

Tricky Messages for Kids Sample Book

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Six Routines from Jamie's book series: Tricky Messages For Kids.

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Explaining an Illusion

What The Audience Sees:

The magician shows a handkerchief and asks what shape it represents. The audience responds with: "Square!" As the magician folds the handkerchief, he continues to ask what shape it appears to form. The audience responds with: "Rectangle", "Square", "Triangle." The magician also asks if the handkerchief appears to be getting smaller. The audience responds with: "Yes!" Finally the magician reveals that the audience has experienced a simple illusion as the handkerchief always stays the same shape and the same size. Suddenly a large, shiny coin appears from the center of the handkerchief and the magician states that everyone should pay attention as you never know what might happen during the presentation.



As someone who is presenting the gospel message using illusion or "magic tricks", it will be important to establish that what you present are elaborate and clever optical illusions, only. This is a great way to explain the idea of an illusion — and it's fairly easy to accomplish.

How It's Done:

You are simply, holding a large, novelty coin in your hand the entire time.

Needed:

A large handkerchief (I suggest a magicians silk handkerchief that is called an 18 inch silk of a darker color)

A large novelty coin that can be comfortably hidden in your hand. I found "play" money at the local "Dollar" store that had plastic, jumbo coins that were very shiny.

Prepare:

- Hold the coin in your hand, lightly gripping it in your fingers (known as a finger palm)
- Hold the handkerchief with your thumb and finger tips.

Principle At Work:

The human mind dismisses that a hand would have anything else in it if it's seen to already be holding something.

Presentation:

Before we go much further, I'd like to show you that everything I do is simply an elaborate and clever optical illusion. I'd like to show you how an illusion works — first we have to agree to use our imaginations in order for this illusion to work. Let's get started: I have a handkerchief.

Hold the handkerchief by the corners so it is in the shape of a square. You are hiding the coin in the fingers of one of your hands. Make sure you hold the other hand in the same manner when holding the corner of the handkerchief.

What general shape is it?

Allow the audience to respond.

That's right — it looks like a square. If I fold it in half like this, what shape does it appear to become?

Allow the audience to respond.

Yes, a rectangle. Let me also ask you if it looks like the handkerchief is now smaller?

Allow the audience to respond.

It appears that way doesn't it — remember, use your imagination with me. Next I will fold it again — and now, it appears to be back into the shape of a, what?

Allow the audience to respond.

Correct, a square. Let me also ask you if it looks like the handkerchief appears to have gotten smaller again?

Allow the audience to respond.

This time, I will fold the handkerchief at its diagonal corners so it looks like a completely new shape. What shape do you think it looks like now?

Allow the audience to respond.

That's right, a triangle! And, again, it appears to have become smaller in size. But, I must tell you that you have just witnessed an optical illusion. You see, the handkerchief has never actually changed shape or size...

Use the hand that is holding the coin to shake out the handkerchief — be careful to keep the back of the hand toward the audience. Pick up a corner with the free hand so it is shown as its full size in the shape of a square once again.

It's always remained a square and it's always remain this size. By simply folding the handkerchief and hiding part of it, it looked like it changed shape and changed size.

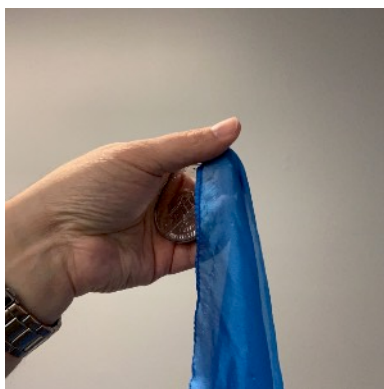
Drape the handkerchief over the hand holding the coin.

By doing something that simple — like folding a handkerchief over and over and encouraging you to use your imagination, we were able to experience a simple, optical illusion together.

Take the handkerchief in the other hand - taking the coin with it.

I hope you are still willing to use your imagination today because we are going to use some fun and interesting visual illusions to keep our lesson interesting. Besides, you never know what you might actually see with your own eyes!

Lift the handkerchief up and over revealing the jumbo coin. Torn and Restored Bible



Hold the coin in your curled fingers. Hold the handkerchief with the fingertips and thumb of the same hand. Spread the handkerchief between your hands — try to hold the other hand in a similar manner.



Fold the handkerchief in various shapes. Be careful to keep the back of your occupied hand toward the audience.



