

4 Children 8 Objects Part 4

Time Frames: Acknowledging God First

Introduction — Learning Through Object Lessons

Let us continue our teaching journey.

Throughout Scripture, God uses physical, visible things to help us understand spiritual truths. Jesus Himself used everyday objects and situations to teach eternal principles. The purpose of an object lesson is not simply to look at an object—it is to allow something we can see and understand to help us grasp something spiritual.

Today, we continue with the object of **duct tape**.

1. Duct Tape Represents Temporary Solutions

Duct tape has value.

It works.

It provides support.

It has many uses.

But duct tape is still a **temporary fix**.

There are situations in life where temporary methods are necessary. For example, a man-made prosthetic can replace a missing body part and provide tremendous help. Yet it remains something temporary in comparison with eternity.

This gives us an important spiritual question:

Am I building my life around temporary solutions, or around what is eternal?

The problem is not that temporary things have no value.

The problem comes when we allow temporary things to become our **source**.

2. Temporary Things Can Choke the Word

Jesus addressed this principle in the parable of the sower.

Mark 4:18–19 (NKJV)

“Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”

Notice what can happen:

The Word is heard—but it becomes choked.

Why?

The cares of this world, riches, and desires for other things can occupy so much of our attention that God's Word no longer receives the priority it should.

So, we need to ask ourselves:

Are “things” choking our time with our Source?

How much time are we spending on the temporal?

How much time are we spending with God?

How much time are we spending in His Word?

3. Temporal vs. Eternal

Man-made things eventually wear out.

Duct tape eventually loses its usefulness.

Repairs eventually need to be repaired.

Material possessions can deteriorate, disappear, or be taken away.

But God's Word is different.

Isaiah 40:8 (RSV)

“The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.”

This gives us a powerful visual:

DUCT TAPE → TEMPORARY

GOD'S WORD → ETERNAL

The duct tape represents something that can provide temporary support.

The Bible represents the Word of God that remains.

The question is not whether we should ever use temporary things.

The question is:

What are we structuring our lives around?

4. Security vs. Anxiety

One of the character qualities we want to keep in mind is:

Security vs. Anxiety

The goal is to structure our lives around what is eternal and cannot ultimately be destroyed or taken away.

When our lives are built primarily around temporary things, those things can produce uncertainty because they can change.

But when our lives are structured around God's eternal Word, we have an unchanging foundation.

God's Word, rightly divided and understood, is compared in the teaching material to **gold, silver, and precious stones**—things of lasting value.

5. Make Time for God

If we believe that God's Word is eternal, then our schedules should demonstrate that belief.

We need to:

- Make time for prayer.
- Make time for Bible study.
- Apply what we learn.
- Include delegated authority in our understanding and practice.
- Develop the habit of acknowledging God first.

This is not simply about finding extra time.

It is about **establishing priorities**.

What comes first?

What receives our attention?

What directs our decisions?

6. Acknowledge God First

Proverbs 3:5–6 (NKJV)

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”

This gives us a practical pattern.

BEGIN

Before we begin an activity, seek God's direction.

CONTINUE

As we move forward, depend upon His continual support and direction.

COMPLETE

When the task is finished, recognize and honor God.

The commentary included in the teaching describes this as beginning, continuing, and ending our work with God—seeking His direction at the beginning and His support throughout the process.

7. Ask the Eternal-Value Question

Before we enter into an activity, we can stop and ask:

“Does this activity have eternal value?”

That question can change the way we use our time.

It helps us evaluate:

- What we are doing.
- Why we are doing it.
- How much time we are giving it.
- Whether it is helping or hindering our relationship with God.

Not everything we do has to be directly religious.

But we should learn to recognize whether our activities are helping us live according to eternal priorities.

8. The Final Object Lesson

Place the **duct tape on the left**.

Place the **Bible on the right**.

The contrast is clear:

DUCT TAPE

Temporary

It works for a time.

