

LESSON

8



# “GANDER’S DAY”

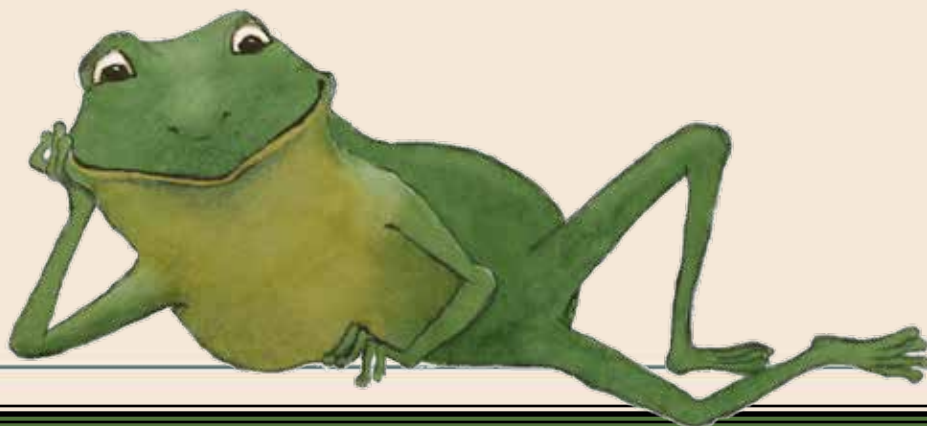
Children’s Ministry  
Lessons for ages 5 to 10



Written by Lisa Updike

(Based on the award-winning book *Frog’s Rainy-Day Story and Other Fables*)

Published by Committee on Discipleship Ministries, Lawrenceville, GA



# Lesson 8

## “GANDER’S DAY”



### Unit Bible Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 10:5

*We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ . . .*

### Today:

- Explain that the Holy Spirit transforms our minds through the hearing and reading of God’s Word.
- Review the entire memory verse one last time.
- Moral: “All that amuses will soon be past; the wise invest in things that last.”
- First Catechism questions 1-4 and 14-15
- Bible Lesson: Luke 14, Jesus talks about a banquet.

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### Preparation:

- Make a copy of the “At-a-Glance” if you are using it or have other teachers helping you.
- Make copies of the skit and decide who will perform it.
- Decide if you will use the video of the fable or will read it yourself from the book, *Frog’s Rainy-Day Story and Other Fables* (Make sure you have a copy of the book!)
- Decide on a craft option and gather the materials needed.
- Decide if you will provide a snack and gather what is needed.
- Make a copy of the Taking It Home page for each student.

### Hello! (Gathering time 10 minutes):

Teachers or small group leaders welcome children, provide them with their nametags, and introduce them to one another.

### “Getting Closer Questions”

- If you could plan the perfect day, what would you do?
- What is your favorite meal or place to go out to eat?



## Getting Started (10-15 minutes):

- Use CDs, DVDs, or a song leader to sing 2-3 songs of your choice with motions. Then seat children for the lesson and discussion.
- Review the Unit's Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 10:5

***We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God and take every thought captive to obey Christ . . .***

**Teacher:** We have our Bible verse memorized super well! Let's say it all together.

## 2 Corinthians 10:5

***We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ . . .***

This Bible verse is all about the way we think and all about guarding our minds. It's only twenty-one words, but it is rich in teaching us how to follow the Lord!

We learned that our arguments (or reasons we think things) must be in line with God's Word and that our opinions must also be in line with God's Word. If they are not, well, . . . we must destroy them! "Taking our thoughts captive" means we are constantly on guard to be aware of what we are thinking. We've learned that our actions come from our thoughts, so we must make sure we thoughtfully re-pond, instead of just react. We must make sure what we think is true!

And where do we find truth? Where? Right! In the Bible.

The Bible tells us to be transformed by the renewal of our minds. Paul wrote to the Romans: ***Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by the testing you may discern [or know] what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.***

— Romans 12:2

The Holy Spirit transforms (or changes) our minds through the hearing and reading of God's Word! As the Holy Spirit is at work in us through God's Word, our mind is renewed . . . made clean again! Yay!

In our skit today, we get a little glimpse of how that works.