Drape the handkerchief over the loaded hand. With your free hand, pickup the coin and handkerchief at the same time. After some discussion, reveal the coin coming from the middle of the handkerchief.

Torn and Restored Bible

Scripture References:

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away”
— Matthew 24:35

What The Audience Sees:

The performer displays a sheet of paper with a picture of a Bible on it. He proceeds to tear the sheet into four separate quarters. The pieces are brought together, folded and crumpled as the performer discusses how people have tried to get rid of the Bible for years. The pieces are unfolded and un-crumpled and are shown to have restored themselves to reveal the picture once again.



How It's Done:

You are using a duplicate copy of the picture that is attached to the back of the original picture.

Needed:

- 8.5 X11 opaque paper(Use larger paper if you have a larger audience)
- A process for printing or photocopying
- Rubber cement, glue-stick or double stick tape

To Prepare:

Using a computer, design two identical pages with a picture of the Bible on it. I like to use a computer and print with a color printer. I like this method because of all the sharp-looking clipart available. Find a good picture of the Bible. (Or use the one provided with this lesson/routine). If you cannot find a picture, use a large font in colors that will be appealing to your audience titled: THE BIBLE — just make sure the paper you use is opaque.

Fold the original (the one that will be torn) into four quarters. Make sure you reinforce the folds in both directions for easier tearing. Glue or tape the duplicate to the back upper quarter as seen in the photos. Crumple the duplicate into a small wadded packet onto the back of the original — be careful not to tear either.

How to Make it Work:

- Holding the page upright, tear it in half from top to bottom, being careful not to expose the wadded-up duplicate.
- Place the torn away section to the front.
- Tear these halves in half so you have quarters — separate your hands and fan out both pieces in each hand so the audience is very aware that you are holding 4 separate quarters.
- Place the pieces together, keeping the duplicate to the back.
- Fold and wad the pieces together.
- In the act of squeezing the wadded-up pieces together, turn everything over so the audience is now looking at the duplicate. Continue to squeeze the pieces together for a moment.
- After some time of discussion or teaching, begin to uncouple the wadded-up duplicate. The torn pieces will remain on the back of the page as you fully open the page to reveal the picture of the Bible.

Presentation:

We are talking about the Bible today! I love the Word of God. There's a verse found in Matthew 24:35. It says: *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."* This is important because there are those who do not appreciate God's written Word.

Hold up the prepared picture of the Bible.

I brought a picture of a Bible, because it would be very cruel to demonstrate this lesson with a real Bible — you will see why in a moment! There are those who hate the Bible so much that they have claimed that the Bible is just a book full of fake stories and fairy tales

Tear the Bible picture in half.

There are places in the world where the Bible has been made illegal.

Tear one of the halves into a quarters.

There are places in this world where Bibles are collected and destroyed.

Tear the other half into quarters.

Evil people think that by doing this they can rid the earth of the Bible. Even here in our own country, there are those who treat the Bible as if it's not worth anything more than trash.

Cripple the torn pieces together as you state the previous lines. Perform the secret move of turning over the crumpled packet.

And yet, despite all of the negative attitude against the Bible, it still remains the number one selling Book in the world!

Begin to un-crumple the duplicate as you say the following.

Besides, even if the Bible was removed from this earth as a physical book, God's word has been established by God, Himself. It can never completely go away!

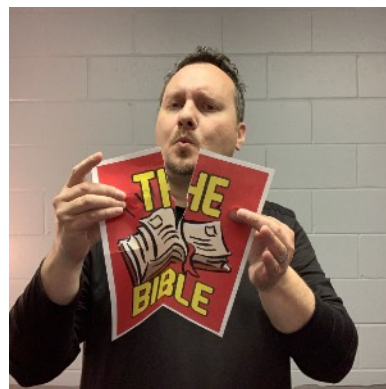
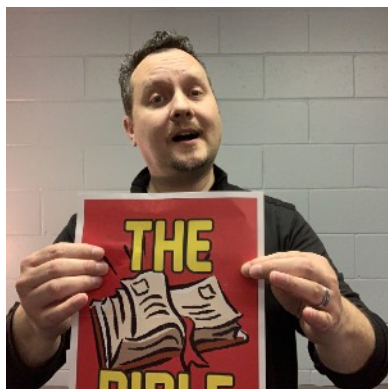
Other Ideas:

