

### **Activity Tie-in: Archery**

Object: Bow and Arrow

Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:8,9 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith. And this not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. Not by works, so that no one can boast."

Lesson: We cannot save ourselves no matter how hard we try. We need Jesus to save us.

### **Introductory Ideas**

- Have students try to shoot three targets. Make sure that they get a bullseye on each one! It has to be exactly in the center, not even slightly off.
- Set up a competition -- who can get the most bullseyes?
- Tell them that every bullseye that the students get will cancel out a missed arrow.
- Let them do everything to achieve a bullseye -- move the targets closer, give as many tries as needed.

### **Lesson Suggestions**

- In the Old Testament, one of the words God uses for sin is Hattah. (The first H is pronounced like clearing phlegm from your throat. Would be fun for the students to say.) This word literally means "To miss a target".
- God in His Word says that in order to pass, you have to hit every target dead center. You can't miss even once.
- Jesus is the best archer of all time. He never once missed his target.
- God lets us use Jesus' targets as our own, so we can pass his class.
- No matter how hard we try, we can't pass the class on our own. We need Jesus.

### **Questions for Interactive Lesson**

- What are some ways that we try to earn God's favor without Jesus?
  - Doing good things to people. We might think that we can cancel out our bad things with good, but God doesn't forget the missed targets.
  - Comparing ourselves to others. Again, just because we did better than someone else does not mean we passed the class.
  - Thinking the arrow was "pretty close." God demands absolute perfection.
- Why did Jesus' bullseyes become our bullseyes?
  - He shed his blood on the cross. It was completely out of love for us, and not because of anything we could do.

### **Closing Prayer**

Dear Lord, thank you so much for sending your Son to do the things we could never accomplish on our own. Please help us to recognize that we cannot save ourselves, and that we need you to save us. Keep us from taking pride in our own good works, and keep us from despair when we fail. Our eyes are always on you, Lord. Amen.