## Mini-Skit (3-4 minutes):

*(This can be acted out by youth volunteers, or teacher and assistant. Two **Kids** are sitting at a table. One has play dough and the other has a Bible. Each talks to the audience but not to each other.)*

**Kid 1:** See this play dough? It has the potential to be all kinds of things, depending on the way that I shape it. *(Shapes it as talking)* I could roll it into a long skinny snake! Sssssssss! Or, I can make a round ball . . . I can turn the round ball into a cube by flattening the sides! *(Keeps playing with the play dough)*



**Kid 2:** Our minds are similar to play dough. There are people and things all around that want to shape the way we think: teachers, parents, friends, TV commercials, and the culture we live in.

**Kid 1:** I could make a bird's nest and fill it with tiny little eggs! *(Holds it up for audience to see)*  
Cute!

**Kid 2:** The difference is that this play dough has no say in what, or who will shape it.

**Kid 1:** I can poke holes in it with my finger like this. Mush! Mush! Mush! . . .

**Kid 2:** We, on the other hand, have a choice in what transforms our minds. We can be active participants!

**Kid 1:** Roll it, and pat it, and mark it with a B . . .

**Kid 2:** *(Holds up Bible)* For instance, we can read, and study, and learn from the Word of God. We can listen to the preaching of God's Word. Our minds can be changed, transformed . . . renewed by the BIBLE through the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us!

**Kid 1:** A cookie cutter! I need a cookie cutter! *(Keeps playing with the play dough)*

**Kid 2:** As we know God's Word, we are able to destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God. As we know God's Word, we recognize thoughts that are false and can take them captive to obey Christ, and as we know God's Word, we are changed, transformed, renewed. A Bible word for that is sanctified!

**Kid 1:** Mash, mash, mash . . . flat as a pancake. . .

**Kid 2:** Being sanctified means that by the work of the Holy Spirit, we become more and more holy—we become more like Jesus!

**Kids 1 and 2** *(Together, as Kid 1 holds up play dough shape and Kid 2 holds up the Bible.):*  
Ta da! Transformed!

*They freeze in place until the teacher starts speaking, and then walk off.*

**Teacher:** Yes! Our minds are changed by the Word of God as we participate in doing exactly what our Bible verse says to do. So, let's stand up and say it all together one more time, nice and loud!

## **2 Corinthians 10:5**

***We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God And take every thought captive to obey Christ . . .***

**Great job!**

*(Seat children.)*



## Introduction to Fable Lesson (1-2 minutes):

Now, onto this week's fabulous, fantastic, faithful fable!

Do you remember Miss Hen from last week? She turned down all those roosters' proposals of marriage. She made excuses instead of making a commitment. Of course, while marriage is a very good thing, being single is also a gift from God. The problem wasn't that Miss Hen didn't accept the proposals, but that she made excuses instead of answering truthfully.

The lesson said, "Our minds invent reasons as places to hide, from the ideas that threaten our comfort and pride."

It's as if she thought she could live for her own purposes instead of the purposes that God might have for her. She must have forgotten who made her! So, let's review . . .

**Q1: Who made you?** (God)

**Q2: What else did God make?** (God made all things.)

**Q3: Why did God make you?** (For His own glory)

**Q4: How can you glorify God?** (By loving Him and doing what He commands)

**Q14: Where do you learn how to love and obey God?** (In the Bible alone)

Now, we know that the Bible is God's Word to us. I wonder if you remember the question we introduced last week.

**Q. 15: Who wrote the Bible?** (Chosen men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit)

Terrific!

Now, raise your hand if you have ever gotten an invitation to something. Sometimes we get invited to something by a phone call or a text. Sometimes we might get an invitation in the mail. That's really exciting! When I get an invitation, I feel pretty special. Well, Gander was excited to get an important invitation too, until he heard what day it was for . . .

Let's see what happens.

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## Fable Story (4 minutes):

(You may use the video or read "Gander's Day" from the book, *Frog's Rainy-Day Story and Other Fables*.)

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## Fable Follow-Up (5-6 minutes):

(Options: You may discuss these questions now in the large group, or circle up in small groups with leaders, or ask these later in small groups as the children work on crafts, depending upon your time.)

**Teacher:** Let's discuss our final fable.

1. Gander jumped out of bed and exclaimed, "This is my day! I get to do exactly what I want!" What is wrong with that statement? (This is the day that the Lord has made . . . it



belongs to the Lord; We are not to live for our own pleasure, but for the glory of the Lord.)