- **The duplicate could have a different message from the original in order conclude a message or to add a better punch line.** I have also used this method for the "Broken Heart" by simply printing a large red heart on the pages. Use a smaller original and restore it to a larger page with a message or picture on it.
- **You don't have to tear the paper.** You can show one message or picture to the audience, fold it up, and make the change to reveal a new message or picture.
- **Portrait or Landscape.** You can make the original or duplicate in either portrait or landscape depending on the picture or message.
- **Your message or picture could also change size,** i.e. you show a piece of paper 5.5" X 8.5" that says "SIN" Discuss how sin gets out of control. (Fold the paper to match the size of the restoration duplicate). We try to hide our sin problem. Open the restoration duplicate and you are now holding an 8.5" X 11" sign that says in much larger letters "SIN".
- **You can create a "Blend-o" effect.** Bring several smaller pieces of paper together that are of different sizes, shapes and colors... perhaps they all have various pictures or messages on them. They are folded together and become a large picture or message

Have fun with this effect!



Using 2 matching pictures, pre-fold one with sharp creases so the tears are easier. Use a glue stick to attach the duplicate to the back of the pre-folded original. Once the glue is dry, fold and crumple the down the duplicate so it's completely hidden on the back of the original.



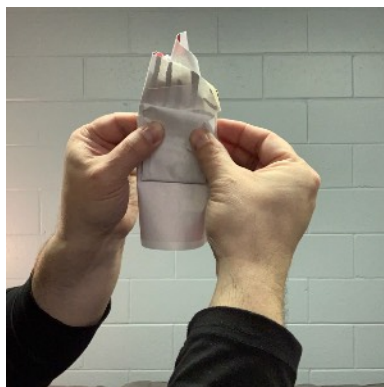
For performance/presentation, hold the page facing the audience — keep a thumb on the duplicate. Begin by tearing the page in half from top to bottom.



Be sure to separate each piece so the audience is aware that it really has been torn. Place the torn half on the front of the half with the duplicate on its back.



Begin tearing each half into quarters. Move the pieces to the front of the packet so the quarter with the duplicate attached is on the back of the packet.



Begin folding the torn quarters forward, around each other. Make the folds match the crumpled duplicate. Crumple and squeeze the pieces together. During this action, turn the whole packet over so the duplicate is now facing the audience — and continue to squeeze.



Begin to unfold the duplicate, being careful not to show the original pieces. As you open the duplicate, the torn pieces will remain attached to its back.

Read The Bible Today - Card Match

Main Point:

The Bible is full of so many amazing facts that there is NO WAY any person could have arranged for those facts to work together the way they do.

Scripture Reference:

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

— 2nd Timothy 3:16

Your word is very pure, Therefore Your servant loves it.

— Psalm 119:40

God keeps every promise he makes. He is like a shield for all who seek his protection.

— Proverbs 30:5



What the Audience Sees:

The magician allows a spectator to decide how much a stack of flashcards should be shuffled. After the stack of flashcards are split into 2 piles, the he allows numerous spectators decide which cards from each pile should be paired together. The cards are seen to match: In each pair, one card is a Bible fact question and the matching card is the answer.

How It's Done:

You are using a self-working (but amazing) method called the “Card Match” (Also known as “Will the Cards Match” & “The Last 2 Cards Match”) Principle. Many thanks to Jim Scott for showing me how to create my own card match routine.

What You'll Need:

- 10 large flashcards: 5 pairs that match — in each pair, one card is a Bible fact question and the matching card is the answer.
- 2 small tables or a 1 long table.
- 1 large sign printed with the phrase “READ THE BIBLE TODAY”
- A way to display the sign

Set Up:

Make 2 piles of matching cards. 5 cards in each pile in complimentary order... in other words: The question cards should be in the same order as the answer cards. Pick up one stack and place it directly on top of the other stack.

Here are the Question and Answer Cards:

How Many People Wrote The Bible?

Silhouette People with text in Red

About 40 Authors

How Many Books Are in the Bible?

Line/Shelf of books with text in Blue

66 Books

How Long Did It Take To Write the Bible?

Quill and Scroll with Text in Green

About 1600

Where is the Bible the Bible Illegal?

Globe with text in Orange

In over 52 countries.

True or False: The Bible is the Most Read Book in the World.

Open Bible with Text in Purple

True

Presentation:

Walk Through the Sequence:

Shuffling the Cards

Start the effect by “*shuffling*” the cards. Do this by moving one card from the top to the bottom, one at a time. Ask a volunteer to tell you when to stop. This will make it look like the cards are being mixed up - when actually, the order goes undisturbed.

