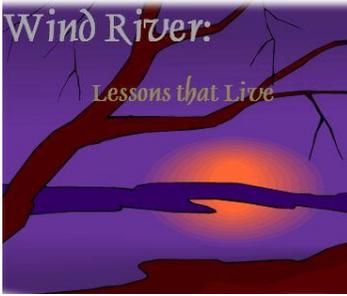


Wind River Series:

- **Remove Not the Ancient Landmarks**
- **When the River Dries Up**
- **Are you really Clean?**
- **Slippin' & Sliding**

Little Wranglers

Includes: Four Lessons/Extras



Wind River Series:

Little Wranglers Lesson One:

Remove Not the Ancient Landmarks

References: Proverbs 22:28; Deuteronomy 19:14; 1 Corinthians 15:58

Illustration & Activity:

Bring large stones to setup as corner stones or boundaries. As the message/lesson proceeds “scoot” or “displace” a boundary slightly. By the time the lesson is complete the area may be shrunk all the way down to a few square inches. This will demonstrate how our opportunities diminish and are stolen as our boundaries are moved.

You can also use some kind of “fencing” for boundaries much like you might use for baby gates. Anything that represents an enclosed area would work well. You can even put up a larger area around the seating area of your class and then just keep “shrinking” in the boundaries tighter and tighter during the lesson.

Another “fence” idea is use chairs and ropes to make a corral for the classroom and then shrink the boundaries as you teach.

Pick a student[s] to help you move the boundaries each time throughout the lesson.

Introduction:

We have a copy of the land survey to the farm we once owned near Yanceyville, NC in Caswell County. It is very old. It used a measurement called “Chains” and had landmarks described like “big Beech tree”, “cluster of boulders on hill” and “follows the creek”. When we bought the property we had it surveyed again to make sure the boundaries were correct and because the mortgage company required a new survey.

As a result we found out that some people in the past had moved some landmarks. The 40+ acres of farm was now only 36 acres of farm. The family selling us the farm had to reduce the price. Somebody had moved the landmarks and stolen about 4 acres!

From what we learned, it had actually been stolen many years before, a little bit at a time without anyone noticing.

Proverbs 22:28 Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.

Deuteronomy 19:14 Thou shalt not remove thy neighbor's landmark, which they of old time have set in thine inheritance, which thou shalt inherit in the land that the Lord thy God giveth thee to possess it.

So HOW do you steal land? And why does it matter anyway?

Moveable Boundaries:

No one dug up the dirt or the land and moved it. But it had been stolen from the owners nonetheless.

It was not useable any longer for the original owner. Over many years the boundaries had changed as fences were moved; the course of a creek had changed; or sometimes an older tree had fallen and so someone guessed at where the landmark should have been. Other times perhaps a not so honest neighbor would scoot a fence over a few feet in order to have more pasture land on his side. Whatever happened, the result was the same: Land area was not available any longer for use by those who paid for it. Then one day it "caught up" and an owner was selling to us and found out that his deed of 40+ acres was bogus. It was only 36 acres that he could legally sell. It was a loss for him for what he originally paid for.

[Move the boundaries in a little tighter]

So someone moved the boundaries and things changed! There was not as much space/land to use as before.

We were given the commandment not to steal. There is much more to stealing than simply putting something into your pocket that belongs to someone else.

Some people just do not believe God's Word about removing or moving the landmarks that are setup to protect us.

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Moving boundaries is not all that uncommon unfortunately.

We move the boundaries of what is right and wrong without much thought. *[Move the boundaries in a little tighter]*

Hopefully, you may not be a thief, but every time you compromise the boundaries [that is, when you do not obey God's Word] that God has set up for us, you are stealing from yourself.

Blessings are LOST because we rearrange the boundaries God has established to protect us from making major mistakes.

Unmovable Boundaries:

Psalms 16:8 I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

God set up boundaries to protect us. However, most people consider these boundaries **as restrictions or rules** on how they live and behave; thinking they are too hard to follow.

Do you say “It’s too hard!” when your mom asks you to pick up your toys?

Do you complain about bed time and do everything you can to avoid obedience on the first time asked? Then you are shrinking your boundaries in and losing blessings. *[Move the boundaries in a little tighter]*

Where’s the boundary line?