2. **Why was Gander angry and frustrated with the king?** (The king had invited Gander on a day when Gander already had plans; the king locked the door and did not answer it for Gander, who was very late.)
3. **What did Gander think was more important, fun and games, or honoring the king?** (Fun and games)
4. **What actually IS most important: fun and games, living for the moment, or living in such a way as to give God glory?**

Let's discuss what the wisdom of the world and what the wisdom of the Word have to say about that last question. The world says:

***"If you want to make God laugh, tell him about your plans."*** (Woody Allen, American filmmaker)

And . . .

***"Pleasure is the object, duty, and the goal of all rational creatures."*** (Voltaire, French writer and philosopher)

But we know the wisdom of the world usually isn't really wisdom at all. We know we were *not* created for our own pleasure and that making pleasure our goal in life will only lead us away from what is truly fulfilling, a relationship with God!

So, let's hear the Wisdom of the Word:

Jesus replied with this story: ***"A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations. When the banquet was ready, he sent his servant to tell the guests, 'Come, the banquet is ready.' But they all began making excuses."*** – Luke 14:16-18 (NLT)

Jesus also said, . . .

***"Work hard to enter the narrow door to God's Kingdom for many will try to enter but will fail. When the master of the house has locked the door, it will be too late. You will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Lord, open the door for us!' But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from.'"*** – Luke 13:24-25 (NLT)

I like going to Subway, or McDonalds, and I like Chick-fil-A, too! It's a treat to be able to go out for a quick bite to eat, but there is a huge difference between going to one of those places and going to a banquet! A banquet, well, that involves so much more!

A banquet is usually a meal celebrating a special occasion like a wedding or honoring someone for a very special accomplishment.

Banquets take weeks of planning. The chef carefully plans the meal and needs to know exactly how many people will attend, because it would be terrible to run out of food. And because there is typically fancy, expensive food, it would be wasteful to make too much.

To receive an invitation to a banquet is a great honor. The person hosting the banquet is spending a lot of money, and so the guest list is carefully thought out. One does not refuse such an invitation or take it lightly like Gander did. It would be very wrong to say, "Yes, I will come!" and then back out after the host had paid money for the food and the chef had so carefully prepared a meal for you!





## Bible Lesson from Luke 14 (4-5 minutes):

Let's look more closely at Jesus's parable about the banquet which was planned and the invited guests who made excuses.

In Luke 14, we read that one Sabbath, Jesus went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees. As they ate, the talk about the table turned to the theme of banquets.

***Jesus told a story to those around the table with Him, saying, "A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. And at the time for the banquet, he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.'***

(How rude! Both of them knew they had the banquet that day and had already accepted! They should have planned their business with that in mind!)

***And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'***

(Well, marrying a wife and wanting to be with her is a good thing! It's even reason to have your own banquet, but he was rude and lacking gratitude to wait until the day of the banquet to decline!)

***Thus, the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.'"*** — Luke 14:17-24 (ESV)

Now, here is what I want you to understand: Jesus has made all things ready for *us* to come and receive from Him. And yet many reject the invitation, just as Gander had been given the great honor of being the Royal Gander, he rejected the higher calling for the passing fun of a carnival.

The question for you, boys and girls, is this. Will YOU respond to the invitation of King Jesus by saying, "Yes! I will come to Your banquet! I will be part of Your Kingdom! I will follow You!" or will you say, "No. I'm too busy having fun. I'm too busy living my life for myself the way I want to live it."

Now listen carefully. You do not deserve to enter the great banquet of King Jesus, because your sin has made you dirty. Can you imagine going into a fine banquet hall with muddy, filthy, manure-covered clothes? No! Of course not!

Before you would dare go to the banquet like that you would first clean up, taking a warm shower, washing off the yuck and grime, and then you would put on your newest nicest, fanciest clothes.



But the truth is we do not have any way to clean ourselves of our sin. There is no shower, or soap, no clean clothes that we can obtain on our own to take away the muck and filth of our sin. We are helpless to prepare ourselves to enter the presence of God. We cannot wash ourselves of our sin, no matter how hard we try. The door to God's banquet hall is shut tightly to anyone in such a state!

And yet God wants us to come.

So, Jesus—perfect, pure, clean Jesus—came to earth and walked among us. When He died on the cross, He took our filthiness and dirtiness caused by sin on Himself. Remember that word “imputation”? The sin, the dirtiness, the filthiness that was ours, that we could not get rid of, was placed on Him, as if HE were the dirty, filthy, manure-covered one. Then His purity, cleanness, and freshness was put on us, just as if we had never sinned. He clothes us in robes of righteousness, making us ready to enter into the royal banquet, into the presence of God!

