

Good Obstacles

The Principle to Learn	In God's Word
Find ways around obstacles for we know they're sure to come.	1Peter 5:8-11; Nehemiah 4:7-9

Preclass



- Review the goals of ComputiVerse
- Review the Class Tips
- Review the Gospel Message

Provisions

A metal box to represent a tea-box and if available, an old computer to display.

Process

[Include throughout the lesson, the steps of the Gospel Message so that while the student's attentions are fresh, the real lesson is being planted.]

Pray.

This was it... the END. Jerry's hopes were almost gone as he heard the doctor tell of the terrible illness with which his little sister had just been diagnosed. The illness was sure to take all the family's savings including the cash in the tea-box earmarked for Jerry's computer. He was wise about the tea-box fund though.

Because Jerry's family had always had to struggle to pay the bills, Jerry had plenty of opportunities to "try another route" to get things done. In fact, several times he'd found that just working on his other projects for a while and then coming back to the first one, would get a lot accomplished.

He was so sure he'd get a computer someday he even struggled on the old rickety library typewriter to learn how to type. Jerry felt that if he once got his computer, he'd be able to do something with it to help his family. But that was all down the drain now that little Dede was so sick.

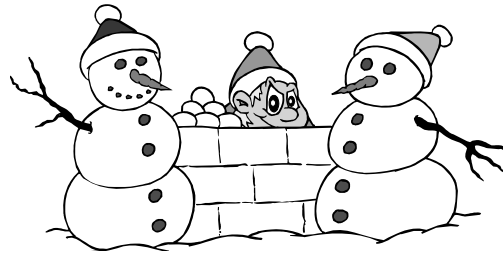
One day when he got home from school, he was told about a youth group in his neighborhood looking for a young person, able to type, that could do some things on their SPACE GATE[®] – whatever that was.

He got family permission to talk with the youth group and find out what this Gate thing was. It was about all Jerry could do to keep from jumping up and down after learning about the SPACE GATE. A Space Gate is any old computer that still works. Usually a typing tutor program is loaded onto it for anyone who wants to learn how to type and other fun stuff. The word **SPACE**

explained it all. Space stood for, **Students Promoting Accountability in Computing and Evangelism. GATE** stood for **God Activating Throw-away Equipment**.

Jerry raced home as fast as he could with the hopes he'd get permission to work the two hours every Saturday typing things for the youth group leaders. A couple of Saturdays he printed some thank-you notes on the Space Gate. The notes were then taken home and signed by the whole family and sent to the folks who'd sent cards and gifts of love to Dede and family. The obstacle of not having a computer and not having money to buy one was not so large that God couldn't work around it.

ComputiVerse



Some obstacles are fun rather than difficult. Snow forts were physical obstacles fun to build and then hide behind when those round white "missiles" started flying. Because they were really

only used for defense, our snow forts never consisted of more than a wrap-around wall. We were able to build our "fort" for fun defense without opposition or any distraction. Only after both sides had finished their forts did the snowballs start flying.

The wall to be built around God's city of Jerusalem was not with the same fun circumstances--far from it. The wall described in Nehemiah 2, 3 and four had serious defensive importance. Many people i.e. whole families and even important city officials directly involved with the project to rebuild the wall. The people were all organized. They had their assigned section of wall on which to work. Materials and directions were provided so the project should have been a piece of cake. But it wasn't. Obstacles were ever present and very big.

Many times things that are important or things that are to be used of the Lord have opposition to them. Sometimes we can gauge how important the thing is by how much of a struggle it is to get it done.

When your teacher, family member, your pastor or the Lord Himself has asked for your help, watch for the opposition. Typically, we generalize opposition as being from Satan, and sometimes attach terrifying consequences for not being watchful and being prepared for his advances.