When your folks say it’s time to put away the computer/iPad do you hesitate and say “in a minute” and then have to be reminded again? This is disobedience; you should mind the **first** time. *[Move the boundaries in a little tighter]*

Do you stick out your tongue behind your parents backs when you are mad at them? *[Move the boundaries in a little tighter]*

When you are playing with a cousin or a neighbor and they want to do something you know is naughty or wrong, do you STOP and think about your boundaries? Or do you care more about what “your friends” think? *[Move the boundaries in a little tighter]*

Hold up the Bible.

The Bible is the Word of God. It is TRUTH. We are to believe it JUST LIKE IT IS. **We are NOT to change it to suit ourselves.**

It does not matter what YOU believe or I believe UNLESS it agrees with God’s Word.

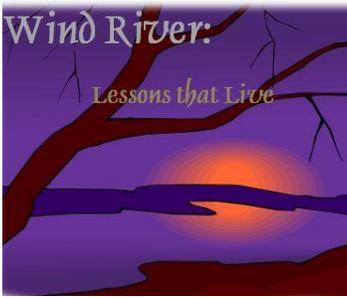
In Summary:

Throughout today’s message if you have been scooting the boundaries around then the picture should be clear.

This represents how easy it is to be far away from God in understanding what is right and what is wrong.

Therefore, it is VITAL that throughout your life you stick to what the BIBLE says and shows you as your boundaries.

Allow the children to name some things that could “change the boundaries” in their lives; then move the borders.



Wind River Series:

Little Wranglers Lesson Two:

When the River Dries Up

References: John 7:38

Illustration:

A water glass with sand; A water glass with water; A bar of Soap; A Bottle of Shampoo.

Introduction:

We moved to South Carolina for a job some time ago. We purchased a house on a few acres. As we were moving in, the well went completely dry. The well was working fine when we purchased the house, but it ran out while we were still unpacking our boxes. We had a well drilling company come out and check it out; not a pump problem, no, it was a DRY WELL.

We didn't have water to drink, to wash our clothes, to take a bath or shampoo. We were out of water!

Water Shortage:

Here is a water glass filled with sand. Can you satisfy your thirst if you drink this?

Moses had a similar problem when he was just getting started leading the Children of Israel through the wilderness. They had made through the Red Sea when God had parted the waters and they walked across on Dry Land. They had just had some very big miracles.

But three days into their journey across the Wilderness they came to a place that had bad water that they could not drink. It was like drinking sand! So they got MAD at Moses and at God! They had JUST seen miracles and they could not trust God longer than 3 days it seems!

Exodus 15:22-27 So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water. And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? And he cried unto the Lord; and the Lord shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them, And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments,

and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee. And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters.

And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?

They could have prayed and then waited to see what God would say or do. Instead they went to Moses complaining and threatening to kill him.

It is easy for us to look at the Children of Israel in the wilderness and criticize them.

But wait a minute, just think about God's promises and how He has taken care of you.

But how quickly do we get mad or upset when things don't go like we planned?

The Children of Israel were mad at God.

[Bring out the bar of soap.] They took out their bars of soap and rubbed it on their skin and they didn't get clean either. What was the problem? No water.

[Bring out a bottle of shampoo.] They brought out their shampoo to wash their hair, but it wouldn't work without water; it would have just been sticky with shampoo. What was the problem? No water.

They were not only dirty on the OUTSIDE; they were also dirty in their hearts. They were not trusting God. They were just upset that things didn't just fall into place the way they thought they should. **Things weren't going their way.** Without water, everything was in an uproar in the camp!

It is easy to rise to be happy when things are going our way; but harder when they are not going our way!

When your well runs dry, when things are going badly then you should call on the Lord! Complaining won't help fix anything. Pray!

Water of Life:

John 4:10-11 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

John 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

Revelation 7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

[Bring out the glass of clean water.] Here I have a glass of clean clear water. Will it quench your thirst? You bet!! When you have been outside on a hot day, there is nothing better than a glass of cool water.

In the book of John Jesus asked a woman for a drink from Jacob's well in Samaria. He had walked a long way and was thirsty.

He really walked there to tell her that He had living water.

What is Living Water? Is it some kind of special sports drink? Is it some kind of fancy lemonade? What is Living water?

Jesus told the lady that He had Living Water that was so powerful that she would never be thirsty again.

That is some kind of special water!!!!!!

