

Using Object Lessons

-Brother Mike Cross

There's nothing quite like a good parable or object lesson. They can be a powerful way to teach doctrine, but they can also be distracting if not used properly. Follow these tips to make your object lessons memorable (in a good way).



Indispensable Warning

Use object lessons to emphasize the concept you are teaching. Never change what you are meant to teach simply to add in an object lesson that you find interesting.



Indispensable Things

- A gospel principle
- A memorable object or example

Ideas

Ideas for object lessons can occur at any time. Keep your eyes open during your daily life. Write down your ideas.



Practice

Choose any item and try tying it into a gospel topic. For example, a snowflake is like a testimony because...

- No two are identical
- They grow from tiny particles
- They can melt away under the wrong conditions
- They are beautiful
- They can be used to build something great

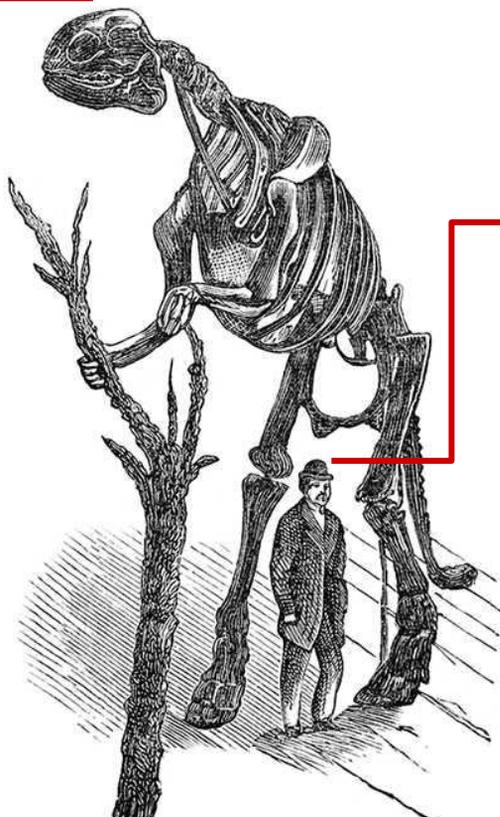
Visuals

Bringing in a visual aid can make your object lesson more memorable, but keep the following in mind:

- It's not appropriate to use visual aids in sacrament meeting
- The object should not be distracting. The gospel principle should be the focus.
- The visual aid can be held up or passed around the class

“Parables are a call to investigate the truth; to learn more; to inquire into the spiritual realities, which, through them, are but dimly viewed. Parables start truth seekers out in the direction of further light and knowledge and understanding; they invite men to ponder such truths as they are able to bear in the hope of learning more. Parables are a call to come unto Christ, to believe his doctrines, to live his laws, and to be saved in his kingdom.”

-Elder Bruce R. McConkie



Learn from the best

Look for parables and object lessons

- In the scriptures
- In General Conference
- In the Savior's teachings

Parables of Jesus

Drawing in the Net, Matthew 13:47–50
Laborers in the Vineyard, Matthew 20:1–16
Lost Money, Luke 15:8–10
Faithful Servant, Luke 12:35–48
Good Samaritan, Luke 10:30–37
Seed Growing Secretly, Mark 4:26–29
Lost Sheep, Matthew 18:12–14, Luke 15:1–7
Mustard Seed, Matthew 13:31–32 Mark 4:30–32
Luke 13:18–19
Pearl, Matthew 13:45–46
Prodigal Son, Luke 15:11–32
Sower, Matthew 13:3–23 Mark 4:1–20 Luke 8:5–15
Wedding Feast, Matthew 22:1–14, Luke 14:16–24
Pharisee and the Publican, Luke 18:9–14
Ten Talents, Matthew 25:14–30, Luke 19:11–27
Budding Fig Tree, Matt 24:32–36, Mark 13:28–32,
Luke 21:29, 33

Friend at Night, Luke 11:5–8
Hidden Treasure, Matthew 13:44
Importunate Widow, Luke 18:1–8
Leaven, Matthew 13:33, Luke 13:20–21
Master and Servant, Luke 17:7–10
Rich Fool, Luke 12:16–21
Rich Man and the Beggar Lazarus, Luke 16:19–31
Tares, Matthew 13:24–30
Ten Virgins, Matthew 25:1–13
Two Debtors, Luke 7:41–47
Two Sons, Matthew 21:28–32
Unjust Steward, Luke 16:1–9
Wicked Husbandmen, Matthew 21:33–46, Mark 12:1–12, Luke 20:9–19
Wise and the Foolish Builders, Matthew 7:24–27
Unmerciful Servant, Matthew 18:23–35
Building a tower and waging war, Luke 14:28–33
Barren Fig Tree, Luke 13:6–9
Guests, Luke 14:7–15