

Lutheran Pioneers Object Lesson Outline

Activity tie-in: Camp Sites

- Object – Tent (*preferably a simple, small one that is easy to set up*)
- Bible Verse – 2 Corinthians 5:1 “Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.”
- Lesson – Our life on earth as a temporary dwelling place before we reach our heavenly home.

Introduction Ideas

- You could start by asking the group who has gone camping before (whether in an RV, a camper, or a tent – it doesn’t matter).
- You might ask the kids what their camping trip was like and what unique challenges or experiences it brought.
- Maybe ask the kids to offer their ideas about which aspects of camping are not so comfortable.
- Ask for a few volunteers to help you set up the tent. Make sure to have the kids hammer stakes into the ground, as this will serve as a good visual in the lesson.

Lesson Suggestions

- Move from the introduction to the lesson by applying the tent set-up to our temporary earthly dwelling. The picture of someone “building” a tent and hammering stakes into the ground can be an analogy for the way humans build their earthly life. With our human hands we establish for ourselves a temporary dwelling place, hammering figurative stakes into the earth.
- As a family knows that a camping trip lasts only a few days, we know that our time on earth lasts only a little while when compared to the eternity we will spend in heaven.
- Tents for camping are not very sturdy. Similarly, our mortal bodies on earth are constantly prone to destruction. (At this point you could read the Scripture passage. You may want to also read verses 2-5.)
- You could wrap up the lesson by discussing how our home in heaven is safe, sturdy, and comfortably without any of the difficulties of an earthly life in our earthly body.

Questions for Interactive Lesson

- After looking at the section of Scripture, you could ask:
 - Since our “eternal house in heaven” is built by *God*, what does that mean for us?
 - This home is strong, perfect, and permanent, without pain or sin.
 - (v.4) What assurance can we draw from our Savior Jesus to know that our mortal bodies will “be swallowed up by life”?
 - As God’s children, we share in Jesus’s resurrection. The empty tomb is our assurance of eternal life.

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, you came to earth to live, die, and rise again for us, so that we may one day go from this temporary dwelling to an eternal home in heaven. Thank you for your redemptive work and for sharing with us your resurrection and eternal life. Forgive us for the times we get too caught up in this world and set our eyes on things that will only pass away. Please strengthen us to live for you as we travel through this temporary home. In Jesus’ Name we pray. Amen.