Dividing the Cards

While holding the cards in your hands, take the top card from the pile and place it onto the table and count “One”, out loud. Take the next card from the pile in your hands and place it on top of the card on the table and count “Two” out loud. Continue to do this until you have five cards on the table and six in your hands.

The pile on the table is in the reverse order as the pile in your hands. Set the pile in your hands on the opposite table. You now have 2 piles of five cards on opposite sides of you.

Procedure:

Display the sign that says “**READ THE BIBLE TODAY**” and explain that together you are going to spell each word in the statement by moving a card from the top of a pile and moving it to the bottom of the pile. For each word spelled, the chosen volunteer can say “switch” at any time during the spelling and you will switch to the other pile. The volunteer can tell you to switch when they want and as many times as they want during each spelling.

Start with the word “**READ**”. Ask another volunteer to decide which pile you will start spelling with. Whichever pile he chooses, take that selected pile into your hands. Hold it parallel to the table so you don’t reveal any of the wording or pictures on the cards. Begin spelling the word “**READ**” by moving a card from the top of the pile, to the bottom for each letter. Remind the child that he may tell you to switch if he wants, whenever he wants.

Once the word is completely spelled, stop. Take the top card from each pile and set them aside as a separate pair. You might choose to have 5 other people come on stage and hold each pair with the card-backs to the audience until it's time to reveal that the pairs match. Or, you might just want to set them across the front of the table in separate pairs until it's time to reveal the matches. Either way, you will have an incredible effect!

Continue to spell each word in the phrase. Use a different volunteer for each word:

Have them choose a pile to start spelling the word with.
They can tell you when to switch when and as often as they want.

FULL PRESENTATION:

"Did you know the Bible is full of all kinds of stories, promise, commands and more? And did you know there are some amazing facts that no one could have ever tried to put together themselves? Today we are going to think of how important it is to READ THE BIBLE TODAY."

Show the sign

"Here a bunch of flashcards. On these flashcards are interesting things about the Bible... Let's mix them up and see what happens!"

Choose a volunteer and have them stand at their chair

"First, I mix them up by moving cards from the top to the bottom, until you tell me to stop."

Do this until the child tells you to "stop".

"We need to separate these cards into two equal piles of five."

Count five cards down onto the table. Lay the other cards down on the other table.

"We will mix them even further by spelling the phrase "READ TE BIBLE TODAY"

Show the Sign with the phrase: "READ THE BIBLE TODAY". Prop it up on the table so everyone can see it.

Choose another volunteer to stand at their chair.

"You decide which pile we will start with - which one should I pick up?"

"Now that you've made that decision, I will move one card from the top of this pile to the bottom for each letter in the word "READ". You can tell me if you want me to switch piles and continue spelling. You get to decide how many times you want me to switch piles... or if you want me to switch at all! Let's begin."

Begin spelling the word "READ" - switching from pile to pile as the child decides. When you are finished, take the top 2 cards, careful not to reveal the messages, and put them together as a pair. Lay them face down on another table or just set them somewhere they will remain visible.

“There, we have our first pair for this demonstration. Good job! Now its time to choose another volunteer.”

Choose another volunteer to stand at their chair.

“Which pile should we start with? Now, you will do the same thing with the word “THE”. I will move one card from the top of this pile to the bottom for each letter in the word “THE”. You can tell me if you want me to switch piles and continue spelling. You get to decide how many times you want me to switch piles... or if you want me to switch at all! Let’s begin.”

Begin spelling the word “THE” - switching from pile to pile as the parent decides. When you are finished, take the top 2 cards, careful not to reveal the messages, and put them together as a pair. DO NOT lay them on top of the other pair, keep them separate. Do this for every pair.