The question is . . . will you accept the invitation?

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**Lesson Discussion** (10-15 minutes. This may be done at tables while students busy their hands with the craft, in small groups, or still part of large group.):

1. What is it that makes us unacceptable to enter into the banquet hall of the true King, Jesus?
  2. Is there anything we can do to make ourselves acceptable, like being nice, praying more, reading our Bibles, etc.?
  3. What is the only way to be ready to enter into the presence of God?
- 

**Craft Options** (15-20 minutes):

### Option 1: Bath Bombs

**Recipe** (per bath bomb):

- 4 tablespoons baking soda
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 2 tablespoons Epsom Salt
- 2 tablespoons citric acid
- Several drops of essential oil
- 1 tablespoon of olive oil
- several drops food coloring

Combine ingredients and shape into a ball. Wrap in tulle and tie with a ribbon. Set aside to dry.

**Before Class:**

- Cut tulle into 12” squares.
- Cut assorted ribbon into 12” lengths.
- Cover workstations with plastic cloth.





- Premeasure dry ingredients into a paper bowl for each student and place a plastic spoon in each bowl.
- Place a small jar of olive oil, squeeze bottles of food coloring, and a small bottle of essential oil at each workstation for 3-5 students.

### During Class:

- Explain that Jesus washes us clean by His blood. We are making “bath bombs” to remind us of the cleansing power of Jesus, washing us clean to make us fit for the heavenly banquet!
- Have each child stir gently to combine their dry ingredients. Have them take turns adding 4-5 drops of food coloring, 3-4 drops of essential oil, and a tablespoon of olive oil. Stir gently and then use hands to combine and form into a ball.
- Place in the center of a square of tulle, draw up edges and tie with ribbon.
- Let sit for at least four hours before using by dropping into the tub.

## Option 2: Gander Washcloth

### Before Class:

- Purchase one small washcloth per child.
- Using orange felt, cut 1 small triangle for a gander beak per child.
- Gather one rubber band per child.
- Gather two googly eyes per child.
- Cut 8” of ¼” ribbon per child.
- Gather enough tacky glue or fabric glue for every 3-5 students to share.



### During Class:

- Explain that Gander missed the best invitation ever because he was concerned with less important things. We don't want to be like that! This “Gander Washcloth” can serve as a reminder to let Jesus wash us clean so that, unlike Gander, we will be ready to respond to the call of the King!
- Demonstrate each of the steps to the children as you direct them:
  - Have students fold the washcloth in half to make a triangle.
  - Then, starting at the top of the triangle, have them roll it into a long roll.
  - Next, they will fold the roll in half.
  - Take the left top of the roll, fold it over the right side, and take the right top and fold over to the left side, making a little loop.
  - Pinch the top of the loop where the edges cross and make a “head” securing it with the rubber band. Tie the ribbon around the “neck.”
  - Fluff out ends to make “wings.”
  - Using a small drop of glue, affix the beak and two eyes to complete the Gander washcloth!

### SIDE BAR: Host a Banquet

What fun you could have hosting your own “**Fabulous, Fantastic, Faithful Fables**” banquet! It could be as simple as a family potluck hosted by your children's program or as fancy as a catered sit-down meal. Perhaps you could share a couple of the stories from the book or even have children perform the fables for their parents! See the invitation at the end of this lesson.



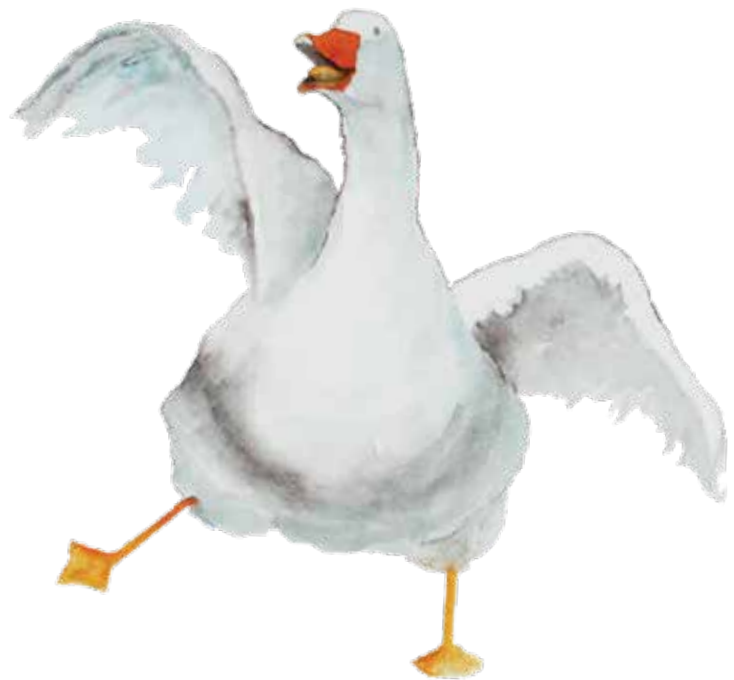
### **Snack** (optional):

