

The following lesson uses the Bead Bracelet Kit to present the gospel to children. Even better, it teaches the children to use the kit to share with others! The lesson was originally written for 5th – 6th graders in Awana® clubs, but can be adapted for other age groups and settings.

-----**Say It With Beads!**-----

LESSON TEXTS: Genesis 2:7; Psalm 139:14-15; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 5:12, 19; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 3:18; John 1:12; John 10:28; John 3:16; Isaiah 1:18; Galatians 5:16; John 14:2-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18; Romans 1:16; John 6:37; John 10:27-29

THEME: To show clubbers how to share Christ by using the bead bracelet.

PURPOSE STATEMENT:

For Christian clubbers: To show them how to use the bead bracelet in sharing Christ.

For unsaved clubbers: To give them opportunity to trust Christ as Savior.

SUPPLIES NEEDED: a bead bracelet (You may purchase these kits directly from the Awana evangelism resources page at www.awana.org/evangelism or from the *Awana Ministry Guide* using your church's account with Awana. For teaching purposes, you may want to purchase a set of large beads and string from a local hobby store. This way the clubbers can see what you are doing.)

PREPARATION: Make sure all your clubbers can see your large beads or have a sample of the bead bracelet in front of them. Assign clubbers to look up the following verses and be ready to read them as needed. Genesis 2:7; Psalm 139:14-15; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 3:18; Isaiah 1:18; John 3:16; Galatians 5:16; John 14:2-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18; Romans 1:16; John 6:37; John 10:27-29.

COMMUNICATION CREATIVITY

- Purchase bead bracelets for each of your clubbers. Allow them to put the beads on the bracelet as you talk about the different colors.
- Give clubbers opportunity to explain to the rest of the group what the different beads mean.
- Plan a Bible drill for next week or the week after. Use the verses that you talked about in the lesson. As the clubbers find the verses, ask them to explain what color bead best matches that verse and what the verse means. This is a good review of the bracelet.

(Note: This lesson has a lot of verses. Use as many as you can within your time limitation. You may want to pick and choose which verses you use according to the age and background of your clubbers.)

What is this? *(Hold up the bracelet and allow clubbers to respond.)* That's right. This is a bracelet. But it's not just any bracelet; it's a set of beads that helps you remember what it means to trust Christ as Savior.

First we need to tie a knot at one end. *(As you are talking, tie the knot in your string or leather and then slip on the extra clear bead. If your clubbers are putting together bracelets along with you, explain to them that this clear bead will be used to adjust the size of the bracelet when it is finished.)* That is the beginning of our story. What does the Bible say about the beginning? *(Allow a clubber to quote Genesis 1:1.)* God created the heaven and the earth in the beginning. He created people. *(Ask the assigned clubber to read Genesis 2:7.)* He did this from the dust of the ground. Have you ever watched anyone knit? All the pieces of yarn are tightly woven together so they make a beautiful design. The Bible tells us that God wove us together before we were born! That's awesome, isn't it? He made something beautiful out of us. Sometimes we might not think we're all that beautiful, but we are! We are walking miracles. Think of all the inside parts of you that are working this very minute! Your brain is working. Your blood is flowing through your heart. You are breathing. Your eyes are blinking ... *(Ask the assigned clubber to read Psalm 139:14-15.)* The knot is a picture of God's awesome **CREATION**.

(Next show the dark bead.) This dark bead is a picture of **SIN**. Even though God created a perfect

world, man chose to mess it up. Adam and Eve did the one thing they were told NOT to do. Because of Adam's sin, we are all born sinners. (Don't blame Adam. WE would've made the wrong choice if WE had been in the Garden of Eden.) We do wrong things. Now you might be sitting there thinking, "I don't sin." But wait a minute! Are you proud of that? Pride is a sin. Did you have a bad attitude about not winning one of the games tonight or having to sit through Handbook Time? Having a bad attitude is a sin. Did you lie to your parents this week? Lying is a sin. Did you cheat on your test or homework? Cheating is a sin. The Bible tells us everyone has sinned. *(Ask the assigned clubbers to read Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23.)* We are all sinners. That's a fact!

What color is this bead? What do you think it represents? *(Hold up the red bead and allow clubbers to respond.)* This bead reminds us that the Lord Jesus Christ shed His **BLOOD** for us. That's another way of saying that He died for us. See, our sin keeps us apart from God. We are sinners. God is perfect. We needed a perfect sacrifice for our sins. That's why God sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to earth. The Lord Jesus did not and cannot sin. He is perfectly good. *(Ask assigned clubbers to read Romans 5:8 and 1 Peter 3:18.)* Christ loved us so very much that He died for us even though we are filthy, worthless sinners.

Christ had to die so we could receive forgiveness. *(Hold up the clear bead.)* This clear bead is a picture that shows that once we trust Christ, our sins are washed away and now we are **CLEAN**. *(Ask assigned clubbers to read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:16.)* Think about waking up in the morning and seeing everything covered with newly fallen snow. The sun is shining, and the snow sparkles so brightly in the light that it almost hurts your eyes! When we trust Christ as Savior, we become even cleaner than that snow!

(Hold up the blue bead.) Once we become a Christian, the **HOLY SPIRIT** lives inside of us. He guides us each day, helping us make right choices. He comforts us when life is tough. *(Ask assigned clubber to read Galatians 5:16.)* We are to walk in the Spirit.

As Christians, we can look forward to a future in heaven. *(Hold up the gold bead.)* The gold bead is a picture of **HEAVEN**. Heaven is our eternal home. *(Ask*

assigned clubber to read John 14:2-3.) The Lord Jesus Christ is in heaven right now, preparing a place for us. The Bible doesn't tell us a lot about heaven, but it does tell us that it is a perfect place without sadness, sickness or death. When we think of God's beautiful *earthly* creation, we cannot imagine how much more beautiful heaven will be. *(Ask the assigned clubber to read 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.)* We need to be ready for Christ's return. We do not know when He will meet us in the clouds and take us to heaven.

Trusting Christ is important, but we shouldn't stop there. Just as we eat good food and get lots of exercise to grow physically, we need to **GROW** spiritually. That is what this green bead pictures. *(Hold up the green bead.)* We grow spiritually by reading and memorizing God's Word, praying and telling others about Christ. *(Ask assigned clubbers to read 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18; Romans 1:16.)*

We will now thread the end through the first clear bead and then tie a knot in that end to hold the bracelet together. This final **KNOT** reminds us of God's grace. Once we have trusted Christ as Savior, we can never be separated from God. *(Ask assigned clubbers to read John 6:37; John 10:27-29.)* Isn't that exciting? We are children of God!

You've been listening to a lot of information. Maybe you know all this already. If you do, wear your bracelet to school or when you're with your friends. Use the bracelet to tell your friends about Christ.

But maybe you're just beginning to understand what it means to trust Christ as Savior and be made clean from your sin. Talk to a leader. Any one of us would be glad to explain salvation in more detail.

Before I close in prayer, let's review the beads once more. As I hold up the bead, tell me what each color stands for. *(Do so, briefly reviewing salvation and again inviting the clubbers to trust Christ. Close in prayer.)*



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