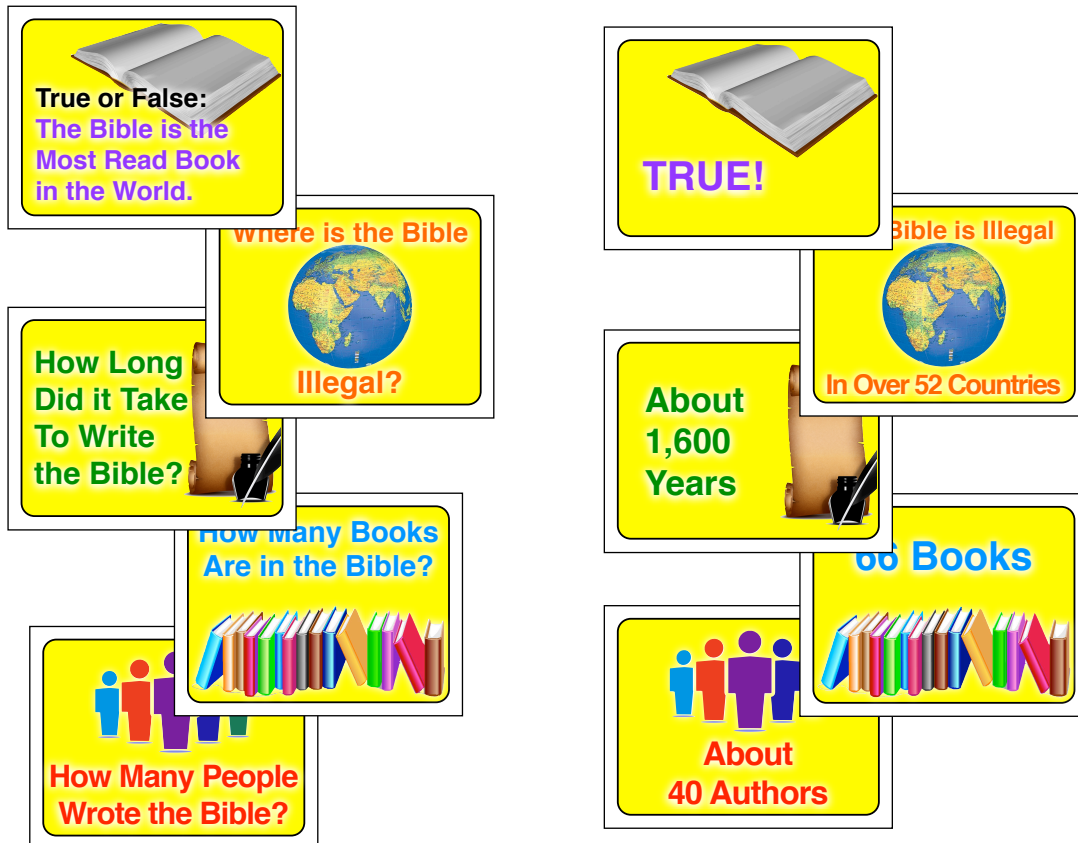
Continue spelling each word in a similar manner

Now for the end result:

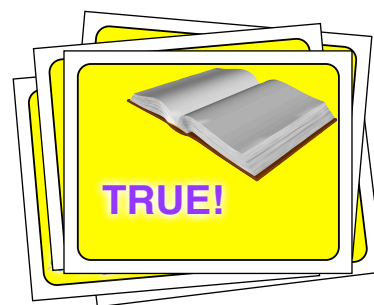
Begin revealing the pairs one at a time by first showing the question. Ask if anyone would like to take chance at answering the question. Always point out the picture and the color of the letters and that if the answer card has those same features, it’s a match and we should give the helper who helped spell to those cards, a cheer! Example:

“This Question Card Asks: How Many People Wrote The Bible? You can see these people on the card and with letters are in red. If I turn this Answer Card around and it gives us an answer the makes sense, a picture of some people and letters in red, then it’s a match! And that means we should give Greg a big cheer for helping to spell to make these cards match. Look, the answer is “About 40 Authors” AND... there is a picture of some people and red letters — give Greg a big cheer!”

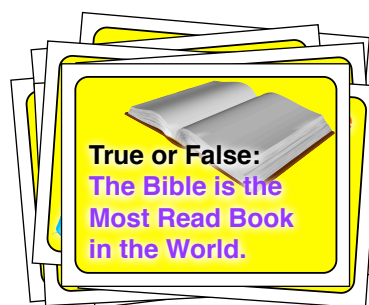
Do this for each pair and take a few moments to elaborate on each of the questions and answers ... There’s a good chance many of the children in your group may not know some of these amazing facts!



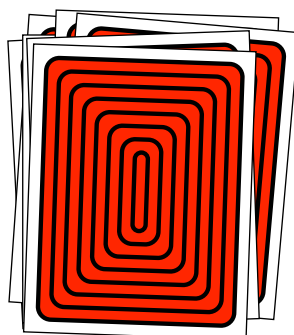
2 piles in matching order



2 piles in matching order



One pile is placed directly on top of the other



The entire stack is flipped over.

CLEAN!

Main Point:

Jesus wants to forgive you.