Read 1 Peter 5:8, 9. If Satan can get you to feel that his opposition is more overwhelming than God's help, then he has devoured you. However, in 1 Peter 5:10, 11, Peter lets us know that the struggle to trust God to be able to take care of the obstacle will help us to be perfect. God allows obstacles to establish, strengthen and settle us. Learn how much God loves you and that

He will always take care of you. This is the advanced planning needed to help with Satan's obstacles.

A very important part of any serious project is to make plans (ahead of time) for expected opposition.

Nehemiah 4:7 and 8 show the determination of the opposition. Sometimes the opposition will even join with others to hinder your project. But look at the first word in Nehemiah 4:9, "nevertheless." God is pleased to have workers that trust in His protection and communicate with Him first, last, and always.



The word **nevertheless** also appears in Luke 5:5. Can you read verses one through five and figure out what the problem was? These fishermen were experienced. They knew that the middle of the day was no time to go fishing. If the fish had not been biting during their usual time to feed at night, they certainly would not be swimming into the nets during the day.

Also, dragging heavy nets to the shore and repairing them is hard work. Why would an experienced fisherman drag his nets all the way out into the water again when he knew that there would not be any fish. BUT the fisherman agreed to do what Jesus said because the fisherman knew that Jesus was more reliable than the fisherman's experience. The obstacle was the lack of fish following usual procedures. God's provision was that Jesus could command the fish to behave abnormally. The fisherman demonstrated his belief that Jesus was more powerful than the natural laws governing fish behavior when he agreed to go back out into the lake and do what Jesus said.

So what are the steps against opposition taught in God's Word? ...

1.	Opposition is expected.
2.	God's instruction is sought first and relied on, continually.
3.	Defensive measures are put into place.
4.	Efficient communications are carefully maintained.

Is Satan trying to discourage or hinder the work you're doing? Have you heard from God that He wants you to work on the project? Will you demonstrate your belief in God's provision and superiority over Satan's obstacles by doing what God says even if it doesn't make sense by human standards? Are you maintaining your communication with God throughout the experience? ☺

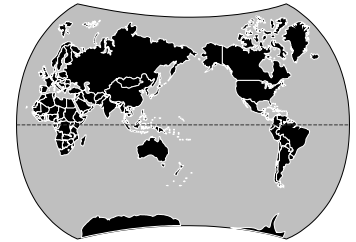
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Mud 'n Mail

[Theme: the value and easy use of email]

MISSIE DEE! MISSIE DEE! A TELEGRAM FROM CAMPARD! Missy Dee! A telegram from Campard;



... the native boy continued to yell with the fervor of a fire alarm while dropping his bicycle to the ground.

Dee Anders had begun her missionary tour here in Africa over two years ago, and couldn't recall a village, town, or person named Campard. Dee looked at the paper and realized first it wasn't a telegram but an email message. On her last furlough she learned some about electronic mail and what a powerful tool it could be for missionaries and churches.

She discovered what "Campard" was, as she sparingly described to the boy that electronic mail is merely a message typed into one computer and sent to another computer through worldwide telephone lines. As soon as the boy heard the word "computer" he corrected himself saying, "not Campard--computer!" I guess riding four and a half miles on a sometimes muddy road using a bicycle with no tires; just battered rims would joggle any mailman's memory.

But that was just the start of the puzzle.