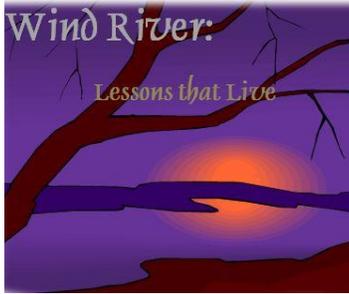
Boys and girls, Jesus was not talking about the kind of water that you drink, take a bath or shampoo with. He was talking about something else entirely.

He was using water as a PICTURE of what HE offers. He offers us the only way to Heaven. He offers us the only way to be satisfied while we are on this earth!

Before long you will hear Jesus knocking at your heart's door [not like a bang bang on a door] but like a still small voice; not one you hear; but one you KNOW is Him. He will be offering you that Living Water. Listen for Him.

Color Sheet:





Wind River Series:

Little Wranglers Lesson Three:

Are you Really Clean?

References: Luke 11:33; 39-41

Illustration #1:

Prepare a small container of “arena mud.” Label the bowl as Arena Mud. For this age group you might put a picture on the bowl of a barn and call it Barn Mud. Mix up some cocoa, flour, & water into a spreadable paste. Have a small artist’s paint brush, a towel [bib], and get ready for some fun.

You will need a volunteer student who thinks they are about to get their face painted with face paint.

Oops, it says WHAT on the container?



You can paint it up, fix it up, dress it up on the outside, but the truth is, God sees the heart and attitude and it is not clean! He sees right through the paint. He knows what you are really like.

Illustration #2:

Prepare an illustration of seeing a light shine through an object and one of not being able to see the light shine because the covering is dirty.

An oil lamp with a dirty globe can be used. Simply remove the globe so that the light can be seen after the students see how hard it is to see the light with the dirty globe.

Use this illustration at the appropriate spot in the lesson.

Introduction:

It is easy to get dirty! As a kid I had a knack for getting really dirty! I didn't mind getting cleaned up, **but I realized as a child that getting clean took more effort than getting dirty.**

Dirt is all around us. It rubs off onto us without any effort. We wind up dirty without even noticing.

However, we have to decide on purpose to be clean.

Luke 11:33 No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light.

Most of us have heard the song "This Little Light of Mine." That song came from this verse. Jesus is teaching that His Light should fill you.

How do you put these teachings of the Lord into action?

Matthew 22:36-40 Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

DECIDE that Jesus is Number One:

Jesus said that the greatest command is to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and mind.

Jesus made it sound so simple, because it really is that simple.

If you keep your eyes on the Lord, all the time, you will see where He is leading. You will not be distracted by all this stuff around you.

His Light will fill you up. Then, the Light of God can radiate from you

You will have His desires and you will react the way He reacts. You will see SIN for what it is and have no desire for it!! Disobedience comes because we care more about ourselves than anyone else. When you are Number One; then God is not.

Behave because Jesus is Number One:

If you are more concerned about what YOU WANT, then you are making the choice to only be a flicker of light. **You may even reflect a bit of God's Light, but you are not the Beacon of Light that God intends.**