Scripture Reference:

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us of our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

— 1st John 1:9

What the Audience Sees:

The Magician shows a hanky that is stained, torn and very wrinkled. He discusses the damages of sin. The hanky is placed in a paper bag that has a picture or the name of Jesus printed on it. After a few moments of talking about all the Jesus has done for us so we could be forgiven, The hanky is removed and shown to be in new condition. The bag is shown as if it's empty.



How It's Done:

You are using a utility lunch bag - this is a DIY project in which you glue a secret pocket (per the instructions) to the inside of a lunch bag.

Needed:

- Paper Lunch Bags (I prefer the larger version).
- Glue Stick - I recommend finding a "Permanent " Glue Stick.
- Scissors.
- 2 White Pocket Handkerchiefs.
- Fabric Markers or a way to stain one of the handkerchiefs.

Preparation:

The artwork of the Jesus picture and instructions for making the SIN hanky and lunch bag are found in the Supplements Download related to this book.

- Make the utility lunch bag in the following the instructions in the video included in the Supplements Download related to this book.
- Print the picture of Jesus found in this book and attach it to the front of the bag (opposite the side with the secret pocket).
- Using the makers, mark and stain one of the handkerchiefs, using scissors cut and tear various spots on the handkerchief.. Make it look as bad as possible. You might even consider using the marker to write various sins on the handkerchief. This will referred to as the “SIN Hanky”.
- Neatly fold and place the other handkerchief in the bottom of the main part of your lunch bag. This will be referred to as the “CLEAN Hanky”.

The actions to practice:

- Show the SIN Hanky.
- Fold it into quarters.
- Show the lunch bag - be careful not to show the secret pocket.
- Place the SIN Hanky into the secret pocket.
- Use both hands to clap both sides of the bag as you turn it upside down and dump out the CLEAN Hanky.
- Show using both hands in the same position, briefly show the interior of the bag as if its empty.

The Presentation:

“Good morning. I want to talk about the devastating effects of sin a person’s life. Sin is anytime we choose to do whatever we want when it goes against what God wants. I don’t know about you, but I want to try and do what God wants me to do. But, I know that there are times we are tempted to do what’s wrong because it looks like fun — sometimes it seems like the ‘easy’ way out.”

Show the SIN Hanky.

“This hanky looks pretty bad. If I could imagine what sin would look like in our lives, it would probably look like this! Yikes! This is not good. This hanky needs some help. But as you can see, it’s beyond repair. Sometimes, we think the same thing about our lives when we mess-up and sin. Sometimes we think our life is beyond repair. But, that’s not the case.”

Show the paper bag.

“You can see I’ve attached a picture of Jesus to this bag. It makes me think about how Jesus wants from us our sin problem.”

Place the SIN Hanky into the secret pocket.

“It seems like a strange thing to give someone — but, that’s what He wants. He took the punishment that we were supposed to have so we could be made brand new!”

Dump the CLEAN Hanky out and briefly show the interior of the bag as if its empty. Put the bag away and pick up the CLEAN Hanky and begin to unfold it.

Make sure to show both sides.

“It looks like this hanky is now brand new! It’s a cool trick that I know how to do with a hanky. But I want you to know that Jesus does the real thing with our lives.”



1. Prepare a lunch bag so it has a secret pocket. Place the clean hanky into the main area of the bag.



2. the secret pocket should be easy to access by simply inserting your fingers.



3. Add a picture onto the bag that represents Jesus.



4. Prepare a cotton hanky so it's messy, torn and has the word "SIN" in the middle.



5. The "SIN" hanky goes into the secret pocket.



6. The bag is closed as you teach more of the lesson.



7. Open the bag — pinch the secret pocket closed as you turn over the bag and dump out the clean hanky.



8. Briefly show the interior of the bag as if it's empty.



9. Pick up the clean hanky and open it up to show that the “SIN” is gone.

Don't Turn Your Back!

Main Point:

Don't turn away from any of the spiritual disciplines that will help you grow in your faith.

Scripture References:

...discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness"

— 1st Timothy 4:7

Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

— 1st Corinthians 9:25



What The Audience Sees:

The magician shows a fan of flashcards—each representing a spiritual discipline. He turns over several as he talks about ignoring certain ones.

After some time the cards are fanned out and they are all facing the same direction again

How It's Done:

You are using several cards that are double-backed (the image on the face is the same as the image on the back)

Needed & Preparation:

The artwork and instructions for making the cards are found in the Supplements Download related to this book.

