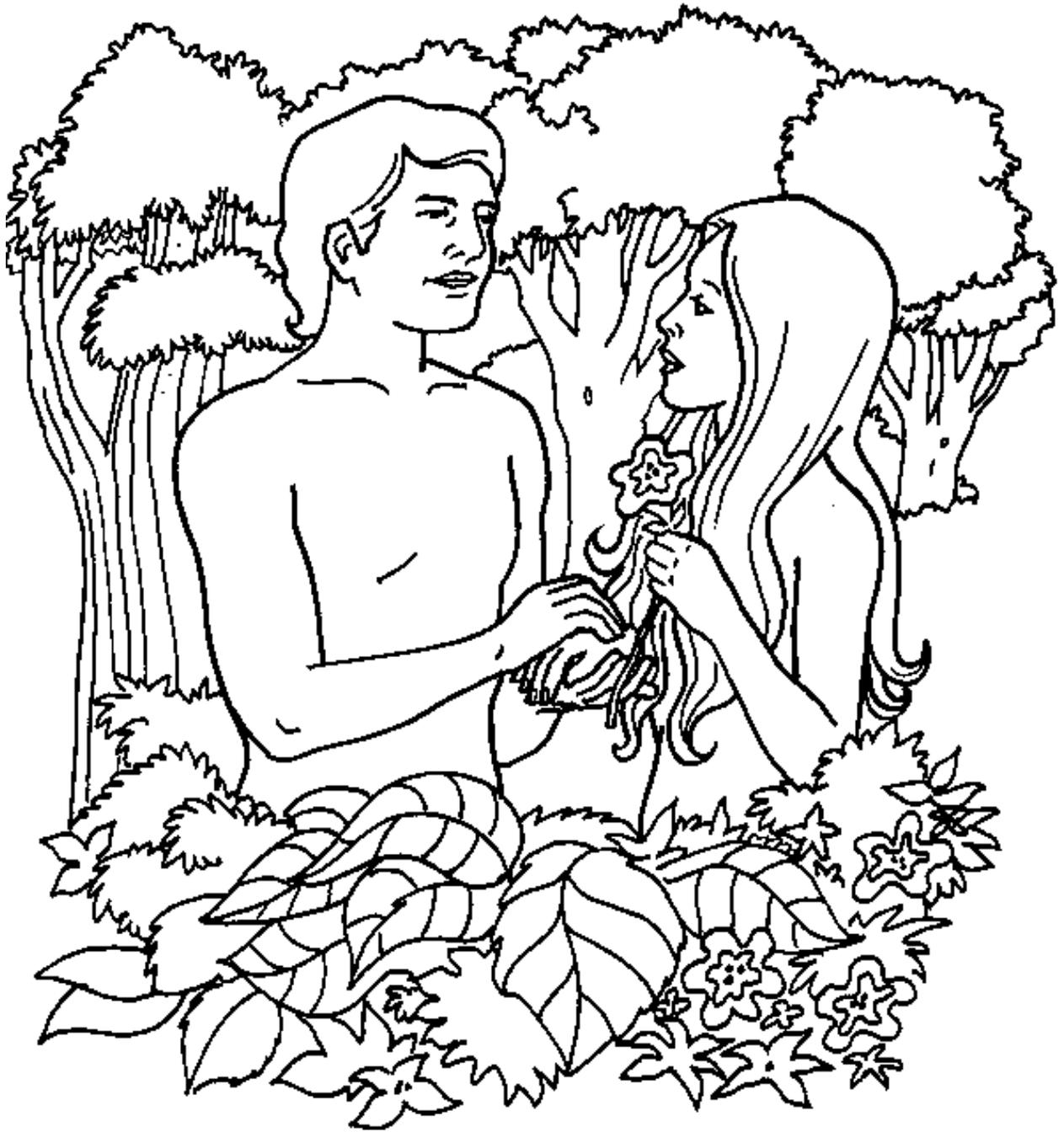
#### Lesson Overview:

In our verse, Paul is referring to the method of teaching he used to preach the gospel. He is saying, "I didn't use a bunch of words you didn't understand. If I had used spiritual terms you wouldn't have understood what I was teaching. You have no way to understand spiritual things." (1 Cor. 2:14) But instead, Paul said, "the Lord had me teach you with carnal (earthly) things you can see and understand, even as if you were little children, with little experience and little understanding. This is how all of God's people learn of Christ and their salvation. How children learn is a beautiful picture of the Lord's mercy and grace in teaching us the gospel. We are taught and learn just like children. Knowledge builds upon knowledge. First we learn of our sin and our sinful heart. Like a veil that is over our heads, things in our lives may be covering up what is really in our hearts. When we start out we think our hearts are pure. We are taught to be truthful and not to cheat. We are taught to attend church every time the doors to the church are open. However, these things are just a thin veil. God knows the truth of our hearts and our sinful natures. We can't see our sin because all these things are covering them up. God teaches us what is really in our hearts by taking all of that away. Then, like a child understanding something for time we shout "OH! NOW I see it! I DO see my sin! Oh, my sin is horrible! I have broken every single, holy law!" God reveals through truth and experience, just like a child learns through truth and experience. Christ, the Lord paid the price for the sins of all His children! God reveals the truth of our sin, the



penalty of our sin, and then the Lord's sacrifice for sin. What a beautiful picture! What a simple picture! Oh Lord, we pray, lift these veils so we might see that these things are true and praise you holy name for ALL of it.









# Baby



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