

Sticking with the Lord

• Good for Elementary ages •

Main Point: True followers of Christ stick to God like gum on a monkey!

Bible Story Suggestion: Luke 6:46-49.

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' but never do what I say? Let me show you what a person is like who comes to me, hears my words and puts them into practice. He is like a man who, building a house, dug down deep and laid the foundation on solid rock. A flood came, the waters struck that house but could not shake it. It was well built. But the person who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house with no foundation. When the waters hit that house, it collapsed; its destruction was complete."

Materials Needed: A big wad of ABC (Already Been Chewed) gum. A small stuffed animal monkey.

Object Lesson: Stick to God like Gum on a Monkey

As always, the demonstration video linked below gives you the details. Basically, you'll wrap a big wad of sticky gum around the fur of a small toy monkey. At the same time, you'll tell the story of JJ, a real boy who treated a greedy spider monkey to a nice wad of gum—with disastrous results. The story is on the next page.

Link to the Object Lesson Demonstration Video:

Activity Page: Gum on a Monkey Coloring Page

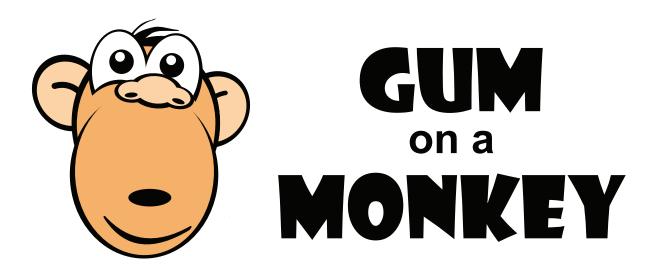
The coloring page can be worked on following your object lesson. Because it asks for a name and date, it serves as a sort of commitment card or contract between the young person and God. You can collect and save the pages if you like, or encourage the kids to take them home to serve as a reminder to their commitment to walk with the Lord always.

A Fun Outdoor Activity: How's Your Foundation?

This activity works for all Elementary-age kids, but the younger ones will need help. Here's the idea: Small groups each construct a "house" out of paper cups duck taped to a base of some sort. The base serves as a water proof foundation. The paper cups need to form the house, building or pyramid—anything that can be built on top of a board base or an upside down bucket or the like. The idea is for groups to make a paper cup construction that will withstand a blast of water from a garden house out on the church grounds.

You'll need to check beforehand to be sure you can find a hose attached to a faucet. The faucet may require a key, so be sure to check everything out.

Longest-lasting house wins!



When JJ was a little boy his parents took him to the zoo. While mom and dad ate hot dogs at a table not far away, JJ hopped over to a giant cage that held a dozen spider monkeys.

The sign clearly said, "Do Not Feed the Monkeys." But that didn't stop the monkeys; they clung to the front of the cage, stretching their little furry arms out to JJ, begging for a peanut.

But JJ was sad. He had no peanuts to give them. Wait a minute...JJ did have one thing. He had the gum he was chewing! So JJ did the only thing a compassionate human being could do in the face of obviously starving animals--he took the gum out of his mouth and gave it to one of the dear little creatures.

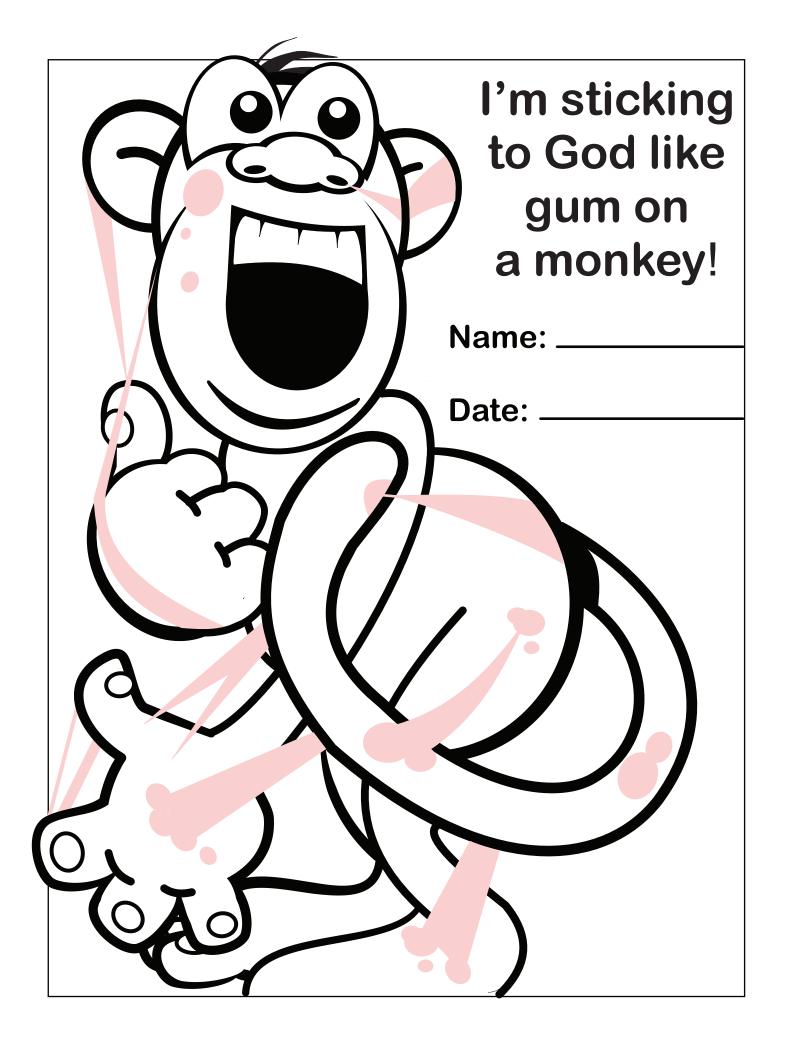
It was the big one that got the gum. This would-be gorilla grabbed the wad, stuck it in his mouth and ran to the top of the wooden structure at the center of the cage. In monkey language, the little chimp yelled out: "Ha, ha! I got the prize! I am the superior monkey! The rest of you can bow down to me!"

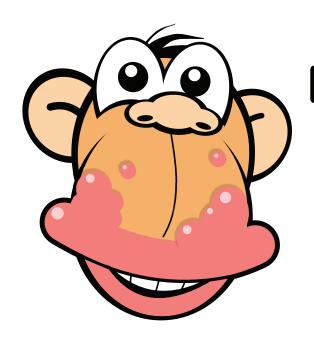
Alas, the monkey was not an experienced gum chewer. In fact, he had never been given such a thing before. As he chewed, he sensed in his little monkey brain that something was wrong. The wad was behaving strangely. It didn't want to go down. So he reached into his mouth to grab the gum.

Big mistake. Monkeys are covered in fur. Gum loves to stick to fur. The gum stretched out of his mouth and stuck to his hand. Screaming, the monkey used his free hand to try to get the gum off. That just made more strings stuck to both hands and his face. But monkeys have four hands. Reaching with all fours, the gum went all over the little beast's body. But that wasn't all. Monkeys have tails! Grabbing the gum with the tip of his tail-well, that certainly didn't help. Screaming and leaping from wall the wall, the monkey went mad with fear and rage.

As the zoo keepers ran up to see what in the world was going on, JJ wandered toward the elephants. He had more gum, and elephants like peanuts too.







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