Specially printed cards

The set up is as follows:

- Ten Commandments Flashcard (card back)
- Praying Hands (double backed)
- Bible (card back)
- Money (double backed)

- Church (Card Back)

The Moves:

Use the cards that have regular card backs to turn over and motion to the next card in line... this helps get the audience used to the idea that all the card backs are probably the same.

- Casually show the stack of cards and allow the card back of the top card to be seen
- Turn the pack over to show the CHURCH Card
- Show each card one at a time and place each on the back of the pack
- Use the cards that have regular card backs to turn over and motion to the next card in line
- Fan the Cards and one at a time, turn over each card that has a card back and replace it in the fan You now have 3 cards facing backward and 2 cards still facing forward
- Square the cards
- Turn over the pack and begin to fan the cards. The cards appear to all be facing the same direction once again

The Presentation:

“One of the most difficult topics to talk about are the spiritual disciplines — they exist so we have a way to strengthen our relationship with God and grow in our character. On these flashcards we are reminded of some of those spiritual disciplines.”

Begin showing each card as described earlier as you discuss the meaning of each:

*“Here is a card that represents **attending church** - it’s important to go to church in order to fellowship with other believers and worship with others.”*

*“This card is all about **giving and generosity**—tithes and offerings can help further the Kingdom so more people can know Christ.”*

*“Of course, **reading the Bible** is important so we can know what God wants us to know. It’s His written message to us.”*

*“**Prayer** is our way to have a conversation with God—He wants us to tell Him everything. And He even promises that when we pray according to His Will, He will answer.”*

*“**The Ten Commandments** help keep us in line with how to honor God and how we treat others.”*

“Of course there are others. For the time being, let’s focus on the the ones I’m showing you today. Some people think that the spiritual disciplines are just optional obligations... some think they are a nuisance to deal with as they go along in life.”

Begin turning over the cards that have regular card backs as described earlier:

“Some have have the attitude that they only like certain parts of the Bible and they ignore other parts. So, they turn the back on regularly reading God’s Word.”

“Others see church as a waste of time. They want to have their day-off and attend when they feel like it. They turn their back of church attendance.”

“You might be thinking that the Ten Commandments are just the Ten “Suggestions”. They only apply when they fit... maybe it’s assumed that they are an old way of thinking. Perhaps there are those here, who have turned their backs on God’s commands.”

“As I stated before: Spiritual disciplines exist so we have a way to strengthen our relationship with God and grow in our character.”

Casually turn the cards over so the face of the front card is seen. (if you’re following the suggested stack, the Ten Commandments will be on the face).

“God wants you to be successful at both! He’s such a good and loving Father, he provides these disciplines as a benefit.”

Snap your fingers so the audience will “know” something must have “happened”. Begin to fan the cards so they are all seen facing the same direction.

“So, don’t turn your back on the benefits our God has graciously given to us.”

You can customize your cards to emphasize any of the spiritual disciplines to fit your theme.



Lay out your cards so the double-faced cards are in-between the regular cards.

Turn them over and square them together.



Begin your presentation so you are displaying the backs of the cards.



Turn over the stack of cards and show the bottom card and talk about it



Remove this card and show it's back and point to the next card before placing it on the back of the stack of cards.



Continue show each bottom card, removing it and placing it on the back of the stack.



Make sure to show the back of any of the cards that has a card back design.



Once you've shown all the cards, fan all the card so they can be seen.



Turn over each card that has a card back design



Square all the cards together.



Turn the cards over.



After a moment, snap your fingers and fan the cards — showing that they have all, apparently, turned themselves around.

He is Risen Drawer Box



Main Point:

We celebrate Easter as the time that Jesus rose from the dead. His resurrection is the basis for our faith.

Scripture References:

He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

— Matthew 28:6

And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

— 1st Corinthians 5:14

What the Audience Sees:

The magician shows a picture of Jesus as the crucifixion story is told. The picture is torn, punctured, and crumpled as the magician tells about the suffering of Christ. The picture is placed in the drawer of a small box as the burial of Christ is discussed. After a few moments of talking about Christ being dead for 3 days, the drawer is opened to find a message that says “He is Not Here... He is Risen...” The picture of Christ is found elsewhere as the magician claims that Jesus is alive today!

How Its Done:

Easter is a great time to communicate salvation through faith in Christ. Here’s a routine that you could use in your Easter presentations at church and during outreaches. The routine is straightforward and the props are simple.

