

Activity: Blinded By Sin



**FAMILY TIME
TRAINING**

Teaching Goal: Sin can blind us and lead to more sin in our lives.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

1 John 2:10-11 Whoever loves his brother lives in light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

Materials: 2 bowls
1 cup uncooked white beans
1 cup uncooked brown or red beans (distinctly different from white beans)
Blindfold

In Advance: Mix white and brown beans in a bowl. Use 3 parts brown to 1 part white beans.

- I. Play theme song
- II. Pray
- III. Review last lesson
- IV. Lesson and discussion

- ✓ Words written in **bold** are when the leader is speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A. DISCUSSION: When a blind person wants to go somewhere that they've never been before, how do they get there? *Listen.* They need the help of a friend or guide. **Did you know that we can be blind spiritually? We can be blind and not see Jesus as the Son of God. We can be blind to knowing when our words, actions or behaviors are wrong.** Invite a volunteer to read 2 Corinthians 4:3-4.

Spiritual blindness begins when we allow sin to become a regular part of our lives. Just like the blind person needs help getting someplace new, we need God's help to overcome spiritual blindness.

Invite a volunteer to read 1 John 2:10-11 **What does it mean to love your brother in light?** *Listen.* Love your brother as Jesus commands us to love. Be helpful. Tell the truth. Serve. Talk about Jesus. **The person who loves his brother does not stumble, he can see! What does it mean when it says; the person who hates his brother cannot see?** *Listen.* When we hate our brother, we are not loving as Jesus teaches, so we are sinning. Not loving may include saying mean things. Hitting. Not caring. **The person who hates his brother is lost in the darkness of sin.**

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B. **ACTIVITY:** Set the two bowls on the table. One is filled with the mixed beans and the other is empty. **The bowl filled with beans represents all the choices we can make every day—choices in what we do, say and think. The dark beans represent choices that are sin. The white beans represent choices that Jesus would want us to make. The empty second bowl represents our life. Pick out 20 white beans and put them in the second bowl. Let every child have a turn. Because you can see, you can avoid the dark beans that represent sin. When you can see spiritually, you can fill your life with good, Godly choices in what you do, say, and think.**

Now, wearing a blindfold try the activity again and pick out 20 white beans. Give each child a turn. Select 20 beans and drop them into the second bowl. When the child is finished, take the blindfold off. **Could you tell the difference between the white and dark beans when you were blindfolded? No. In the same way, when we are spiritually blind—which means having sin in our lives—it can be hard to know or choose what is right. Now that your blindfold has been removed, pick out the dark beans and put them back in the other bowl.**

What kind of choices do you think can blind us from following God? *Listen.* Telling a lie to cover up another lie. Peer pressure...doing something wrong because others are pressuring you. Not comparing our daily entertainment choices—TV, video, movies, computer—with what the Bible teaches about modesty, violence and evil.

Each day when we pray we need to ask God to show us the sin in our lives that we cannot see. God will help remove the spiritual blindness in our lives—he can remove the “blindfold”.

V. Close in Prayer

VI. Pass It On: Make an extra copy of this lesson and *pass it on* to another family.