It provides support.

It has useful purposes.

But eventually it will wear out.

THE WORD OF GOD

Eternal

It provides an unchanging foundation.

It directs our lives.

It does not expire.

It remains forever.

Isaiah 40:8 (RSV)

“The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.”

Personal Application

Take a moment and examine your schedule.

Ask yourself:

What is receiving most of my time?

What is receiving most of my attention?

Are temporary things beginning to choke the Word of God in my life?

Am I making time for prayer and Bible study?

Am I acknowledging God first in my decisions?

Before I enter an activity, am I asking, “Does this have eternal value?”

Bottom Line

Duct tape... can provide a temporary fix, but it was never designed to be the foundation of your life.

In the same way, temporary things can have legitimate value, but they were never designed to replace our eternal Source.

Build your life around what lasts.

Acknowledge God first.

Make time for His Word.

Trust Him to direct your path.

The grass withers.

The flower fades.

But the Word of our God will stand forever.

4 Children 8 Objects Part 4

TIME FRAMES

Acknowledging God First

Using everyday objects to reveal spiritual truths.



1 Purpose of Object Lessons

- Objects help us understand and believe God.
- The Bible uses physical objects to reveal spiritual truths.
- Jesus is the ultimate object lesson from the Father to us.
- God used many objects: soil, water, lilies, fig tree, birds, fish, ants, yeast, honey, salt, bread and cup, Pharisees, child, money, and more.

2 Duct Tape – A Temporary Fix

- Duct tape is man-made, but it has value.
- It works, gives support, and has many uses.
- Sometimes people need a temporary method.
- Example: Prosthetics for those who lost an arm or leg provide help, but they are still temporary.
- The main point: Man-made things will eventually dwindle or run out.



3 Temporary Things Can Choke the Word

Mark 4:18-19 (NKJV)

- 18 Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word,
19 and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.



Ask Yourself:

- Are "things" choking our time with our Source?
- How much time are we spending on the temporal?
- Are worldly cares, riches, and desires taking priority over God's Word?

4 Temporal vs. Eternal



Man-made things eventually wear out. Repairs need to be repaired. Material possessions can deteriorate, disappear, or be taken away. But God's Word is different.

Isaiah 40:8 (RSV)

The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.



5 Security vs. Anxiety



- He rested in the Father's care, free from anxiety even in the storm (Mark 4:36-40).
- When we chase temporary things, we often experience anxiety.
- God's Word, rightly divided, is like gold, silver, and precious stones that endure.

6 Make Time for God



- Make time for prayer and Bible study.
- Apply what you learn.
- Include delegated authority.
- Develop the habit of acknowledging God first in all that we do.

7 Acknowledge God First

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV)

- 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.

A Pattern for Every Activity:

- 1 BEGIN**
Seek God's direction.
- 2 CONTINUE**
Depend on His support.
- 3 COMPLETE**
Honor Him when done.

8 Ask the Eternal-Value Question

Does this activity have eternal value?

- Before we enter an activity, ask this question.
- Be intentional with time.
- Let eternal priorities guide your decisions.



DUCT TAPE

TEMPORARY

- Works for a time.
- Provides support.
- Has useful purposes.
- Eventually it will wear out.



THE WORD OF GOD

ETERNAL

- Provides an unchanging foundation.
- Directs our lives.
- Does not expire.
- Remains forever.

Isaiah 40:8 (RSV)



PERSONAL APPLICATION

- What is receiving most of my time?
- Are temporary things choking God's Word in my life?
- Am I making time for prayer and Bible study?
- Am I acknowledging God first in my decisions?



BOTTOM LINE

Duct tape can provide a temporary fix, but it was never designed to be the foundation of your life. Build your life around what lasts. Acknowledge God first. Make time for His Word. Trust Him to direct your path.

*The grass withers,
the flower fades;
but the word of our God
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Isaiah 40:8 (RSV)