You are using a drawer box (available at many dealers) and a message that’s been accordion folded so it fits in the drawer box’s “hidden” area.

Needed:

- A Drawer Box — this routine was written with the “Fantastic Box” version. This can be used with other Drawer Boxes that have a small lip at the front of the drawer.
- 2 Pictures that Represent Jesus on paper that will easily fold into fourths — mine is 5.5” X 8.5” (use the artwork at the link provided at the end of the this routine).
- A slip of paper (approximately 1.75” wide X 11” Long) that reads in bold lettering “HE IS NOT HERE. HIS RISEN”.
- A receptacle to keep all of the props during performance.

Preparation:

- Accordion pleat the paper so as a packet it will fit between the inside of the outer drawer and the front of the interior drawer. Leave this box open so it’s easy to pick up by “pinching” or squeezing the interior drawer against the outer drawer to hide the pleated message.
- Pre-fold both “Jesus” pictures. Place one in the receptacle and place one in a hidden place in your performance area.

The Presentation:

“It’s the time of year to talk about Easter. I love Easter time because its when we are all thinking of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Without those events, we have no assurance of salvation! 1st Corinthians 15:17 tells us the if Christ hasn’t been raised from the dead, then our faith is useless and we would still be guilty of our sins.”

“It’s important for you to understand that someone needed to take the punishment for your sin AND mine.

Begin to tear, puncture and couple the picture of Jesus as you talk about how Christ was tortured and hung on a cross).

“Jesus was placed in a borrowed tomb and the disciples and many of His followers thought that that we it... it was the end.”

fold the picture into fourths. Pick up the drawer box by “pinching” or squeezing the interior drawer against the outer drawer to hide the pleated message. Place the “Jesus” picture into the drawer box. Close the box and engage end mechanism that locks the hidden drawer in place.

“Jesus was dead for 3 days. But He actually talked about this event. He said that the men in authority would take him away, and destroy Him... but that he would be restored and come back to life in 3 days. Count with me: 1... 2... 3!

Open the box and continue telling the story of the Jesus followers coming to the tomb and the stone had been moved out of the way — this allows time for the pleaded messaged to open up and fill the drawer. Tilt the drawer box toward the audience so they can see the pleated message in the drawer. Remove the message but hold it so it’s away from the audience.

“One version of the story tells us there was an angel that made the following statement: “He is not here... He is risen just as He said.”

Turn the message so the audience can read it.

“I’m so glad that Jesus rose from the dead! That means that Salvation is available to us today.”

Retrieve the duplicate “Jesus” picture and display it for the audience.

“It means He’s alive today and we can know Him.”



1. Your drawer box has a small section where something flat could fit.



2. Accordion-fold a strip of paper that says: HE IS NOT HERE on one side...



3. ... and: HE IS RISEN JUST AS HE SAID on the other.



4. You will also need a picture that represents Jesus.



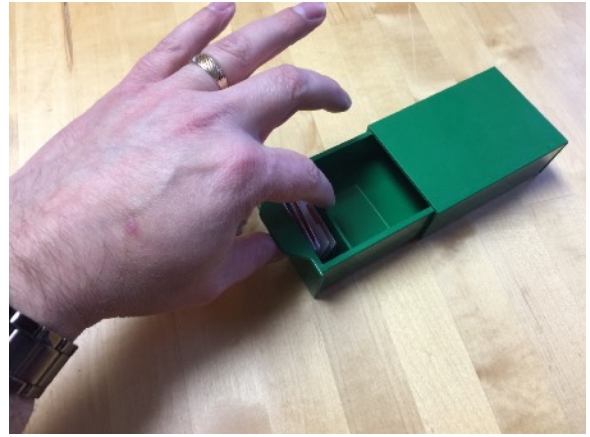
5. Fold the picture of Jesus so it will fit in the drawer box.



6. Place the accordion-folded message and fit it between the inner drawer and outer drawer.



7. Pull the inner drawer out as far as it can while the outer drawer is open.



8. Pinch the inner drawer against the inside of the outer drawer...



9. Hold it closed so you can show the empty inner drawer to the audience.



10. In front of the audience, show the picture of Jesus. Fold it and place it into the inner drawer.



11. Close the drawer. After a moment of talking about Jesus' death and burial, open the drawer so the inner drawer is hidden and allow the accordion-folded message to open out before tilting it to show the audience. Remove the message and show both sides.

