



Idea Sampler

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I once saw a contest where the contestants were to set up dominoes in intricate patterns. They were like artists painting with dominoes. The work of art wasn't complete when all the dominoes were placed, but when the first domino was tipped and the last one had fallen. The work was ruined if one domino got bumped over before the artist was ready. If one was tipped over early, the artist had to stop the destruction by holding one domino firm so no more would be tipped.

Those dominoes are like the trials you face. If you stand firm in God's strength your life is a glorious work of art for God. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." - Ephesians 2:10. Giving in to temptation is like tipping the dominoes

early, and they just keep falling unless someone steps in to stop them. "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." - James 1:14,15.

When you confess your sin, you agree with God that His plan is best and that your own plan has failed. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." - Isaiah 53:6. Confession is asking God to stop the domino effect of sin in your life. He gives you strength to stand against the next temptation. He removes old failures and begins a new and beautiful design for your life - not as long as it could have been, not as intricate, but a beautiful work of His grace just the same. "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered." - Psalm 32:1.

When God's plan is complete and your life is over, He delivers you from sin forever. All the trials are over. They are toppled for good and His beautiful work of salvation is done. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." - Revelation 21:4.- *Teachers' Swap Shop* May/June 1997



Simple Object Lesson

by Carolyn Lehman



Bring a compass and a magnet to class.

Who can tell me which direction a compass always points? By standing in the same direction as the arrow points, we can also determine which way is north, south, east and west. (Let the child do this.)

Where are some places we could go where we would need a compass? In a forest, on a lonely road, in a woods, or when boating on a large lake it would be easy to get lost. The compass needle always points north, unless for some reason the compass isn't working properly.

I will place this magnet near the compass. Now the needle is drawn away. It no longer points in the correct direction. This is the way Satan works. He interferes whenever he can. He hates to have people be obedient to the Lord. He will try to turn Christians away from reading their Bibles. He wants us to think of ourselves first and that leads to lying, cheating, stealing, unkindness and all the rest of the things God has commanded us against. In any way he can deceive, he is ready. The devil loves to tempt and he works very hard to keep people from accepting the Lord Jesus as Saviour. II Corinthians 11:14 and I Peter 5:8 reveal Satan's true nature - he appears like an angel of light to hide his real intentions. Jesus calls Satan the evil one. (Matthew 6:13) Jesus said Satan was a liar and a murderer from the beginning. (John 8:44) Don't get close to his worldly ways. They are like a magnet that fools your compass and gets you off course. - *Teachers' Swap Shop* May/June 1997



Abednego Kitten

Anonymous Author



One time a mama cat had a whole bunch of kittens. A bunch of kittens is called a litter of kittens. There were all kinds of kittens, big kittens, little kittens, black kittens, white kittens and gold colored kittens.

When kittens are born, they can't see, because they are born with their eyes closed. After a few days, their eyes open up and they start learning by playing. Children learn by playing too. Kittens play a lot and it's fun to watch all the silly looking things they do.

One of those kittens was named Abednego. He was a little bit smaller than the other kittens. He was what is called the runt of the litter. He was different in other ways too. His hair was a little shorter, he had a stubby tail and he wasn't as cute as the other kittens.

As you can imagine, Abednego's brothers and sisters were nearly always playing. Abednego tried, but when he would jump in to wrestle, the other kittens were bigger than he was, and they were stronger, and they would push him off to the side. Sometimes he'd step on his own tail and trip and fall. No, he wasn't as strong as the other kittens.

Sometimes, animals seem to know which are the weaker ones in the group. They often treat the weaker one quite roughly. His brothers and sisters would box Abednego with their paws and they would go after him fiercely when he tried to play with them. After a while, Abednego kept to himself.

Then the others would lay in wait for him. They would sneak around silently and pounce on him, biting and scratching, and running off to hide.

It's a sad story so far, isn't it, but it doesn't end that way. Abednego did go off by himself, but there was a little boy who lived in the house. He saw Abednego back in the corner, and he decided that Abednego needed extra attention. Every day the boy picked Abednego up and petted him. Soon, Abednego didn't go off by himself anymore. He seemed quite content with the attention of the little boy.

Now kittens are just animals. They treated Abednego like animals do. To us they seem very cruel and mean, but God put in each animal a nature that the animal cannot change. Yes, we can sometimes train the animal to behave differently, but the animal will not change its behavior by itself. Animals have no choice but to do what their nature tells them to do. People do have the ability to choose. We can behave like animals or we can obey God's Word.

People don't treat each other like those kittens treated Abednego unless there is hatred in their hearts. Jesus said, "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer." (I John 3:15) Wow! A murderer! So, maybe you never actually took someone else's life, but have you ever wished someone else were just dead? Is there someone you care so little for that you really don't care if they live or die. That's hatred. Jesus said, "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." (John 15:12) and one of God's ten commandments that He wrote in stone is "Thou shalt not kill."- *Teachers' Swap Shop* May/June 1997

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