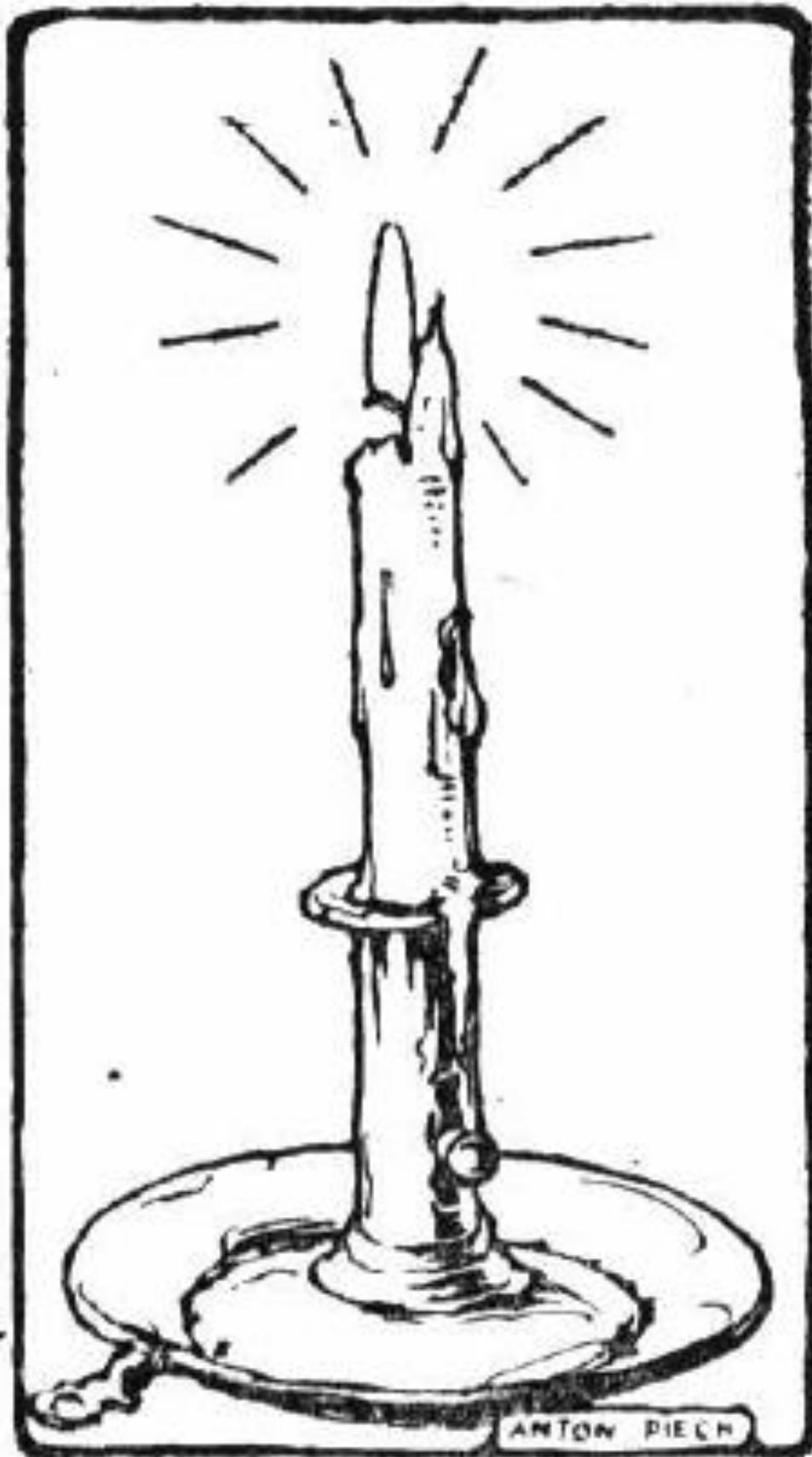
Your "little light of mine" becomes a Beacon when it is truly Jesus shining through.

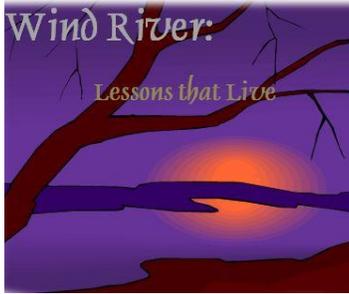
In 1 Thessalonians 4, the Apostle Paul explains to the Church in Thessalonica that Christians are to behave a certain way, not because Paul liked it that way, but rather because it is the normal outcome of someone that loves God.

When you really choose to love the Lord above all, then you can forget about how you should behave!

With your heart, souls, and mind consumed with a true love for God, then the behavior takes care of itself.

Let your Light Shine....





Wind River Series:

Little Wranglers Lesson Four:

Dangerous Slipping' & Sliding

References: Psalm 17:5; Psalm 26:1b; Hebrews 2:1; Hosea 4:16a; Hosea 4:1a

Illustration:

Lesson is best illustrated and presented outside. Either have a slip and slide in place OR prepare black plastic with liquid detergent poured on the wet surface to aid in the slipping and sliding.

Have a teen or adult preplanned and ready to illustrate some slipping and sliding on cue. Just watching someone else slipping and sliding on cue **every time the words slip or slide are mentioned** with the lesson will make the lesson memorable and fun.

Introduction:

Psalm 17:5 Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not.

Psalm 26:1b I have trusted also in the Lord; therefore I shall not slide.

