

It's Not Impossible

Description:

Choose one of three seemingly-impossible stunts with simple solutions

Aim: to capture attention, then give an application related to global service

Audience: primary through adults, any size group

Time: 10-15 min.

Equipment:
2 paper clips, \$1 bill

Scriptures to Study:
1 Timothy 6:10,
Matthew 28:19 (the Great Commission, not the Great Optional Activity!)



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Paper Clip Link-Up

- 1. Set the scene with this introduction:** Translating the Bible into an unwritten language might seem impossible at first. Just think:, a language that's never been written. Where would you begin? No paper, no pencils, no books, no alphabet! And lots of different sounds, maybe even more sounds than English! Could you do it? It's a lot like trying to link two paper clips while not touching them. How so, you ask?
- 2. Throw out the challenge:** (Hold up 2 paper clips and a \$1 bill.) Who would volunteer to come help with this demonstration? Keep the dollar if you can link these two paper clips while not touching or holding them. Specifically, you must stop touching the clips and then link them together. While you are actually linking them together, you may not touch or hold them. Do not use the bill as gloves, either! You have 3 minutes. Go!
- 3. Allow one or more volunteers to try.** Large groups use 2 teams.
- 4. Demonstrate that it can be done:** Fold the bill in thirds. Place clips on opposite sides of the bill, as illustrated on page 2. Each one clips the outer cut corner to the nearest inner sheet. Grasp the ends of the bill and slowly pull the ends in opposite directions. Surprisingly, the paper clips link up!

Discussion and Application:

So now do you see why translating the Bible into an unwritten language is like trying to link two paper clips without touching them? It's not impossible, if you just know how! Translators with Wycliffe Bible Translators take college classes to learn how to translate the Bible. They learn to make every sound possible to the human speech system and how to write each one down using the International Phonetic Alphabet. They also study different cultures and how to fit in with them, how to teach people to read, and how to survive in an isolated area, just to name a few.

How about you? How does God want *you* to be involved in getting His Word to those who still wait? Could you pray, give, or go? Let's pray and ask God what He wants each of us to do.

If using this for a lead-in, introduce one of the workpages or activities listed on page two. Or launch into a different lesson.

Pictures Demonstrating How It's Done

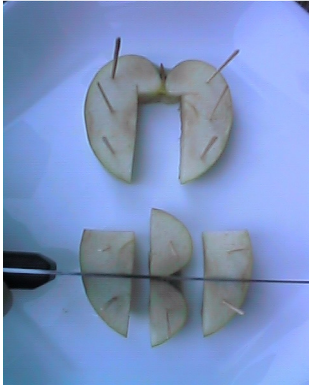
Paper Clip Link-Up



Don't Get Wet!



Cut the Apple



Notes:

Additional Workpages for Children:

(available at www.wycliffe.ca/resources/children_ministry_resources.html)

1. "Did You Know?" using the International Phonetic Alphabet
2. "What Does it Mean When . . .?" matching puzzling behavior with the message it conveys
3. "Desert Riddle" a riddle and coloring page
4. "May I Have a Snack, Mom?" unscrambling words for surprising snacks eaten in faraway lands
5. "Alphabetti Spaghetti" another *Bright Ideas!* activity to learn about the Devnagri script and make a bookmark
6. "International Radio Operator's Alphabet" practice speaking in code, plus a string-and-can phone project
7. "Desert Dweller's Tea Time" another *Bright Ideas!* activity to learn taste-testing in a culturally appropriate manner, plus how to sterilize your wooden milk gourd without soap, water, or disinfectant

Description:

a seemingly impossible stunt with a simple solution

Aim: to capture attention, then give an application related to global service

Audience: primary through adult, any size group

Time: 10-15 minutes

Equipment: a plastic glass or tumbler filled 2/3 full with water; a plate or saucer that fits tightly over the mouth of the glass; extra water, an absorbent bath towel; a brave heart!

Scriptures to Study:



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Don't Get Wet!

