

Kid's Slot – Dec. 4th – Dec. 10th, 2011



“A Hard Choice!”



OVERVIEW: Children will learn about the importance being a good example to their friends...and not a stumbling block.

VERSE: 1 Corinthians 8:9

ICEBREAKER: Ask: **What is the coolest thing you have ever found?**

READ: “Set A Good Example!”

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

1. **Why did Charlie love to come and visit his cousins?** (Because he had so much fun going to places with them that weren't in his hometown...and he loved being with his cousins.)
2. **What made Charlie so happy and Brittany so upset?** (Charlie found an envelope with \$100 in it and kept it; Brittany didn't want him to keep it, but to try to find the owner.)
3. **What about Jacob?** (Jacob knew it was wrong for Charlie to keep the money and not tell him so; so Jacob didn't say anything and neither did Charlie.)
4. **What did Charlie want to do with the \$100?** (Buy a remote control car with it)
5. **Why was Jacob a “stumblinb block” for Charlie?** (He could have explained a bit further about how he shouldn't keep the money; he could have gone to his Mom and told her; he could have helped Charlie do the right thing by setting an example. He could have agreed with his sister and done the right thing. Instead, he did and said nothing.)
6. **Have you ever been a “stubling block” to someone? Could you have pointed someone in the right direction, but instead, was quite about it and let them continue to make a bad choice?**

Bible Memory Verse: “Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak.” 1 Corinthians 8:9

Activity: Don't Be A Stumbling Block!

Read each of these situations...let the kids answer the best way to set an example to others and NOT be a stumbling block!

- Your friend tries to cheat off your test paper
- Your friend puts a chocolate bar in his/her pocket at the gas station, without paying for it.
- Your friend likes to play “M” video games and wants you to play along with him
- Your friend is talking badly about another friend at school
- Your Dad wants you to help cut the grass, but your friend tells you to sneak out the back door and go to his house instead
- Your Mom gives you and your sister \$1 for the offering at church; your sister wants to save it and buy something from the store later

RETURN: Return to the Life Group.

After the children recite their Bible Memory Verse to the adults, have the children share about the cousins' story and what they learned from it. The children then join in the prayer and fellowship time.



“Set A Good Example!”

Jacob and his sister, Brittany loved it when their cousin Charlie came to visit. He lived in a very small town in north Louisiana and didn't get to come to New Orleans very often, but loved it when he did come. He didn't even have a McDonald's or a mall or even a movie theater in his town! Charlie loved to go to all the places he could while he was with his cousins. He would get up early in the morning, go Jacob and Brittany's bed and hop up and down until they woke up!

“Where are we going today? The Zoo? The Mall? Chuck E. Cheese? Wal-mart? Come on, guys....let's get going!” Jacob and Brittany still wanted to sleep! “Hold on, Charlie! We've got all week to have fun...go back to sleep!” they mumbled. But Charlie just couldn't wait! “Come on guys...you can sleep anytime! Let's get dressed and walk to Krispy Kreme! I have \$5 from my Paw Paw...I can get us all some donuts and chocolate milk!” “Save your money, Charlie...you may need it to buy something else. Five dollars doesn't go very far in the big city, you know.” “But in my town, I can buy a lot from the Dollar Store with my \$5.00!” “Well, maybe in *your* town, but here, donuts and milk for the three of us at Krispy Kreme would cost you about \$5.00! Just wait until you see something you really want to buy!”

Well, since Jacob and Brittany were already awake, they decided to go downstairs and eat a little breakfast before they went outside to play. It was a cool morning and the wind was blowing all the leaves in circles. Charlie was so excited...he just ran in circles, like the leaves, so happy to be visiting his cousins. In the bottom of the pile of leaves, Charlie noticed an envelope. He took it out and read the words on the outside, “Grocery Money.” He opened up the envelope and saw \$100 tucked inside!

“I'm rich, he thought! I found it, and there's no name on it, so it must be MINE!!! Hooray!” and tucked the money inside his jacket, and told his cousins about the envelope he found!

“You can't keep that money, Charlie, it's not yours, said Brittany!” “Well, whose is it then? There was no name on the envelope and I can't go around from door to door asking your neighbors – EVERYONE will say that they lost it and keep the money for themselves” said Charlie! “Well, it's not right...someone is going to be missing that money. You need to at least try” said Brittany. “Well...I don't have as much money as you do and this will really help me out! I'm keeping it” said Charlie. Jacob didn't know what to say. He knew he should speak up

like Brittany did, but he also knew that Charlie really could use an extra \$100. But Jacob didn't say a word. Not one word!

Just then, Mom called the kids to get ready...she told them the night before that she had lots of errands to run. Everyone jumped into the van and was ready to roll. Their first stop was Wal-mart. Mom had to do some grocery shopping. Mom let the kids walk around the store while she did her grocery shopping. They went first to the toy section and checked out all the cool toys! Charlie had his eye on a remote control car. “I think I'll by this one! I've never seen anything like this at my Dollar Store!” “Charlie, that costs about \$100 dollars – with tax! You only have \$5. You better pick out something way less expensive” said Brittany. “Not if I use the \$100 I found...I can buy it then” said Charlie. Brittany was very upset...and looked over at Jacob for support, but Jacob just stood there.

Suddenly, Jacob's cell phone rang and it was Mom, calling the cousins to the front of the store to say she was checked out and ready to go home. The cousins put everything back on the shelves and headed for the front. They stopped back home to unload the groceries quickly and off they went again.

“Hey Mom...can we go to Chuck E. Cheese for lunch; we're all starving!” Mom looked a little sad. “Sorry guys, we can't go there today. All I have left in my wallet is \$10 after buying all those groceries at Wal-mart this morning. I'm missing my grocery money” Mom said. Brittany looked at Charlie. She waited for him to speak up about the \$100 he found, but he didn't say a word. She waited for Jacob to speak up, and he didn't either. Finally, Brittany couldn't take it any longer!

“Mom...Charlie found \$100 this morning in a pile of leaves on the front lawn. Was that your money” asked Brittany?” Mom's eyes got real big! “What? You found my envelope? Oh, thank you, Charlie! I went out to put something in the garbage can and the envelope must have fallen out my pocket! What a blessing...I prayed and hoped God would find it for me! Thank you so much” Mom said.

Charlie felt relieved...and gladly turned over the money to his aunt because he knew now who it belonged to...but Jacob felt badly! He KNEW better and should have spoken up sooner. He needed to be an example to Charlie but instead he was a stumbling block – a stumbling block is when you get in the way of someone making a good choice. Jacob apologized to Charlie and to his Mom...and to Brittany. Anyone want to guess where they went for lunch?