

Stewardship Sabbath – April 2018
Children’s Story/Object Lesson
By Jackie Bishop

INFLUENCE

Option 1: Colored Glasses

Supplies: Two clear, identical drinking glasses, bottles of red and black food coloring

Cover the food coloring bottles with white paper. On the bottle of red food coloring, print the words, “Positive Influence.” On the bottle of black food coloring, print the words, “Negative Influence.”

Place the glasses where the kids can see them clearly. Fill the glasses almost full of water.

ASK: How do you define the word “influence”?

SAY: Everyone influences others positively or negatively. We are always an influence. With every choice of words and actions, we have an influence for good (positive) or bad (negative).

ASK: What are some things that could be considered a positive influence? (Helping someone carry groceries, encouraging a friend who is sad, obeying your parents.)

ASK: What are some things that could be considered a negative influence? (Calling your friends names, disobeying your teacher or parents, taking something that is not yours.)

ASK: Can you think of something you’ve done that has been a positive influence for someone else? (Wait for answers.)

ASK: How much influence does it take to make a difference?

At this point, place one drop of black food coloring into one of the glasses. The kids will notice how quickly the color spreads and the pure water in the dish is changed or spoiled.

SAY: Did you notice how one drop can spread and change the water? That's the way it is with negative influence. It spreads.

ASK: Can I have a volunteer to take the drop out of the water? (Of course, it can't be done.)

SAY: That's how it is with influence. Once we've influence for good or bad, we can't take it back. But notice how one drop of positive influence also spreads, too! Wouldn't you like to have your influence be for good and spread just like this color?

Remember, the more we talk to Jesus and read His Word, the more our words and actions will be positive influence and will impact lots of people for Jesus.

Option 2: Come Closer

The same idea can be conveyed using a positively and negatively charged magnet, along with some metal objects.

The positive charge serves as an agent to "draw" the metal objectives closer and the negative charge serves to push things away.

In the same way, our positive words and choices help to lift Jesus up so that He can draw others to Him. Our negative choices push people away from understanding God's love and plan for our lives.

Option 3: Cooking Panda - Kitchen Experiments with Kids!

Go to the "Stewardship Ministries - North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists" Facebook page and find the Cooking Panda: Kitchen Experiments with Kids video. This 15-second video show you a cool experiment to share with your kids that's a great illustration of the effects of influence. Try it at home first!