This may be passed out as kids arrive, eaten during welcome, or eaten during discussion and activity time at the end.

- Use “fancy” plates and cups for a royal banquet. Maybe use purple plastic tablecloths and gold paper plates. Serve fancy sandwiches with crusts cut off, fruit kabobs—any kind of snack that the kids would perceive as fancy and special—perhaps candies wrapped in tulle and tied with a ribbon.
  - Popcorn from Gander’s carnival
- 

### **Dismissal** (5 minutes):

- Stretch Activities
- Prayer
- Take Home: Coloring sheets and/or study guide



# "GANDER'S DAY"



## Faithful Fables At-A-Glance (LESSON 8)

### Hello!

- ☐ Welcome Students
- ☐ Check Name Tags
- ☐ Take Attendance
- ☐ "Getting Closer"

### Know! What's going on today?

- As students arrive, do the things in the "Hello!" box.
- Lead by example! Encourage student participation in singing songs and memory work time.
- Lesson time! Help students pay attention and engage in the lesson.
- "Grow!" Discussion and application of the lesson.
- Activity time! Set up the activity supplies. Help students complete the activity so they can "Show!" others what they learned.
- "Go!" Follow the instructions below to make sure we send the students off well.

### Grow! Application discussion questions for small groups

- What is it that makes us unacceptable to enter into the banquet hall of the true King, Jesus?
- Is there anything we can do to make ourselves acceptable, like being nice, praying more, reading our Bibles, etc.?
- What is the only way to be ready to enter into the presence of God?

### GO!

Before dismissing children to parents, make sure they put away all materials, clean up their area and gather all their belongings including their "Taking It Home" papers.

### Getting Closer

#### (Discussion Starters)

- If you could plan the perfect day, what would you do?
- What is your favorite meal or place to go out to eat?

### Show! Activities that show what you know!

- Use today's craft activity to review the lesson with the children.
- Have them tell you how they will use this craft to explain the lesson to their parents and friends!



## “GANDER’S DAY”



# TAKING IT HOME (LESSON 8)

## Questions! For the Car

- What was “Gander’s Day” about?
- Which was your favorite of all the fables?
- What was the Bible lesson about?

## Questions! For Later

- Do you know what separates us from God?
- Is there anything we can do on our own to cleanse ourselves of our sin?
- What does it mean to believe on Jesus to be saved?

## Lesson from Today’s Fable

**All that amuses will soon be past; the wise invest in things that last.**

## Wisdom of the WORLD

**What’s wrong with these thoughts?**

*If you want to make God laugh, tell Him about your plans.*

— WOODY ALLEN, AMERICAN FILMMAKER

*Pleasure is the object, duty and the goal of all rational creatures*

— VOLTAIRE, FRENCH WRITER  
& PHILOSOPHER

## Wisdom of the WORD

**How are these thoughts different from what the world says?**

*Jesus replied, with this story: “A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations. . . When the banquet was ready, he sent his servant to tell the guests, ‘Come, the banquet is ready.’ But they all began making excuses.” — Luke 14:16-18 (NLT)*

*“Work hard to enter the narrow door to God’s kingdom, for many will try to enter but will fail. When the master of the house has locked the door, it will be too late. You will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Lord, open the door for us!’ But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’”*

— Luke 13:24-25 (NLT)

## Bible Lesson TODAY

In **Luke 14:16-24**, Jesus was eating the Sabbath meal at the home of one of the leaders of the Pharisees when the conversation turned to banquets. He told a story of a man who invited several friends to a banquet, but on the day of the banquet, though they had at first accepted, they now declined. So he sent his servant to gather people from the city, the highways, and byways.