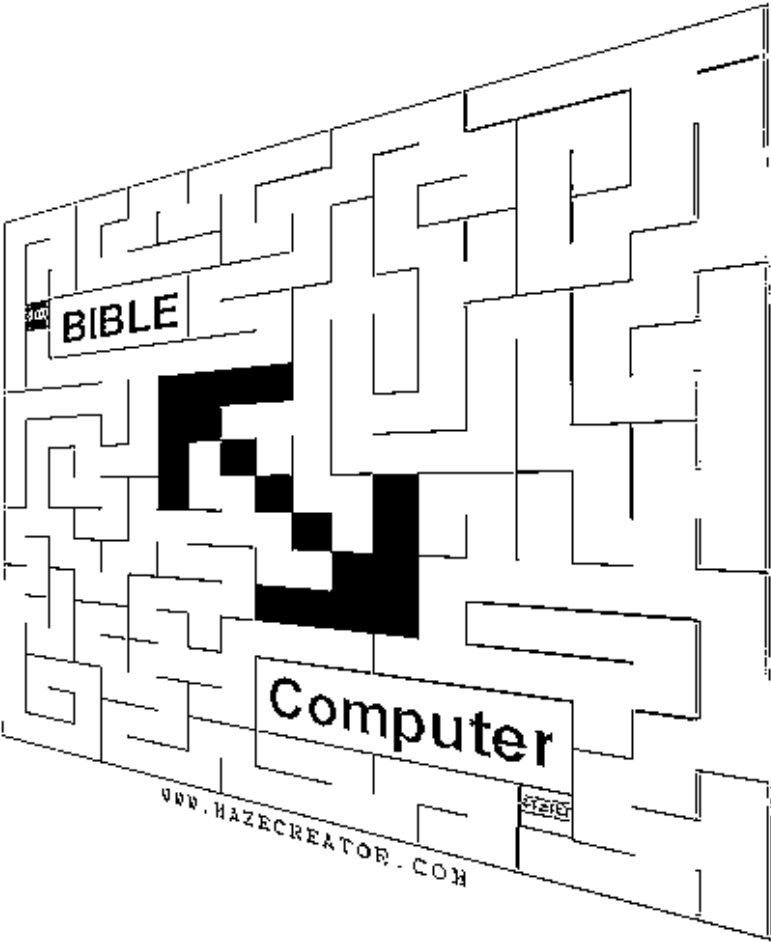
Back in her dirt floor hut, Missy Dee really worked at deciphering misspelled words and broken sentences to learn the sender, Ricky, was an eight-year-old boy in Omaha, Nebraska, USA. Dee easily saw the sadness in the words telling of a new baby brother and all the attention the baby got. The missionary's tender heart captured the left-out feeling Ricky wrote about, as he felt sure his not-needed position was permanent. An interesting thing caught Dee's attention to be digested later. The boy had seen her mission station email address in his church's bulletin a few Sundays ago, and didn't know whom else to write to.

Dee wished she could hug across the ocean.... as if there were a way to gather Ricky close to her, as she did the little bush children, and assure them all that God remembers, God loves, and surely God feels the same left-out feeling Ricky is experiencing.

During this evening's devotions, with the email message in one hand, Missy Dee fought back the tears in reading "...Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" 1Cor 2: 9. Dee smiled toward heaven that in Him, mud and email would find common ground.

She often wondered if the people back home remembered her labors in this far away country. Yes, they remembered their commitment of support... but that's not the most important thing. It's the special evidences that her efforts REALLY ARE an extension of her sending church. A flowery remembrance card, a photograph, a junior church bulletin, and to be cherished always – Ricky blessed Missie Dee by sending a precious email that she would always cherish. ☺

Computer And Bible Partnership Friends Fun




A 3D maze puzzle is shown, viewed from an isometric perspective. The maze is a complex network of paths and dead ends. Two signs are placed within the maze: one on the left side that says "BIBLE" and one on the right side that says "Computer". The maze is rendered in a simple line-art style. At the bottom left of the maze, the URL "WWW.HAZECREATOR.COM" is visible. The entire scene is enclosed in a rectangular border.

What a Partnership!!

Your computer and your Holy Bible!!

Can you start with the computer and link it with the God's Word, the Bible?



An illustration of a computer keyboard and an open Bible. The keyboard is on the left, and the Bible is on the right, with its pages open. A small registered trademark symbol (®) is located near the bottom right corner of the Bible.

Saddest Game in the Bible

With a friend, list the reasons why you think the game described in Matthew 26: 67, 68 is the saddest in the entire world.

Hint: "buffeted" means 'punched repeatedly'.

Maybe even type them on your computer and share with others.