

To be Branded

Why It's Important to be Branded?



Suggested Props to Use:

- † Wash-off tattoos
- † White board

Method of Presentation:

At the beginning of class time, ask which kids like wash-off tattoos and their parents would not mind them putting one on today. Then brand the back of their hands with wash-off tattoos talking about leaving a mark or insignia.

Message:

Phil. 3:17 "Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them that walk so as ye have us for an ensample."

In the Old Western movies we would see cowboys branding their cattle or there would be a big fight about rustlers changing brands on cattle they stole. You may not think much about branding cattle, in fact, you probably don't think about it at all: but if you do, you have to have noticed that hardly anyone brands cows now-a-days. Why is this so?

Well, first we need to understand the purpose of branding cattle. Was it done to punish little calves when they acted badly? No. Was it to decorate them so they would be prettier to look at? I'll answer that by asking if you have noticed some of the kids hanging out in the mall with tattoos all over them? Did you think it made them look better? Not hardly. Cowboys would brand their calves at about weaning age (~3 months) so that everybody could see to whom they belonged.

If rustlers came through an area, they would look for un-branded cattle first. That way no one could prove who owned the cattle. Next the rustlers would look for cows that had very simple brands so that it would be easy to add additional brand marks to change the appearance of the brand. Again the real owner could not prove it was his cow.

[Use the White Board and draw the brands; showing how they can be branded over or not].

Example:

- The Single Bar Ranch I Easy to Change
- The Swinging Double H Lazy Susan Heavenly Sunshine Ranch Pretty Hard to Change

Being branded is sort of like being a Christian. We use the term "Christian" too loosely in our language today. It means to be Christ Like. There are actually a lot of people that are born again, saved & will spend eternity in heaven, but they are not "Christian" (Christ Like) in their actions here on earth. A Christian is a saved person that has been branded by Jesus. The others are owned by Jesus, but they have run from Him when he wanted to give them **His** brand.

Are you proudly wearing the "Jesus" Brand? When you are in a crowd, do others (including unsaved people) notice that you are a Christian? When I started a new job a few months ago, several people noticed I was a Christian during my interview. Most at work now know I'm a Christian. That's not because I wear a big cross necklace, or wear a WWJD bracelet. I don't even have a church bumper sticker on my truck. They notice the brand by the way I act.

The Christian brand is summed up in:

Gal. 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is not law."

If you desire to please the Lord and you desire to live a life that depicts the fruit of the spirit mentioned in Galatians 5, then you are wearing the full brand of Jesus. This brand cannot be messed with: no one can rob you of your joy and nothing this old world has to offer will mean more to you than living for the Lord. There won't be any disputes over Who you belong to.

If you have only one or two of the things mentioned in the fruit of the spirit but have trouble with the others, then you wiggled away before the full brand was applied.

Like a cowboy branding a calf, the branding iron had to make full contact to get the mark clear. Do you have a partial or simple brand? After you got saved, did you wiggle away from God's will? Are you avoiding reading your Bible? Do you avoid praying to the Lord because you might actually get under conviction about something?

Well, it will be pretty easy for the rustlers to lead you astray. They can't keep you from going to Heaven, but they can rob you of your joy and happiness. They can steal your ability to encourage others to come to church with you or to be saved. They can cause you to stand empty handed before Jesus and make you ashamed of your life here.

But some have not been branded at all.

Is it because you have not been saved at all? Don't run from His branding. I want to be able to see you in heaven for all eternity.