Although we have been invited to the great banquet hall of King Jesus, we are dressed in the filthy, manure-covered clothes of this world: sin. We have no way to cleanse ourselves or clothe ourselves to be fit for His presence. So, Jesus took our filthy sin upon Himself on the cross. It’s as if our sin belongs to Him. In this amazing transaction, He clothed us with His righteousness, fitting us for the great banquet hall. Now, the question is this: Will we accept the invitation to the banquet?

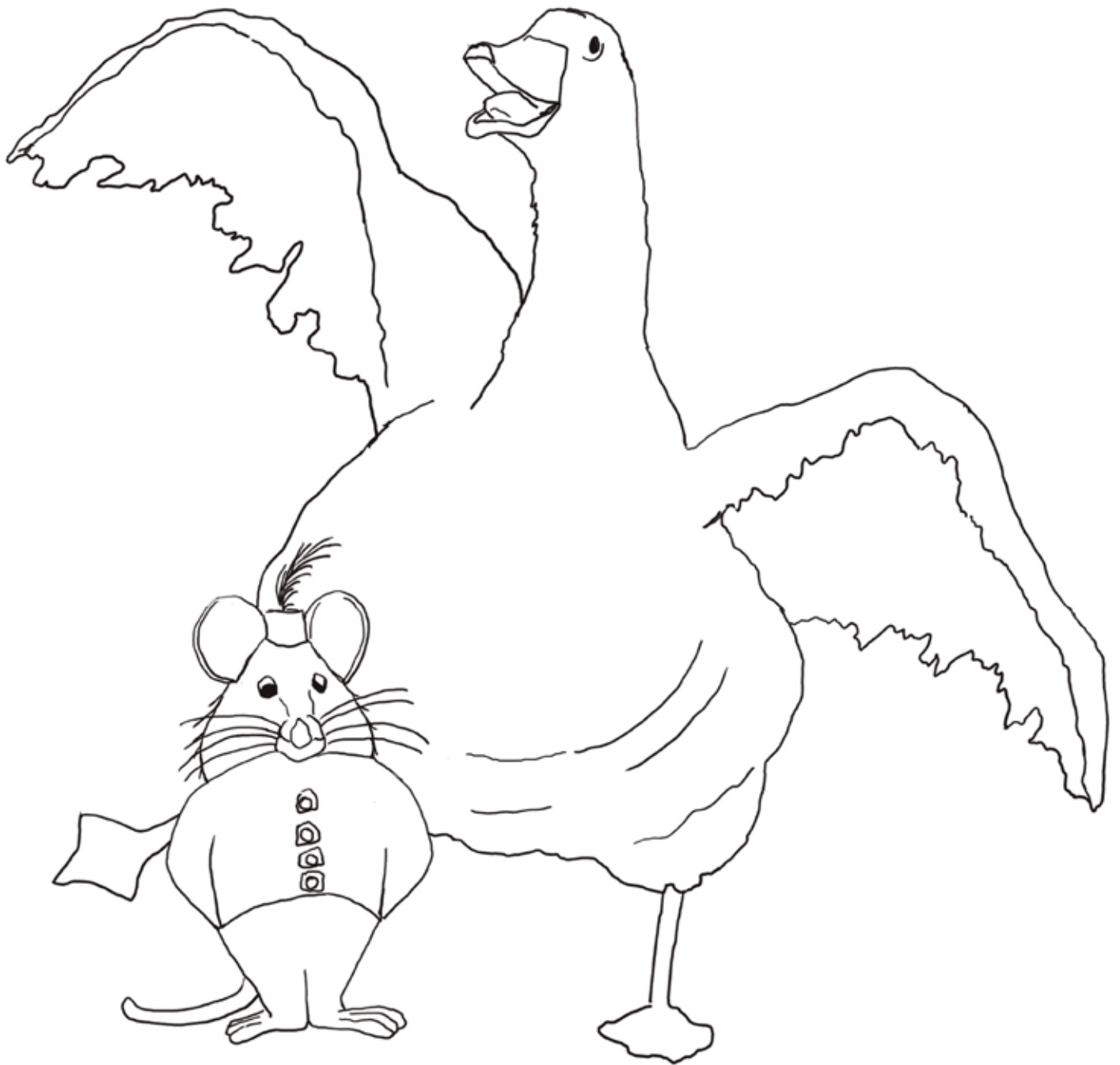
## Bible Memory

***We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ...***

— 2 Corinthians 10:5



# GANDER & MOUSE



Have you ever heard of a mouse and a gander being best friends?