There are times when slipping and sliding is fun. Look at the Slipping and Sliding set-up here. We have deliberately made a place extremely slippery to illustrate the lesson. Most of you have played on a surface like this. Although this can be fun physically, it can be disastrous as well.

If you fall HARD it can hurt!

If you slip or slide right off of the wet surface onto rocks or stickers in the yard; then it can hurt!

There are times you do NOT want to slip and slide.

A few years ago we were at the Grand Canyon where you do not want to slip as you come close to the edge! While we were there, we rode mules down into the canyon on some very narrow trails. The trails were so narrow in spots that all you could see was the canyon wall on one side of you and the BOTTOM of the canyon on your opposite side.

I thought about the little hooves on the mules and how smooth they were. They didn't have any Nike horse shoes on with cleats. It was some mighty uncomfortable thoughts when you look down for hundreds of feet with only big rocks at the bottom to land on if you slip or slide.

In Psalm 26:1 the Psalmist is not talking about a physically fall, however. He is saying that because he has trusted in the Lord, he will not slide away from God's approval.

It is easy to just go through the day and not think about what is right and wrong, and before you know it you are slipping and sliding away from doing what is right. You start getting mad easily at other people. You might get angry and throw a fit even!

It is easy to get into trouble on days like that.

Hearing can help restore our Steps

Hosea 4:1a Hear the word of the Lord...

God was talking to the Children of Israel in that verse back then, but He could just as well be speaking to us today. God describes a number of sins and problems that got the people of Israel into trouble and then describes a few verses later how they remind him of a young cow that slips backwards perhaps in the mud or muck.

Hosea 4:16a For Israel slideth back as a backsliding heifer...

If you have ever been to a livestock sale barn or helped load cattle into trailers you have already gotten a mental picture of what God described. He says in essence that "You have created a big mess and now you will slip and slide down in it."

Around 1996 our son had a show calf named "Itty Bitty." She was a red heifer. He groomed her for show; taught her a few poses to wow the judges at the 4H competition. At the Bedford County 4H competition that year she took third in her class. His Grandmother called to see how competition had gone. It went OKAY he said; she came in third. Grandmother says, that is wonderful, how many were competing? He said, three.

Yes, Itty Bitty was not a top prize winner. In fact, she had nearly died that night unloading her at the barn. It was dark when we got back to the barn and the lights did not reach all the way out to the big gate where we backed up to let her out. It was on a little bit of a slope and as we got ready to open the stock trailer gate we heard her go down in the trailer. Ka-Boom!

If you have ever dealt with stock, then you already have the picture in your mind quite clearly. On the ride home she had made a mess in the trailer; it was parked on a slope now, she was slipping and sliding in the excrement in the trailer. She landed on her belly with her legs spread in front and behind her. This can be fatal for a cow. Once down, they can stop breathing because of the weight pressing down on the belly. It was comical to think she had fallen down in this mess and had been so gussied up earlier in the day; but it was no laughing matter that now her life was at stake.

We began to scramble to get her up. No one could get in behind her without being kicked from all of her flailing and flopping. She was struggling to get up and to breathe; her breath was knocked out of her and her life was flashing before her face I am sure.

One of us ran for the truck and tried to move it forward enough to get the trailer on flatter ground. That wasn't helping, so we quickly drove the trailer at a greater incline and got in front of the trailer and assisted in scooting her out the back of the trailer. It was a rough landing, but it allowed her to get back up on her feet.

Spiritually speaking, sometimes, we can be like that backsliding heifer! We need some assistance to survive! Or we may need a swift push out the back of the trailer with a rough landing to save our life!

Sometimes this will mean some serious TIME OUT or discipline from our parents or teachers.

Heeding will prevent Slipping

Most of us learn the hard way, that is, after the have experienced something hard. But good news is you do not have to live that way!

You just don't have a long enough life to learn everything the hard way. If you "HEED" or observe and then remember what you see or read, then you can avoid problems altogether.

Hebrews 2:1 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

If you will give "earnest heed" to God's Word and teaching of God's Word, then you can avoid slipping into sin.

Listen to what your Bible teachers tell you! Then practice it! When your parents give you instructions; OBEY RIGHT AWAY! Avoid the Slipping and Sliding in life. Do right!

Activity:

At this point IF you have made arrangements in advance you may want to just allow the kids to take off their boots, shoes, and socks and slide around a little on the prepared plastic surface. Have towels handy. Enjoy.