- 1. Practice ahead of time to avoid getting drenched!**
- 2. Set the scene with this introduction while filling the glass and placing the plate on top:** Translating the Bible into an unwritten language might seem impossible at first. Just think for a minute about a language that's never been written. Where would you begin? No paper, no pencils, no books, no alphabet! And lots of different sounds, maybe even more sounds than English! Could you do it? It's like trying to drink the water out of this glass using only one hand. How so, you ask?
- 3. Throw out the challenge as you flip the glass upside-down, keeping plate and glass pressed firmly together:** Who will volunteer to come help with this demonstration? Your job is to drink water from the glass using only one hand. Keep the other at your side. You have 3 minutes. Go!
- 4. Allow one or more volunteers to try.** Large groups use 2 teams.
- 5. Demonstrate that it can be done:** 1) Hold the plate and glass of water in your hand and bend your head over until your forehead touches the bottom of the glass. 2) Keeping the plate pressed firmly to the glass, and the glass pressed firmly to the forehead, stand erect with your head tilted back far enough to balance the glass on it. 3) Remove the plate and drop or set it down. Then remove the glass with the same hand and drink the water. *(Or lie down flat on your back, balancing the glass on your stomach if you dare!)*

Discussion and Application:

So, now do you see why translating the Bible into an unwritten language is like trying to drink water from the cup with only one hand? In each case it's not impossible, if you just know how! Translators with Wycliffe Bible Translators take college classes to learn how to translate the Bible. They learn to make every sound possible to the human speech system and how to write each one down using the International Phonetic Alphabet. They also study different cultures and how to fit in with them, how to teach people to read, and how to survive in an isolated area, just to name a few.

How about you? How does God want *you* to be involved in getting His Word to people who still wait? Could you pray, give or go? Let's pray and ask God what He wants each of us to do.

If using this for a lead-in, introduce one of the workpages or activities listed on page two. Or launch into a different lesson.

Description:

a seemingly-impossible stunt with a simple solution

Aim: to capture attention and then make mission application

Audience: primary through adult, any size group

Time: 10-15 minutes

Equipment: an apple or pear cut as shown; a knife; six toothpicks; a plate, cutting board or paper towel

Scriptures to Study:

Matthew 28:19



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Cut the Apple

- 1. Set the scene with this introduction:** Translating the Bible into an unwritten language might seem impossible at first. Just think: a language that's never been written. Where would you begin? No paper, no pencils, no books, no alphabet! And lots of different sounds, or maybe even more sounds than English!! Could you do it? It's a lot like trying to divide this apple slice into six pieces with only two cuts of the knife. How so, you ask?
- 2. Throw out the challenge:** (Hold up the horseshoe shaped slice of fruit for everyone to see.) Who would volunteer to come help with this demonstration? You can eat the apple if you can cut it into six equal pieces with only two cuts of the knife. Each piece must contain a toothpick. You have three minutes. Go!
- 3. Allow one or more volunteers to try.** Large groups use two teams
- 4. Demonstrate that it can be done:** Cut number 1, as shown on page two: Make a horizontal cut, detaching the top portion of the horseshoe. Lay that strip vertically between the two side pieces. Cut number two: Slice between the top and bottom toothpicks of all three pieces and there you have six chunks!

Discussion and Application:

So now do you see why translating the Bible into an unwritten language is like trying to divide the apple into six pieces with only two cuts? It's not impossible, if you just know how! Translators with Wycliffe Bible Translators take college classes to learn how to translate the Bible. They learn to make every sound possible to the human speech system and how to write each one down using the International Phonetic Alphabet. They also study different cultures and how to fit in with them, how to teach people to read, and how to survive in an isolated area, just to name a few.

How about you? How does God want *you* to be involved in getting His Word to people who still wait? Could you pray, give or go? Let's pray now and ask God what He wants each of us to do.

If using this for a lead-in, introduce one of the workpages or activities listed on page two. Or launch into a different lesson.