Do you like Mouse's spiffy outfit?



WEEK 8  
BIBLE MEMORY

**We destroy arguments and every  
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**2 Corinthians 10:5**

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# Lesson 8

## Materials List

### Every Lesson

- Curriculum Guide
- Bible
- *Frog's Rainy-Day Story and Other Fables* book or audio-visual file
- Choice of music
- Prepared Bible Memory Cards for current week's lesson (1 per student)
- At-a-Glance (for each small group leader if using in a large group context)
- Taking It Home Papers for current week's lesson (1 per student)
- Coloring sheets for each week as desired

### Lesson 8

- **Skit Props:** Bible, container of play dough
- **Craft Option, 1 Bath Bombs:**
  - Boxes of baking soda
  - Box of cornstarch
  - Box of Epsom salt
  - Box of citric acid
  - Bottle of essential oil
  - Bottle of olive oil
  - Food coloring
  - 12" squares of tulle, one per child
  - 6" pieces of ¼" ribbon, one per child
  - Paper bowls, one per child
  - Plastic spoons, one per child
  - Plastic to cover tables
- **Craft Option 2, Gander Washcloths:**
  - Small washcloths, one per child
  - Orange felt
  - Rubber bands, one per child
  - Googly eyes, two per child
  - 8" pieces of ¼" ribbon, one per child.
  - Several bottles of tacky glue or fabric glue
- **Snack Option 1: "Fancy Feast"**
  - A variety of "fancy" foods: crust-less sandwiches, cheese and crackers, fruit kabobs, etc.
- **Snack Option 2: Gander's Carnival Popcorn**
  - Popped corn, about 1 cup per child



# Lesson 8

## Mini Skit

(This can be acted out by youth volunteers, or teacher and assistant. Two **Kids** are sitting at a table. One has play dough and the other has a Bible. Each talks to the audience but not to each other.)

**Kid 1:** See this play dough? It has the potential to be all kinds of things, depending on the way that I shape it. *(Shapes it as talking)* I could roll it into a long skinny snake! Ssssssss! Or, I can make a round ball . . . I can turn the round ball into a cube by flattening the sides! *(Keeps playing with the play dough)*

**Kid 2:** Our minds are similar to play dough. There are people and things all around that want to shape the way we think: teachers, parents, friends, TV commercials, and the culture we live in.

**Kid 1:** I could make a bird's nest and fill it with tiny little eggs! *(Holds it up for audience to see)* Cute!

**Kid 2:** The difference is that this play dough has no say in what, or who will shape it.

**Kid 1:** I can poke holes in it with my finger like this. Mush! Mush! Mush! . . .

**Kid 2:** We, on the other hand, have a choice in what transforms our minds. We can be active participants!

**Kid 1:** Roll it, and pat it, and mark it with a B . . .

**Kid 2:** *(Holds up Bible)* For instance, we can read, and study, and learn from the Word of God. We can listen to the preaching of God's Word. Our minds can be changed, transformed . . . renewed by the BIBLE through the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us!

**Kid 1:** A cookie cutter! I need a cookie cutter! *(Keeps playing with the play dough)*

**Kid 2:** As we know God's Word, we are able to destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God. As we know God's Word, we recognize thoughts that are false and can take them captive to obey Christ, and as we know God's Word, we are changed, transformed, renewed. A Bible word for that is sanctified!

**Kid 1:** Mash, mash, mash . . . flat as a pancake. . .

**Kid 2:** Being sanctified means that by the work of the Holy Spirit, we become more and more holy—we become more like Jesus!

**Kids 1 and 2** *(Together, as Kid 1 holds up play dough shape and Kid 2 holds up the Bible.):* Ta da! Transformed!

*They freeze in place until the teacher starts speaking, and then walk off.*





*You are invited to*  
A **Fancy Feast** to celebrate  
The Wisdom of God's Word

We have been learning to distinguish between the “wisdom” of the world and the true wisdom found only in God's Word. We will share with you how some fabulous, fantastic, faithful fables have demonstrated the differences between what the world tells us and what God's Word tells us. We hope you can join us.

**When:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Where:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RSVP:** \_\_\_\_\_



8 LESSON PLANS FOR USE WITH FROG'S RAINY-DAY STORY



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